

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 31 August 1989

THE SPEAKER (Mr Barnett) took the Chair at 10.45 am, and read prayers.

PETITION - HELENA VALLEY LAND

The Bushmead Rifle Range - Preservation

MR WATT (Albany) [10.46 am]: I have a petition which reads as follows -

To: The Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned Petitioners and Residents of Western Australia urge you to preserve the 296 Hectares of land in HELENA VALLEY known as THE BUSHMEAD RIFLE RANGE and incorporate the said land into our Metropolitan Regional Park System as a nature reserve.

Proposed Urbanisation of this site will: destroy up to 95% of the existing native woodland and fauna habitats; contaminate adjoining water way systems; represent a reversal of current State and Commonwealth Government Policies with respect to our natural environment. It will severely damage the current amenities enjoyed by residents of the adjoining Shires of Kalamunda, Swan and Mundaring and involve massive Urban infrastructure costs, making the land inappropriate for proposed first home buyers.

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

The petition bears 453 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 25.]

PETITION - EDUCATION

Crisis - Quality Education System

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park) [10.48 am]: I have a petition which reads as follows -

To: The Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned urge the State Government to address the current crisis facing education.

We believe that a quality education system is vital to the future of this state.

Further, we insist that the Government does all within its power to:

- i. Retain quality and experienced teachers within Government Schools
- ii. Attract the highest quality graduates possible to the teaching profession.

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

The petition bears 17 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 26.]

PETITION - FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

South West Inshore Trawl Fishery - Closed Waters Extension

MR BRADSHAW (Wellington) [10.50 am]: I have a petition which reads as follows -

To: The Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

The Fisheries Management Plan for the management of the south west inshore trawl fishery, paper No. 23, by Noel Moore, Map 1, trawl closures, indicates to us that a very narrow strip of inshore water, (3 nautical miles of totally closed water), now exists between Bunbury and Cape Bouvard.

We, the undersigned residents of the South West urge that the closed waters be extended to a safe distance beyond the Bouvard Reef line.

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

The petition bears 429 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 27.]

PETITION - URANIUM

Mining Exploration - Licence Prevention

DR ALEXANDER (Perth) [10.52 am]: I have a petition in the following terms -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled:

We, the undersigned, call upon the Government to not grant any licences for the exploration of, or permits for the mining of, uranium in Western Australia; and to prevent the establishment of nuclear-related industries or the storage of nuclear waste in Western Australia.

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

The petition bears 1 080 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 28.]

PETITION - BUSSELTON BY-PASS ROAD

Main Roads Department Priority List - Urgency Matter

MR BLAIKIE (Vasse) [10.53 am]: I have a petition which reads as follows -

To: The Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, request that the Busselton By-Pass Road be placed on the Main Roads Department priority list as a matter of urgency.

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

The petition bears 859 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 29.]

CARNARVON BANANA INDUSTRY (COMPENSATION TRUST FUND) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Bridge (Minister for Agriculture), and read a first time.

**APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND)
BILL***Second Reading - Budget Debate*

MR PARKER (Fremantle - Treasurer) [10.55 am]: Mr Speaker, I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Framing this Budget has been one of the most difficult tasks for the Government since it was first elected in 1983. The challenge has been to meet key election commitments at a time of subdued economic growth. We have been determined to provide real support for Western Australian families through the comprehensive programs that we presented to the people earlier this year.

These programs are part of our vision of a fairer, more prosperous and caring community, based on the family being the cornerstone of our society. We are convinced that, despite the difficulties, it is essential to commence the programs we promised so that we can progress towards an improved quality of life for all Western Australians.

The task has not been easy. Even though Western Australia is outperforming the other States, we have had to meet special demands. The State's population is growing at about twice the national average, putting great pressure on the Government's capacity to provide essential and necessary services. This population surge is equivalent to several new metropolitan suburbs each year, or creating two cities the size of Bunbury each year.

Pressure from population growth means that many services and their associated resources must grow at more than three per cent a year before any new programs can be implemented. In combination with inflation, such population growth means that Government revenue must normally increase by about 10 per cent a year in current circumstances if present standards are to be maintained. Such a major increase can be avoided only through the adoption of effective measures to increase efficiency and productivity in the provision and delivery of public services. These public sector gains have been pivotal in our ability to contain the growth in Government revenue.

First, let me set the scene. In the financial year just ended, our economy was the strongest of all States. After allowing for inflation, economic growth is expected to have risen 6.4 per cent compared with a national increase of 3.3 per cent. The State has an outstanding record in providing jobs, with 175 000 new jobs being established since 1983, lifting employment by more than 30 per cent. That underlying strength in our labour market is reflected also in unemployment figures. At 5.4 per cent, Western Australia's unemployment rate in May this year was equal to the lowest recorded for the State since monthly collections of labour force data began in 1978.

It must be remembered that in February 1983 unemployment was unacceptably high at 9.6 per cent, and one young person in every five seeking work found economic reality in the dole queue. Thankfully we have left that situation behind us. The policies we have adopted have not only created jobs, they have not only halved the youth unemployment rate, but they have produced also the highest level of women participating in the work force in Australia.

Mr Speaker, it is fundamental that access to a job is basic to the security of the family. The centrepiece of this Budget is the Family Pledge. The most important action a Government can undertake for families is to protect their standard of living and to work to improve it. The Government's pledge on family living standards was our central commitment during the election campaign. I am proud to announce that the Family Pledge will be implemented in full in this financial year.

The increased cost to families of electricity, gas, water, and bus fares has been held to an average seven per cent this year. This is below the inflation rate. It also needs to be remembered that these increases are generally the first for two years. Importantly, since 1983-1984 the real weekly impact of State charges on the average family has fallen by about 18 per cent, or \$6.50. As well, the cost of registering a family car will be reduced by \$20 from 1 January next year.

The third element of the Family Pledge - education allowances for all school children to help families defray the cost of sending their children to school - will be provided in full this financial year. Families will receive \$50 for each child attending primary school and \$100

for each secondary school student. These allowances will be paid for both Government and non-Government students. The allowance will be paid direct to families at the beginning of the 1990 school year and will be paid in addition to support already provided to low income families.

Mr Speaker, the Family Pledge recognises the sacrifices ordinary Western Australians and their families have made during the past six years. Our commitment to provide direct financial support is made possible by the inherent strength of the Western Australian economy and our confidence in its continued ability to grow. The Family Pledge will help improve the standard of living of families and reflects the Government's determination to ensure the benefits of sound economic management flow to all Western Australians.

Alongside the education allowances committed under the Family Pledge the Government is continuing to maintain a high quality education system. We will work to progressively reduce class sizes for years 1 and 2. Specific provision has been made to employ an additional 223 teaching and support staff to achieve the size reductions and to meet other demands caused by increasing enrolments.

The Government has decided also that it is no longer prepared to have all taxpayers bear the high cost of health care caused by cigarette smoking. It is estimated that tobacco related diseases are costing the Western Australian community \$112 million a year. In 1984 we were among the world leaders in developing effective anti-smoking campaigns. We will build on this program by ensuring that tobacco company support for local sporting events is banned in this State. This program, together with improved health services, will be funded by an increase of 15 percentage points in the tobacco licensing levy. It is hoped this will help deter juveniles from taking up the habit by increasing the price of a packet of cigarettes by about 30¢. This will take the retail price of a packet to more than \$3. The Government has announced previously that the penalties for selling tobacco to juveniles will be boosted. An indication of our serious intent to deter people from cigarette smoking is that the penalty for selling tobacco to juveniles will increase from \$4 to \$1 000. We will also increase education programs designed to deter children from smoking.

On the revenue side of the Budget, the Government is aiming to collect \$4 824.3 million, an underlying increase of 5.9 per cent after allowing for changed accounting arrangements relating to the hospital funding grant, which is a real reduction of more than one per cent and a decline of four per cent in real per capita terms. There have been three major influences shaping the outcome and our strategy. These influences are -

- a \$100 million cut in Commonwealth grants;

- subdued economic growth affecting our revenue collections; and

- the large reduction in the global borrowing limits imposed by the Commonwealth at a time of major infrastructure demands.

The cut in Commonwealth funds, while harsh, is in part a reflection of the judgment of the Commonwealth Grants Commission that Western Australia is now more capable of standing on its own without making as large a claim on the national tax pool. The implications of this judgment are that tax rates in Western Australia will increasingly need to align more closely with those in other States. Nevertheless, even after the increases I will announce today, Western Australia will still have the lowest minimum payroll tax in the country and the lowest payroll tax liability for employers with payrolls in the \$1 million to \$2 million range. This continues the Western Australian Government's policy of responding to the needs of small businesses which are so vital to our State. This policy has been maintained despite the pressures facing the Government.

Despite the taxation measures introduced in this Budget, there can be no question that the cost of the public sector as a proportion of the State economy continues to fall under this Government. Under our first Budget in 1983-84, revenue was equivalent to 15.5 per cent of gross State product. This year, I am proud to say, it is projected to fall to 13.3 per cent. The relative reduction in the size of the public sector, achieved partly by securing greater efficiency, has enabled the growth in essential services to match the growth in the State's population. Specifically, the number of teachers grew by 2 400, or more than 18 per cent, and police numbers by about 900, or 32 per cent, between 1983 and 1989. During the same period, the total number of State Government employees grew by only 8.9 per cent while

private sector employment increased by 22.4 per cent. It should be noted that, while this Budget will show a significant decline in expenditure in relation to total economic activity in the State, business profits continue to grow in real terms.

Mr Speaker, our budgetary strategy recognises that the State must play its part in reining back public sector demands. But there is a very fine line between economic restraint and overreaction; between correcting an overheated economy and precipitating recession; between a desirable economic slowdown and a traumatic stall in activity. Careful judgment must be exercised to ensure that remedial economic and financial management adjustments do not jeopardise the State's long term growth prospects and future job opportunities. In framing the Budget, we set ourselves the following goals -

- to balance the Budget;

- to ensure that a framework is provided for future economic growth;

- to continue our drive for all Western Australians to fairly share in the economic rewards we are generating and to assist those in the community in need;

- to deliver on our election commitments; and

- to improve the effectiveness and accountability of public sector management.

Before commenting on individual initiatives, however, it is appropriate that I explain the impact of the severe funding cutbacks imposed by the Commonwealth. The May 1989 Premiers' Conference resulted in a reduction of \$550 million in the overall level of general revenue and hospital grants to the States. Our share of that reduction was more than \$61 million and the implementation of the latest recommendations of the Grants Commission cost us a further \$38 million. The combined effect of these decisions is that these grants from the Commonwealth, which comprise almost 40 per cent of our revenues, will be only three per cent higher than last year, a real per capita reduction of 6.6 per cent. Funding for capital works has been similarly constrained with the Loan Council effectively reducing the State's global borrowing allocation by \$75.2 million after taking into account the special supplementation we obtained to our 1988-89 allocation. The Government recognises that there has been a need in recent years to reduce public sector borrowings. However, since 1984-85 the State's global borrowing limit has been reduced by 46 per cent in nominal terms and this has made the task of framing our capital works program extremely difficult.

EXPENDITURE

The Estimates of Expenditure from the Consolidated Revenue Fund provide for a total outlay of \$4 824.3 million compared with actual expenditure of \$4 270 million last year. After allowing for changed accounting arrangements relating to hospital funding, the increase is \$253.3 million or 5.9 per cent.

Every year, Mr Speaker, there are special factors or major once-off outlays for which adjustment should be made to get a clearer estimate of the underlying growth in Government expenditure. The payment we made last year in respect of the Teachers' Financial Society is one such example and, after adjusting for these payments, the increase in our recurrent outlays is estimated at around 8.6 per cent. Assuming a population of three per cent, this represents a reduction in real per capita terms of nearly two per cent on the basis of the Commonwealth's expected 7.5 per cent increase in the Consumer Price Index. The corresponding reduction is about 0.8 per cent if the gross non farm product deflator is substituted for the CPI.

Including works in progress, and drawing upon all funding sources, the Government plans to mount a total Capital Works Program of \$1 606.4 million. This compares with a budgeted program of \$1 377 million last year, although actual expenditure amounted to \$1 209.1 million. Despite our significantly reduced global borrowing allocation, the planned works program represents an increase of \$397.3 million. This apparent paradox is largely due to three factors: A projected \$124.5 million increase in the State Energy Commission of Western Australia's Capital Works Program; the greater use of funds generated internally by State agencies; and a high \$168 million carryover of commitments resulting from underspending in 1988-89.

Mr Lewis: It was an election year, of course.

Mr PARKER: I said "underspending".

The unusually high carryover reflects delays in project planning and completion caused by the overheating in the construction industry apparent during the course of 1988-89. It was also due to the counter-cyclical decision made by the Government last year to reassess its 1988-89 Capital Works Program in response to those industry conditions and because of uncertainty as to the future level of Commonwealth funding. Adjusting for this under expenditure, the underlying increase in the program is a modest 4.5 per cent.

I now turn to the details of our expenditure programs and will consider together both our Capital Works Program and transactions on the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

The key priorities of our economic development strategies are to expand and diversify our exports, to increase raw material processing, to expand our manufacturing industries and to lift productivity.

Heightened economic activity is essential for the wellbeing of all Western Australians. It creates employment opportunities and provides the resources for new family and community development initiatives.

This Budget aims to create the environment and infrastructure for that private sector growth. It also places the highest priority on the skills development needed to underpin that expansion.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT

Capital Works

It is through the capital works programs of departments and authorities that State Governments make their greatest impact on our building and construction industries. It is this area which generates the most orders for Western Australian industry, with all the attendant benefits for employment, investment and economic activity.

Once again this year we are giving priority to housing because of the pivotal role the industry plays in generating activity and jobs, and because of the social needs it meets. This year Homeswest will mount a Capital Works Program of \$322.3 million, a significant increase of \$53.3 million or 19.8 per cent on expenditure in 1988-89. The program provides for construction of about 2 000 new homes and for the development of approximately 4 300 serviced lots, including 2 500 for first home buyers.

Apart from housing, other features of our Capital Works Program include -

- spending \$52.1 million on hospitals and health services. To meet increasing demands on Royal Perth Hospital provision has been made for the staged redevelopment of the south campus wing, which will complement the new north block wing opened in 1988-89. Work will proceed on the redevelopment of the Derby and Geraldton Hospitals, and planning has begun on redevelopment of the Swan District Hospital and on the construction of the special secure unit at Graylands Hospital;

- a substantial primary and secondary schools Capital Works Program costing \$64.4 million, an increase of \$10.7 million or 19.9 per cent on actual expenditure last year. New primary schools will open at Broome, Cable Beach; Karratha, Tambrey; Kingsley, Dalmain; Mandurah, Falcon and Greenfields; Mundaring, and North Woodvale in time for the 1990 school year, and construction will commence on a replacement district high school at Pemberton. A further nine preprimary centres will be provided in time for the 1990 school year, a new high school will open at South Lake and construction will commence on the Beldon High School to serve the rapidly developing northern corridor;

- the continuation of our unprecedented effort to improve Perth's public transport system -

- The Perth urban rail electrification project is progressing well with completion scheduled for 1991. The allocation this year is \$54.2 million;

- \$10.3 million is to be spent on planning and preliminary works for the world class northern suburbs rail transit system linking Perth and Joondoon planned for completion in 1990; and

the Kwinana Freeway exclusive bus lane will be completed this year at a cost of \$8.6 million;

a \$372.4 million SECWA works program to expand and improve the State's electricity and gas systems to meet sustained high levels of energy demand; and

a \$210 million works program by the Water Authority of Western Australia, of which \$133 million is for metropolitan work and \$77 million for country work. This represents an increase of \$30.2 million. Included in this year's program is \$36 million to accelerate the provision of water supply and sewerage services in the metropolitan north west corridor so that a planned 20 000 to 25 000 urgently needed housing lots can be released over a three to five year time frame.

Industry Support and Industrial Development

To support the diversification and growth of industry in Western Australia, the Budget this year provides \$25.1 million to the Ministry for Economic Development and Trade. Initiatives include -

\$1.2 million for continued overseas market developments, including \$250 000 for the Japanese export market support scheme;

\$800 000 to continue the Western Australian research and development scheme designed to lift research by industry;

\$1.6 million for the joint Commonwealth-State National Industries Extension Service;

\$500 000 for initiatives in the advanced materials field, including overseas promotion, pre-feasibility studies and participation in Austceram 90; and

\$250 000 to promote investment in Western Australia by international and Australian defence companies and to maximise local industry involvement in the forthcoming major defence contracts.

These initiatives supplement our industry renewal guarantee scheme targeted at efficient and viable existing businesses that are inhibited from growth by their inability to secure funds for expansion or for the upgrading of their capital equipment.

Some also take advantage of the commitments we have already made to the provision of key infrastructure projects such as the Defence Technology Precinct.

Mr Speaker, the concept of a petrochemical plant at Kwinana provides an important opportunity to advance the economic development of Western Australia. It comes at a time when work on the first two processing trains of the massive LNG project on the Burrup Peninsula is virtually complete and offers enhanced prospects of employment for our construction and supply industries.

The scale of the project and the economic impetus it can provide have been overlooked in the glare of recent publicity. The multiplier effects are significant, in terms of both orders for local industry and in generating new jobs. During the construction phase it is estimated that more than 800 additional flow-on jobs will be generated. Economic projections also suggest that, on completion, the ongoing demands of the project and the extra wages that will be paid will sustain a further 1 700 to 3 400 permanent jobs, mainly in the Perth metropolitan area.

In a project of this size and complexity, it is not surprising to encounter organisational and technical problems. However, we are sparing no efforts to ensure that a viable project goes ahead to secure a return on the Government funds that have been invested and to ensure that the associated economic benefits accrue to the State. This year, the Budget provides \$62.3 million to meet our funding obligations and I would call on all those opposite to provide bipartisan support for this venture which has such obvious benefits for the economic development of Western Australia.

Employment and Training

To stimulate employment opportunities and to fund an extensive range of training schemes, \$2.2 million has been allocated to the Department of Employment and Training, including a further \$10.5 million contribution to the State Employment Strategies Fund.

Despite the record employment growth that Western Australia has experienced over the last six years, some hard-core labour market problems remain and priority will be given to

reorientating our employment programs to help solve those problems. In particular, resources will be redirected to the most disadvantaged job seekers, including long-term unemployed, people from non-English speaking backgrounds, women returning to the work force, Aborigines, the disabled, and "at risk" youth. As part of this employment strategy, Joblink and other community projects will be invited to submit applications for financial assistance. We will make \$4.5 million available for this purpose in 1989-90, of which \$1 million will relate to existing projects.

An important aim of the Government has been to ensure that the State's training requirements are met adequately, having regard to skills shortages and the need for skills upgrading, award restructuring and the equitable delivery of training programs. A positive step in achieving this aim will be the establishment of the State Employment Skills Development Authority (SESDA). The authority has the strong support of industry and will provide the forum where Government, employers and unions can determine policies on skills development, training accreditation, transferability, multi-skilling and future training requirements.

Through the new apprentice training assessment system we have established the first competency-based apprenticeship training scheme in Australia. The system will be upgraded to ensure that it sets appropriate standards of excellence.

The Government will also introduce legislation to establish a building and construction fund levy. The fund will help overcome the problem of recurring skills shortages in the industry by financing additional training.

We are also examining other measures to increase investment in training and it is of interest that studies of advanced overseas countries suggest that, while the State and Commonwealth contribution to education and training as a proportion of gross domestic product compares favourably, the industry contribution to training in Australia lags behind. It would therefore seem reasonable that a major portion of the additional training requirement should be funded by industry.

The key issue is how the current and potential contribution to industry training can be recognised and increased. The Commonwealth Government has proposed a compulsory two per cent training levy to address this problem. However, the priority for the State Government is that any training revenue collected should be State-based and industry should have a large say in how the money is spent.

Currently, medium to large organisations contribute to Government revenue through payroll tax. In other OECD countries, payroll tax is earmarked for activities such as social security, and employment and training arrangements. While the Government does not at this point intend to follow this practice, it is important to note that, in 1989-90, the funding requirements for TAFE, the Department of Employment and Training and SESDA will correspond to almost 30 per cent of payroll tax revenue.

The Government intends to give industry a much greater say in how this "component" of payroll tax is allocated within the budgets of TAFE and the Department of Employment and Training. This will be achieved through the processed SESDA framework.

A persistent problem experienced by migrants has been that they have been unable to contribute their full potential, due to the lack of recognition of their skills and experience. It is essential that the skills of all Western Australians are fully utilised and the 1989-90 Budget allows for the establishment of the Overseas Qualification Unit within the Department of Employment and Training to address this issue.

TAFE colleges play a crucial role in equipping our young people for careers and in guaranteeing the skills upon which our future prosperity depends. As a result of substantial restructuring now under way which will lift the effective capacity of TAFE colleges, the Government will meet its commitment to provide an extra 2 000 student places. For its part, the Government this year plans to provide more than 1 000 traineeship places in the public sector.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY WELFARE

The Family

Improving the quality of Western Australian family life is fundamental to our economic and social policies. I have already mentioned our Family Pledge and the unprecedented efforts

we are making in that most basic area of family need, housing. We are committed to ensuring that the average increase in major State charges affecting families will be less than inflation over our four year term. I repeat that, while State charges have recently increased, those increases were generally the first for two years. Importantly, since 1983-84 the real weekly impact of State charges on the average family has fallen by about 18 per cent or \$6.50.

In addition, the Budget provides a further \$6.6 million to the Western Australian Family Foundation for a wide range of activities. The Minister for The Family will be providing further details.

Seniors

The Government is concerned to improve the quality of life of our senior citizens to ensure that those responsible for our comparative prosperity receive the care and respect that is their due and to extend the range of the services and benefits available to them wherever possible. No Government has done more for senior citizens than this Government, Mr Speaker, as is evidenced by the growing list of concessions that are available for Seniors' Card holders. In 1989-90, card holders will obtain SECWA's supply charge rebate, a 50 per cent rebate on motor drivers' licences and a spectacle subsidy of up to \$50 every two years. A 25 per cent rebate of water, sewerage and drainage rates will be phased in from 1 July 1990. These benefits are, of course, additional to the travel concessions introduced last year, the lower fees that are charged for adult education courses and the other discounts that are currently available. In total, the range of concessions and other assistance measures available to our Seniors' Card holders will cost an estimated \$5.5 million in 1989-90.

Community Welfare

Indicative of the importance this Government places on securing the welfare of those in the community most in need, funding for the Department for Community Services has increased by almost 165 per cent since 1982-83. This year's allocation of \$103.8 million includes payments to the non-Government sector amounting to \$24.2 million.

An amount of \$11.8 million will be spent on the joint Commonwealth-State funded Supported Accommodation Assistance Program and funds have been provided for our commitment under the new Commonwealth-State Child Care Agreement for occasional and long term day care. The Government has decided to increase the foster parent subsidies for children in care as from 1 October. The increase amounts to 7.7 per cent and the new minimum weekly rate for primary school children is to be \$52.25. The Budget also provides for continued funding of the successful Care and Respect Program, Seniors' Week, The Kids and Crime program and the Child Sexual Abuse initiative.

Although in terms of expenditure the initiative is not significant, we will also establish a financial advisory service especially to help older Western Australians plan their retirement without continual concern for their financial future.

Education

The Budget this year continues the Government's commitment to improve the education system in Western Australia to ensure that each school-aged child receives a quality education relevant to changing technological and labour market demands. Reflecting this commitment, expenditure by the Ministry of Education is expected to increase by a significant 13.4 per cent to \$902.7 million.

Apart from maintaining existing programs, I have already mentioned that specific provision has been made to employ additional 223 teaching and support staff to progressively reduce class sizes in years 1 and 2, and to meet demands in schools due to increasing enrolments, new schools, and extensions and improvements to existing schools.

As well as the education allowance which forms part of our Family Pledge, we have recognised the difficulties facing low income families in meeting the costs associated with educating their children by increasing financial assistance grants provided by the Ministry of Education.

Consistent with our announced policy to increase per capita grants to non-Government schools, these grants have increased from \$43.3 million last year to \$48.5 million. Advances of \$36.2 million are planned under the Government's low interest loan scheme for non-Government school buildings.

Health

The Government recognises that an accessible and efficient hospital and health care service is a fundamental right of all our citizens, regardless of status or location. To meet that commitment to a comprehensive health system, gross expenditure by the Health Department will increase by 9.5 per cent in 1989-90.

Apart from meeting the ongoing operational costs of our public hospitals, some of the features of the recurrent expenditure program are -

- an allocation of \$7.3 million to the Patients Assisted Travel Scheme to ensure that specialist medical services are available to the whole community;

- the joint State/Commonwealth Home and Community Care Program will increase by \$3.7 million to \$40.2 million. This program provides for maintenance and support services for frail, aged and disabled people, helping them remain in the community rather than in an institutional setting;

- accident and emergency services at Wanneroo, Swan Districts, Kalamunda, Armadale and Rockingham hospitals will be substantially upgraded by the appointment of additional medical officers. An extra \$1.0 million will be provided for this purpose;

- additional funding of \$2 million will be provided for new waiting list reduction strategies;

- provision of \$425 000 has been made for the completion of the Hepatitis B vaccination program for the State's Aboriginal children;

- an extra \$210 000 will be provided for the expansion of the environmental health program to the western desert communities in the north/west of the State;

- a further \$350 000 will be provided to help combat the Ross River virus;

- \$5 million will be allocated to the Western Australian Health Foundation to help eliminate the traumatic impact that smoking has on the community. The Quit campaign will continue and we will widen our anti-smoking efforts; and

- the Government's commitment to the funding of AIDS related preventive education campaigns, to counselling and treatment services, and to the acute care of AIDS sufferers will total \$3.85 million in 1989-90.

The Environment

At a time of widespread and growing community concern about environmental issues, this Budget strikes the right balance between economic need and the preservation of our lifestyle.

Along with our Federal colleagues, this Government is committed to arresting and reversing salinity and soil erosion of our rural land by the turn of the century. Consistent with this objective, we are mounting a series of initiatives within the budgets for the Environmental Protection Authority and the Departments of Conservation and Land Management, and Agriculture. The budget for the Department of Conservation and Land Management will be \$100.8 million.

Included are funds for the ongoing program of establishing and tending softwood plantations on either State-owned land or privately-owned land. In relation to privately-owned land, CALM's successful softwood sharefarming scheme will be again expanded as further landowners come into the scheme. The department's sharefarming scheme, which concentrates on the growing of Tasmanian Blue Gum, was launched in 1987 with the first plantings taking place in June to August 1988. This year will see the area planted being more than double, from 2 000 to 5 000 hectares. The Government is looking at ways to further expand its tree planting program and this will be given attention during the current financial year. As well as bringing major economic benefits, the tree planting program will take the pressure off our unique native forests. The Budget also enables the management of the public land estate under the control of the Department of Conservation and Land Management to be improved in accordance with our new policy relating to exploration and mining in national parks and nature reserves.

Reflecting our environmental concerns, funds for the Environmental Protection Authority are to increase by 9.3 per cent to \$7.8 million. Amongst other things, the allocation will enable

the authority to provide support for the new State Greenhouse Council and the CSIRO's research into climatic changes in Western Australia.

Other aspects of our programs to protect the environment are -

further allocations of \$680 000 to implement the second stage of the Peel-Harvey Estuary System Management Strategy which aims at improving conditions of the estuary waters;

an allocation of \$350 000 for district soil conservation committees including provision of \$106 000 for the formation of additional committees; and

a total of \$500 000 to provide incentives to farmers for the protection of remnant native vegetation.

OTHER INITIATIVES

Regional Development

Regional development continues to be a high Government priority and, this year, the allocation to the Department of Regional Development has been increased by \$1.2 million, mainly to integrate the Local Economic Development Unit and the Argyle Social Impact Group administration within its activities. Attention is to be focused on local enterprise development in Esperance, Albany, Margaret River, Bunbury, Manjimup, Narrogin, Geraldton, Port Hedland and Broome. The Small Town Self Help program, which assists local communities to plan for the future and develop self help initiatives, is also to be expanded into nine additional communities.

In addition, the Great Southern Development Authority's Budget allocation of \$904 000 will enable the authority to consolidate and build on a range of initiatives including the marketing and implementation of the Albany foreshore. A new area of support will be the allocation of once-only grants to local government for the design of regional townscape improvement programs.

Funds have also been provided for the Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority to undertake early research work for several new projects in 1989-90 including work to stabilise and reclaim the area known as Southgate Dunes adjacent to Tarcoola Beach and an extensive examination of Oakagee as a suitable site for an industrial park.

A further \$4.3 million has been set aside to enable the South West Development Authority to progress the regional development program introduced by the Government in 1983 which has become the most successful of its kind in Australia. Included is \$275 000 for initiatives under the "South West Strategy - A People's Plan", a strategy developed only after the most comprehensive consultation with communities in the area.

Other Measures

Time does not permit me to outline all of the expenditure initiatives included in the Budget. However, other notable inclusions are -

a \$240.5 million Budget for the Police Department including funding for the second stage of the Government's crime prevention plan to increase the size of the Police Force by 1 000 officers. In 1989-90, 168 additional police officers will be employed at a total cost of \$3.4 million. Appointment of these officers will mean the Department's total approved strength will have increased by 500 since commencing this plan;

an allocation of \$78.3 million to the Department of Agriculture to continue its important programs on research, extension and protection of our agricultural industries and the conservation of soil and water resources;

\$44 million for the Department of Mines, an increase of just over 10 per cent in recognition of the crucial role the department plays in facilitating the orderly exploration and development of our mineral and petroleum resources for the benefit of the community and in regulating and providing advice to our vital mining sector;

significant Budget allocations for specific programs are clear evidence of this Government's commitment to the Aboriginal people of Western Australia. The Aboriginal Communities Development Program is in its fourth year of operation and

a further State allocation of \$10 million has been provided in 1989-90. This will be matched by Commonwealth funding of \$10 million under the five-year ACDP arrangements totalling \$100 million. The State allocation will be used to fund ongoing and new projects in areas such as land management, community management and enterprises. Efforts are also continuing to reduce the impact of alcohol and drug related problems among Aborigines and ACDP funding is proposed for community-based programs throughout the State, including education and training initiatives.

the Aboriginal visitors scheme, now in its second year of operation, has been successfully implemented in Broome, Perth, Kalgoorlie and Geraldton. The scheme is designed to reduce the incidence of Aboriginal deaths in custody. A sum of \$1.1 million has been allocated in 1989-90 and it is planned to extend the scheme to Bunbury, Albany, Roebourne, Halls Creek, Derby and the wheatbelt area;

an additional \$20.6 million has been provided within CALM's budget for integrated logging operations. The outlays, which will lead to increased efficiency in the timber industry, will be more than offset by the revenue that is generated;

\$11.9 million to enable the commission and the Department of Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare to meet the challenging objectives contained in their enabling legislation. Included is funding to continue an intensive campaign to promote health and safety in workplaces in which hand injuries account for 25 per cent of all injuries;

an allocation of \$5.7 million within the Capital Works Program for the continued redevelopment of the Swan Brewery site. Expenditure will be incurred on external renovation and re-roofing of existing buildings and on the construction of a sea wall, board walk and jetty. The redevelopment aims to provide a facility with broad community appeal focusing on arts and performance. A review is to be undertaken on private sector involvement and an Old Brewery Management Board is to be established;

the establishment of an outer metropolitan facilities development fund to accelerate the development of multipurpose centres in those areas lacking adequate recreational and community facilities. Three million dollars has been provided as the first instalment of a four year program;

funding of \$475 000 to allow the proclamation and administration of the Residential Tenancy Act which reforms tenancy law and establishes the principles of fair dealing and equity between landlords and tenants;

\$350 000 to commence construction of horticultural facilities as the first stage of a new TAFE facility at Murdoch and \$400 000 to commence a \$3.6 million stagehouse teaching complex at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts;

\$500 000 for the establishment of a social impact unit within the Department of Resources Development. The unit will provide a liaison between Government, developers and communities in assessing and ameliorating the social impact of new projects on communities; and

the removal of the means test from the subsidised taxi scheme for people with disabilities.

REVENUE

I now turn to the revenue initiatives of the Budget. The expenditure programs I have just described followed a critical reassessment of all departmental outlays. Even after the most stringent review of Government expenditures, however, it was evident that there was no alternative but to introduce additional revenue raising measures so that the urgent policy reforms endorsed by Western Australians at the last election could be implemented without severe and unacceptable disruption to important ongoing programs.

It needs to be recognised that, in recent years, reductions in Commonwealth payments to Western Australia have meant that a growing proportion of our outlays must be met from State revenue sources. Fortunately, the strong growth in the economy, particularly in the real estate and property areas, has bolstered our revenue and cushioned the impact of the Commonwealth cuts at a time when they have been most severe.

For 1989-90, however, that cushion will not be there to offset Commonwealth funding reductions which amount to \$100 million in grants alone. There are clear signs of moderating economic activity, particularly in the real estate sector which will depress our revenue collections. Indeed, in the absence of any revenue raising initiatives, State taxation collections were projected to increase by only 2.3 per cent, implying a real reduction of between four per cent and 5.2 per cent depending on the measure of inflation used.

Last Thursday, the Premier announced increases in tobacco franchise licence fees to fund a heightened anti-smoking campaign and to partly offset the enormous cost to our health system of treating smoking related illness. That move will result in \$16.5 million extra revenue in 1989-90 and \$28.5 million in a full year.

The taxation measures I am announcing today will raise a net \$42.6 million in 1989-90 and \$77.3 million in a full year.

Payroll Tax

Changes are to be made to the various threshold levels and tax rates to yield \$13 million in payroll tax in 1989-90 and \$22.5 million in a full year.

There will be a small increase in payroll tax rates. The current 3.75 per cent, 4.75 per cent and 5.75 per cent rates will increase to 3.95 per cent, 4.95 per cent and six per cent respectively. In addition, the payroll threshold at which the maximum payroll tax rate begins to impact will be lowered from the current \$2.124 million to \$2 million. Despite these changes which will be introduced from 1 November 1989, Western Australia will continue to have the lowest payroll tax rates for small business of any State and the lowest payroll tax liability for employers with annual payrolls in the \$1 million to \$2 million range. Partly offsetting the increased rates, and of benefit to small business, will be a lift in the current payroll thresholds. The \$295 000 and \$1.18 million thresholds will be lifted to \$300 000 and \$1.2 million respectively.

The maximum payroll tax rate of six per cent will not apply immediately the \$2 million payroll threshold is reached, but will be phased in over the payroll range of \$2 million to \$2.5 million. This will redress the previous inequity where an employer whose wages just exceeded the maximum payroll threshold was required to pay around 20 per cent more payroll tax than an employer whose wages fell just below this level.

The cost of these concessions is estimated to be \$1 million in 1989-90 and \$1.9 million in a full year.

Stamp Duty on Transfers of Businesses

The sale of a business already attracts stamp duty at conveyance rates where the transfer is effected by a formal instrument. However, where less formal means are used, certain business property such as goodwill and other intangible assets escapes duty. Although it is recognised that in some cases there are legitimate reasons for less than full documentation of business sales, there is also evidence of a growing tendency towards less than full documentation which currently avoids stamp duty. Accordingly, the provisions of the Stamp Act, which already require stamp duty to be paid in respect of realty transfers including mining tenements effected other than by formal instrument, are to be extended to apply to business property generally. Similar measures have applied for many years in Queensland and more recently in New South Wales.

Additionally, Western Australia will legislate to make it clear that licences, franchises and the like are dutiable property. The value of these items is similar in nature to goodwill, which has always been dutiable. However, although the Commissioner of State Taxation has sought to apply duty to these items, recent court decisions have cast doubt on this practice and raised the prospect of substantial revenue loss. Further details on these initiatives will be provided when the enabling legislation is introduced. These measures are to apply from 1 November 1989 and are estimated to increase conveyance duty receipts by \$2 million in 1989-90 and \$5 million in a full year, although the impact on small business and those purchasing principal places of residence will be eased by an increase in the value limit for which the concessional 1.5 per cent rate of stamp duty applies, from \$50 000 to \$85 000.

Stamp Duty on Chattels

Western Australia is currently the only State which permits the exclusion of chattels from the dutiable value of a conveyance of realty, including residences, commercial and industrial and

mining property and businesses. This exemption is to be removed for all chattels except trading stock, materials for goods under manufacture, and chattels used in primary production, including livestock. The move will also close a common evasion practice where the proportion of the consideration attributable to chattels is overstated. For an average residential property transaction it is estimated that the stamp duty payable will increase by six per cent. The overall conveyance duty impost will however continue to be less in Western Australia than the average of the other States. This measure, which will come into effect on 1 November 1989, is estimated to raise additional revenue of \$9 million in 1989-90 and \$16 million in a full year.

Two concessions are to be introduced to reduce the impact of this measure on home buyers. First, and as I just mentioned in respect of small business and principal places of residence, the value limit for the concessional 1.5 per cent rate of duty will be increased from \$50 000 to \$85 000. Second, the value limits which apply to the first home buyers' \$500 stamp duty rebate scheme, a major concession initiative of the Government earlier this year, are to be increased from \$80 000 to \$85 000. The value limit for homes north of the 26th parallel is to be increased from \$120 000 to \$127 500. The cost of these concessions is estimated to be \$1 million in 1989-90 and \$2 million in a full year.

Stamp Duty on Mortgages

Western Australia currently has the lowest rate of mortgage duty of any State in Australia for secured loans of more than \$35 000. The stamp duty rate for securities of up to \$35 000 will remain at the current 25¢ per \$100. However, to bring Western Australia into line with the average of the other States for securities of more than \$35 000 a new rate of 40¢ per \$100 will apply to that component of the security value which exceeds \$35 000. The new rate will not apply to mortgages for the purchase or construction of owner-occupied residences. The existing 25¢ rate will continue to apply on the total value of these mortgages irrespective of the amount. These changes are to operate from 1 November 1989 and are estimated to raise additional revenue of \$8 million in 1989-90 and \$15 million in a full year.

Financial Institutions Duty

Western Australia currently has the lowest rate of financial institutions duty of any State where this duty applies and from 1 November 1989 the rate will be raised from 2¢ per \$100 to 3.5¢ per \$100, yielding additional revenue of \$14 million in 1989-90 and \$25 million in a full year. The new rate in Western Australia will be midway between the 3¢ per \$100 rate applicable in New South Wales and Victoria and the 4¢ per \$100 rate applicable in South Australia and Tasmania. There will be no increase in the \$500 maximum duty limit or in the rates applicable to short-term money market transactions. Apart from the revenue measures I have just announced, the Government has introduced three stamp duty initiatives designed to improve the equity and impact on economic efficiency of the tax system.

Stamp Duty on Insurance Policies and Rental Business

Insurance companies and rental businesses are required to pay stamp duty on premiums and rental business receipts respectively. It is normal practice for the stamp duty cost to be passed on to the customer which, of course, increases the premiums or hire charges upon which duty is payable.

Claims have been made by taxpayers that this amounts to a duty on duty. The Government agrees that, in certain circumstances, this claim is difficult to refute and has decided to alter the Stamp Act to remove the basis for that claim. For the purpose of calculating the dutiable amount upon which stamp duty is payable, the total premium or hire charge will be reduced by an amount equal to the stamp duty component. The estimated cost of this measure is \$800 000 in 1989-90 and \$1.3 million in a full year.

Proportionate Stamping Provisions for Securities

At present, full stamp duty is payable in this State on mortgages and other securities where a proportion of the secured property is located in Western Australia. While a credit is allowed for duty actually payable in respect of the secured property located in other States, there is no allowance for the situation where a specific exemption is provided in another State. It is intended that credit will be given in future for prescribed exemptions in other States. This measure is to apply from 1 November 1989 at an estimated cost of \$600 000 in 1989-90 and \$1 million in a full year.

Stamp Duty on Secondary Mortgage Market Instruments

In consultation with the industry, the Government intends to legislate to provide additional stamp duty concessions to encourage the development of a secondary mortgage market in Western Australia. The ultimate beneficiaries will be home buyers, through lower interest rates and greater availability of funds for housing, and investors, who will have a wider choice of investment opportunities.

Overall, our revenues are expected to amount to \$4 824.3 million in 1989-90. Apart from the revenue measures I have just announced, significant contributions are again expected from the Rural and Industries Bank - \$40 million - and the State Government Insurance Commission and Corporation - \$31.1 million. In addition, the winding back of the Western Australian Development Corporation and the closure of Western Australian Exim Corporation Ltd is expected to lead to additional revenue of \$27.5 million in 1989-90. The Government's asset management task force plans to generate \$55 million this year as part of its ongoing program of disposing of land-holdings and other assets surplus to requirements; and the acquisition by the Rural and Industries Bank of the banking activities of Gold Corporation will result in the corporation returning our initial \$25 million capital injection on top of a \$4 million dividend payment.

PUBLIC SECTOR MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The economic environment in which we are operating means that we must continually examine all existing Government expenditure programs to confirm that they are still required and are being delivered at the least possible cost. The Government is moving to simplify this process by fully implementing program management. The aim is for program management to be introduced in as many agencies as practicable by the time next year's Budget is brought down. This initiative will link financial management with the accountability and annual reporting requirements of the Financial Administration and Audit Act. As a result, Parliament and the community will be better informed about the operations of departments and agencies and the effectiveness of their activities. It will also highlight, to both Government and the agencies concerned, those areas where savings to the taxpayer can be more readily made.

I am sure I do not need to remind members that, in recent times, much has been said about the need for increased accountability for all those charged with the spending or investment of taxpayers' funds. The Government's actions in setting up the Burt Commission on Accountability and moving swiftly to implement its recommendations, illustrate the commitment which this Government has to accountability. There is also considerable comfort to be gained from the Burt commission's conclusion that the Financial Administration and Audit Act embodied all the detailed accountability criteria which had been advanced by the commission. This tough new legislation was introduced by a Labor Government in 1986 and it brings Western Australia to the forefront in public sector administration.

In recent years the Government has made significant improvements in the coverage and presentation of the Budget papers and this year, for the first time, information on public sector finances will be shown on a national accounting basis. This will enable a better understanding of the economic impact of the State Government's activities on the Western Australian economy. It will also facilitate more meaningful comparisons between States.

It is of interest that these broadly based national accounting figures show that total State public sector outlays are expected to grow by 10.5 per cent to a level about the same as last year in real per capita terms. However, the increase in general Government spending is projected to be only 5.1 per cent with overall expenditure being boosted by a high 21.6 per cent increase in outlays by public trading enterprises. The reason for the projected high spending by trading enterprises is an expected 35.6 per cent lift in capital outlays, reflecting the commercial decisions planned by organisations such as the State Energy Commission of Western Australia and the Water Authority in servicing the needs of a growing population and State economy.

Members will also note that, for information purposes, this year total debt servicing costs relating to primary and secondary schools and TAFE colleges are shown against the Ministry and the Office of Technical and Further Education. It is intended to widen this practice in

subsequent Budgets to provide Parliament with a better appreciation of the total Budget resources being applied to major areas of Government activity.

Mr Speaker, this Budget is the first since the Government's undertaking that, over its four year term, it will seek to contain the growth in its outlays, the growth in taxation revenue and the growth in public debt to less than the growth in the State's economy. This is a major commitment by the Government and one which reflects our preparedness to contribute to the achievement of national macro-economic objectives.

Before turning to the Budget overview, there has been much ill informed observation about our credit standing in recent times, heightened by Press comment on the State's accumulated public debt at 30 June 1988. Let me just say that we are mindful of the State's debt position and are moving to improve it. But it needs to be realised that almost 65 per cent of that debt is attributable to statutory authorities, a large proportion of which relates to the activities of SECWA. Indeed, about 55 per cent of the increase in State debt in the 1980s is explained by the expanded borrowings of the commission. Over the period the commission's borrowings have been used mainly for the construction of the gas pipeline from the north west, associated energy inventory funding and to meet the generating demands of an economy which has grown by more than 34 per cent, in real terms, over the past five years, almost double that of South Australia and compared to corresponding growth of around 20 per cent for New South Wales and Victoria.

It has been this basic infrastructure which has underpinned that outstanding economic performance. The export phase of the North West Shelf project, for example, will make an export contribution similar to that of iron ore within the next decade. Throughout the construction stages of this project, almost 70 per cent has been manufactured locally, providing an enormous boost to local industry. Against this background, it is not surprising that this State rejects the notion that we should not borrow for the infrastructure needed to service economic growth. Those borrowings are invested in assets which will provide a revenue base more than sufficient to meet the debt servicing requirements. So far as our credit worthiness is concerned, I simply point out that Moody's Investors Service has recently assigned a AAA rating to the State's domestic debt.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Last year, and for the sixth time in succession, we achieved a small surplus. Total revenue amounted to roundly \$4 270.3 million, \$278 000 more than recurrent expenditures of \$4 270 million. Importantly, the surplus resulted after bringing to account \$140 million, \$19.1 million less than we planned, from accumulated interest earnings. In addition, unbudgeted expenditures of \$151.5 million were incurred in meeting extraordinary obligations relating to Teachers Financial Society, Swan Building Society, Rothwells and the petrochemical project. For the current financial year, and after budgeting for \$75 million from our available short term interest earnings, revenue collections are estimated at \$4 824.3 million.

State taxation collections are expected to grow by 6.9 per cent compared with the Commonwealth's expected inflation rate of 7.5 per cent as measured by the Consumer Price Index, and a projected population growth of three per cent. Turning to our current expenditures, total outlays are planned to be held to the level of our estimated revenue of \$4 824.3 million. Once again, we are aiming for a balanced Consolidated Revenue Fund Budget, a goal that we believe is of the greatest importance in preserving the State's financial stability.

Mr Speaker, the Western Australian Government is proud of the economic revival that has occurred under its stewardship and the economic security that has been provided for thousands of the ordinary men, women and children of this State. We are proud of the jobs we have created and of the economic and social strategies that have been put in place. The Budget I have announced today provides a framework for the continued prosperity of Western Australia and sets targets in public sector management which will ensure that Government provides the room for that economic growth. It addresses our national economic responsibilities while continuing to focus on areas of greatest economic opportunity and social needs. And it provides stability and direction by continuing and strengthening the policies we have advanced over the last six years.

I now turn to the formal purposes of the Bill. The Bill seeks the appropriation of the sums required for the services of the current financial year as detailed in the Estimates. It also makes provision for the grant of Supply to complete requirements for 1988-89. Included in the expenditure Estimates of \$4 824.3 million is an amount of \$601.801 million permanently appropriated under Special Acts, leaving an amount of \$4 222.499 million which is to be appropriated in a manner shown in a schedule to the Bill. Supply of \$2 300 million has already been granted under the Supply Act 1989. Hence, further Supply of \$1 922.499 million has been provided for in this Bill. In addition to authorising the provision of funds for the current year, the Bill seeks ratification of the amounts spent during 1988-89 in excess of the Estimates for that year. Details of these excesses are given in the relevant schedule to the Bill.

I commend the Bill to the House and, in so doing, seek leave to table -

the Consolidated Revenue Fund Estimates 1989-90;

Supplementary Budget Information;

the Western Australian Economy 1988-89; and

the Budget Outlook.

[See papers Nos 385a-d.]

[Applause.]

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

APPROPRIATION (GENERAL LOAN AND CAPITAL WORKS FUND) BILL

Second Reading

MR PARKER (Fremantle - Treasurer) [12.06 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to appropriate sums from the General Loan and Capital Works Fund to finance items of capital expenditure. The Capital Works Expenditure Program proposed for this year amounts to \$1 606.368 million. Of this amount, \$338.563 million is to be appropriated by this Bill from the General Loan and Capital Works Fund.

As I mentioned in the Budget speech, our Capital Works Program in 1989-90 has been boosted by an unusually high carryover of funds from last year. These underspendings amounted to \$168 million. Other major reasons for the expected \$397.3 million increase in the program this year, as compared to actual expenditure in 1988-89, are a planned \$124.5 million increase in SECWA's program, an estimated \$53.3 million increase in Homeswest's expenditure, and an expected lift of \$30.2 million in works undertaken by the Water Authority.

I have already referred to the more significant matters of interest in the Capital Works Program in the Budget speech, and I do not wish to take up more time now to talk about the other programs and projects to be undertaken this year. Financial details of these are contained in the Estimates and further descriptive information is provided in the document "Supplement to the Capital Works Estimates" which I will seek leave to table at the end of this speech. Members will also have the opportunity to obtain additional information during the debate on the Estimates.

I now turn to the main purpose of the Bill which is to appropriate from the General Loan and Capital Works Fund the sums required for the works and services as detailed in the General Loan and Capital Works Fund Estimates of Expenditure. An amount of \$338.563 million is sought from the General Loan and Capital Works Fund as part of the total financing arrangements required for the Government's planned works program. The amount to be provided from the General Loan and Capital Works Fund, which is subject to appropriation in this Bill, is clearly identified in bold type on page 5 of the Estimates.

The Supply Act 1989 has already granted Supply of \$200 million and the Bill now under consideration seeks further Supply of \$138.563 million. The total of these two sums, namely \$338.563 million, is to be appropriated for the purposes and services expressed in schedule 1 of the Bill. As well as authorising the provision of funds for the present financial year, this

measure also seeks ratification for amounts spent during 1988-89 in excess of the Estimates for that year. Details of these amounts are provided in schedule 2 of the Bill.

Before tabling the documents associated with this Bill and at the conclusion of the two speeches I have made on the Budget process, I take this opportunity to thank the Treasury officers who have worked so hard and so diligently to bring down this Budget. Mr Ross Bowe, the Under Treasurer, and Mr Ron Hazel, the Assistant Under Treasurer in charge of budgeting, are in the Chamber at the moment and I would like to thank them and the many officers in Treasury who have worked very long hours to ensure not only that this Budget is framed appropriately, but also that all the information the public requires - which is vastly more than any information given in previous years and a quantum difference from the information available six or seven years ago - is available to the public and the Parliament. Also, this Budget was brought down much earlier in the session than has traditionally been the case. I thank the officers present and ask them to convey those thanks to all their colleagues in Treasury.

I commend the Bill to the House and, in so doing, request leave to table -

the General Loan and Capital Works Fund Estimates of Expenditure for the year ending 30 June 1990; and

the document "Supplement to the Capital Works Estimates".

[See papers Nos 386a-b.]

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

BILLS (2)

Messages - Appropriations

Messages from the Lieutenant Governor and Administrator received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following Bills -

1. Appropriation (Consolidated Revenue Fund) Bill
2. Appropriation (General Loan and Capital Works Fund) Bill

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY - EIGHTH DAY

Amendment to Motion

Debate resumed from 30 August.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park) [12.12 pm]: Last night the Opposition moved an amendment to the Address-in-Reply focusing attention on the financial activities of the State Government and claiming that as a result of its financial activities individual taxpayers in Western Australia have suffered "a diminution in services provided by the Government"; and, indeed, an estimate is made of a cost of \$1 000 for every Western Australian.

It is ironic indeed that such a claim was made late last night just before a State Budget was brought down which clearly indicates that this Government has maintained its services to the people of this State at a level that they ought to expect in the late 1980s. It is ironic indeed that that claim should be made when in two of the most important areas of Government expenditure - provision for law and order and for education - we have seen significant improvements. The most basic areas of Government services provided by a State involve ensuring that there is law and order in our society and that facilities are available to educate the youth of our society. We have seen improvements in Government services in those two significant areas. It is ironic that the Opposition should use such an argument just before this Budget was brought down. The whole question raised by this amendment to the Address-in-Reply is how we assess a Government's financial dealings.

I think that any State Government must be analysed in terms of its overall impact on the daily lives and experiences of ordinary citizens in that State. The ordinary citizens of this State have found a good deal of confusion in the debate which has been led by the Opposition and which relates to the question of the Government's financial dealings because when one considers their everyday lives one sees a Government committed to the concept of social improvement and to the very simple proposition that most of the good things that happen in life do so within the basic family unit and the community that surrounds that family unit.

We have seen, through the financial activities of our State Government and revealed in its Budget dealing with consolidated revenue and through the trading enterprises of the State Government, that funds have been channelled into that basic area to facilitate the way of life we all support. Only last year the State Government Insurance Commission sent funds across to the State Government which were channelled into the Family Foundation. I know that in my electorate those funds have been put to a productive use in improving the basic infrastructure of our society, helping young citizens and ensuring that community groups can promote good things in Western Australia.

The other thing we have to look at when considering the contribution that a State Government can make in providing for improvements in society is whether it facilitates employment and economic growth. It is a crucial issue, because when there is employment and economic growth there is revenue coming to the Government and there is always the possibility of easing the pressures placed on families by redistributing some of the growth back to those families.

During the time of the Labor Government we have seen - as the Treasurer has just said - a reduction in the share of the revenue taken by the Government as a proportion of the total gross State product; in other words, we have seen an improvement in those basic infrastructure areas of family and community services while at the same time some of the pressure has been taken from the private sector and private families through a reduction in the share taken by the Government in the overall gross State product.

One can only analyse a Government's achievements by looking at the total picture. It is worth repeating that when the Labor Government came to power in 1983 it inherited a \$14.2 million budget deficit; unemployment rates of over 10 per cent; an annual inflation rate in double figures; and a growth rate of just 0.3 per cent.

Mr Shave: How are your overseas borrowings going?

Dr GALLOP: Better than the overseas borrowing of some of the member's private sector friends.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Dr GALLOP: I am waiting with eagerness for the time when the new Liberal member for Melville gives us a lecture on the relationship between family life and bar room stripping, given his past experience as a spokesman for the hotel industry.

Points of Order

Mr LEWIS: I note that the member for Victoria Park has been speaking now for about five minutes during which I have tried to work out to which motion he is speaking. It seems to me that he is speaking to the Budget debate which has just been adjourned. I would like you, Mr Speaker, to suggest that he should get back to the amendment before the Chair.

Mr BLAICKIE: The member for Applecross has raised matters which relate to Standing Order No 125, to which I draw your attention, Mr Speaker, and which states -

No member shall allude to any debate of the same Session, upon a question or Bill not being then under discussion except by the indulgence of the House for personal explanations.

With deference to the member for Victoria Park, the matters to which he has been alluding during the early stage have been a direct reference to the Budget just released by the Treasurer. There is an amendment before the House which clearly sets out the matters to be discussed. There is no doubt a fine line between the amendment under consideration and the Budget papers, but it is quite improper for any member during this debate to refer to the Budget papers which have just been introduced.

Mr DONOVAN: On the same point of order, the line referred to is a substantial line. The bottom line of the proposed amendment is the assertion that all of those items in the amendment are worth \$1 000 for every Western Australian family, and as a consequence they will suffer from a diminution in the services provided by Government. It seems to me that the member for Victoria Park is addressing precisely that issue.

The SPEAKER: I thank those members who rose to my assistance. I might say that I am confused not only by the point of order, but also about to whom the point of order is directed,

because I find it difficult to know where the member for Ascot is actually sitting; I think he might have been referring to the member for Victoria Park, and as a consequence of that I direct my attention to him. I find some extraordinary difficulty in deciding in favour of the points of order raised. The amendment which we are discussing is in my view being addressed by the member for Victoria Park.

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr WATT: Mr Speaker, on a further point of order, when the member for Applecross - and I am having difficulty, like most of us, with these new electorate names - rose on a point of order I thought he was going to refer to the most uncharitable comments made by the member on his feet about the member for Melville. I find the remarks he made associating him with bar room stripping to be absolutely offensive, and I ask for them to be withdrawn.

Opposition members: Hear, hear!

Dr GALLOP: I am happy to withdraw those remarks if they are offensive to another member of the Chamber.

Debate Resumed

Dr GALLOP: I am trying to illustrate in my speech that, in looking at whether services are being produced by Government, we need to look at two sides to the question: First, whether that Government has successfully facilitated economic and employment growth so that revenue is coming into Government to enable it to provide those services.

Mr Lewis: We are talking about losses!

Dr GALLOP: I will come to that question. The second aspect is whether the Government is, through its revenue collection and expenditure activities, actually providing for the services of the State. The Opposition has a habit of being abstract in respect of the second part of that question. It has a habit of taking out of the total equation one small aspect of the problem and focusing on that, thereby losing sight of the total picture. The approach taken by members opposite was once illustrated by someone - and I forget who it was - as freezing a film at a certain point of its development and focusing on the film at that point, rather than looking at the total picture. If one does that, it is very easy to pick out a problem here or a loss there.

In respect of the State Government, to which this motion is addressed, it is crucial to look at the whole range of activities of Government, including the raising of revenue and the expenditure of that revenue, because to focus simply on one aspect of the problem does not do justice to the total picture. The total picture is that during the last seven years the financial fortunes of this State have been restored; there has been a Budget surplus for six successive years; and we have a total Budget surplus in excess of \$12 million. The result is that pressure has been taken off ordinary families and businesses in this State, as is illustrated by that very important statistic mentioned by the Treasurer - the proportion of expenditure taken up by the Government. The State and Federal Labor Governments have reduced that figure, and have thereby been able to provide more resources to families and businesses. That was not achieved under the Liberal Governments of Sir Charles Court and Ray O'Connor; rather, the proportion taken up by Government increased during that period.

Mr Lewis: More resources to waste!

Dr GALLOP: One of the problems we have in our society is that some of the member's friends in business are not particularly clever; therefore many of the resources released by the State and Federal Labor Governments have not been used by them in the most productive manner.

Employment growth has a crucial effect on the ability of Government to provide services because it contributes to revenue growth in the State Government sector. This has become even more important now that the raising of payroll tax has become a State Government responsibility. The real context of politics in Western Australia is rapid development, and growth in population is an important part of that development. Most members of Parliament would know that the real issue of politics is the stress and strain that is being created in the State by employment and population growth, and by the pressure that is putting on the supply of land, the housing market, and the school system. The ability of this Government to manage that is indeed the issue of the day; and I maintain the Government has managed it

very well. There is no question that in terms of overall employment and economic growth, which provides resources for the provision of Government services, the assumption behind the Opposition's amendment to the Address-in-Reply falls flat.

There is a great problem in the analysis by members opposite of the specific dealings of the Government. When members opposite deal with Government agencies, they always focus on particular dealings. Government agencies are engaged in dealings all the time, and one of the problems with the analysis put forward last night by the Deputy Leader of the National Party was that he assumed we have a world which would never exist; and a very pertinent interjection from the Premier about the role of the Queensland State Government illustrated that only too well. I am sure that the Queensland National Party and the Deputy Leader of the National Party have very similar philosophical views about the role of Government in our society, but the fact of the matter is that whatever those general views may be, there are very few governments in the world which do not from time to time enter into relationships with businesses in respect of a whole range of matters. It is crucially important for us to know what are the rules of the game in respect of those relationships, but it is also very important that when we assess whether a particular Government agency is succeeding in its given commission - which in the case of some of the trading enterprises is to earn a surplus for that particular organisation and, by implication, to earn a surplus for the community as a whole - we do not focus on any particular dealing of that agency but rather on its overall performance.

I will not talk about the role this State Government is playing in changing the framework within which public sector agencies operate, because I think it will go down in history as being one of its most significant achievements via the promotion of performance objectives, a more commercial outlook on the part of our public sector agencies, and a more responsible and businesslike approach to their performance. That is all part of the package by which it then becomes possible for the Government to provide services to the people in those areas where it needs to provide services, such as law and order and education.

The Opposition has on many occasions, and again last night, highlighted the losses incurred on individual investments undertaken by this State Government's trading enterprises as examples of Government imposing costs on taxpayers. Such claims are quite misleading and irresponsible. We need to look at the annual reports of those agencies.

Several members interjected.

Dr GALLOP: Do members opposite ever read the reports of those agencies? Let us look at the investments of the SGIC in the unaudited accounts for 1988-89, which indicate a surplus of \$48.3 million.

Mr Lewis: What is its capital base? Shouldn't we measure it against its capital base? You do not know what you are talking about.

Dr GALLOP: I am looking at the unaudited statements released only a couple of weeks ago, and they indicate a surplus of \$48.3 million.

Mr Lewis: On what capital base?

Dr GALLOP: Is the member implying that the statements of the State Government Insurance Commission are false?

Mr Lewis: No.

Dr GALLOP: What I indicate is that a surplus is not a loss.

Mr Kierath: What return should it have been?

Dr GALLOP: What return should have been made? What return does the member think should have been made?

Mr Kierath: Far more than that.

Dr GALLOP: That is a very precise analysis from the member for Riverton. If we turn to the implications of that surplus shown by the State Government Insurance Commission last year, we can see that the surplus enabled the Government to pass resources over to the Western Australian Family Foundation. What is the Western Australian Family Foundation? It is a Government organisation which provides funds to build our community. It provides

funds to enable the community to be strengthened. I bet that the member for Applecross, in the propaganda he puts out in his electorate, refers to grants made by the Western Australian Family Foundation to organisations in his electorate.

Mr Lewis: They do not give anything to Applecross.

Dr GALLOP: That means that he has not been doing his job as a local member and making sure that funds are available. I know that in my electorate those funds have been put to very productive use. They have been used by local church organisations and by non-government welfare organisations in promoting a much better way of life for the families in my district. We have also seen library grants. I have the privilege of being the Treasurer of the East Victoria Park Parents and Citizens Association. I know that that grant of money to our local library has been put to very effective use.

Mr Lewis: I thought you were the head boy.

Dr GALLOP: The member is frustrated because he wants to subdivide Heathcote estate. We know he is frustrated because he cannot make millions out of that subdivision as he is no longer on the Melville City Council. What we see is a complete misunderstanding of the role of Government.

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr LEWIS: I ask that the member for Victoria Park withdraw the implication that I would like to subdivide Heathcote Hospital and because I am not on the Melville City Council I cannot achieve that. That is impugning my integrity, and I ask that he withdraw it.

Mr Pearce: What a feeble effort!

Mr Lewis: Misrepresenting the position!

The SPEAKER: There was something in what the member for Victoria Park said which I thought may have been designed to impugn your integrity, but it was not what you complained of. I thought you were bound to raise it and make that point, but I do not think the point you raised did impugn your integrity. I am sure it was not meant to. As a result I shall not seek for that withdrawal, but I do want to caution members; as we can see from the start of this week, we are trying to be nice to each other, and it would be good if members on both sides would be friendly and get on with the business.

Dr GALLOP: I withdraw.

Debate Resumed

Dr GALLOP: In the two minutes left to me let me point out that the delivery of services to the citizens of this State has not been reduced by the State Labor Government since 1983. As a result of the employment and economic growth generated, service delivery has been improved. In respect of the activities of the Government trading organisations referred to in this amendment, no evidence has yet been produced that any of those organisations, in their overall financial positions, have contributed losses to the State which would flow through to reduce the services to the people of this State.

MR FRED TUBBY (Roleystone) [12.37 pm]: Mr Speaker -

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The call has been given to the member for Roleystone.

Mr Pearce: You should be higher up.

The SPEAKER: Order! While I think we should all be friendly with each other, we should not completely ignore very reasonable requests from the Chair. When someone is given the call, he should have the opportunity at least to start his speech.

Mr FRED TUBBY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Leader of the House has had his chance. I appreciate the contributions of the member for Victoria Park and enjoy what he has to say whenever he gets up to speak. He thoroughly illuminates the stand of the Government; it probably comes from his background, which I believe was in Geraldton. The member mentioned the fact that businessmen are not particularly clever. I thought that was rough, considering where he is sitting.

Dr Gallop: Some businessmen.

Mr FRED TUBBY: Perhaps the member for Victoria Park would like to know, after maligning businessmen, what businessmen think about his Government. I refer to the publication *West Australian Business World* of 8 August. The headline reads, "Business has no trust in Dowding government" and the article reads, in part -

"Someone has to be held responsible for the massive losses that have occurred in the public purse over the last few months," he said.

... "This government has shown by its mismanagement that it hasn't got the ability to handle the state's finances. It's time it let someone else who has that ability to take over."

... "they should be thrown out of office," "the government should be answerable for its actions," "I have little confidence in this government," and "Dowding has no alternative but to resign," were fairly typical of the responses received from the business community.

The member may think that the business community is not too clever, but I can assure him that the business community holds that view of this State Government.

Mr Marlborough: The Chamber of Commerce!

Mr FRED TUBBY: I wish the member for Peel would get on his feet and give the rest of his maiden speech. I have been sitting in this place for 18 months now and I have yet to hear him get on his feet and give a speech.

Mr Marlborough: I am too busy working in my electorate.

Mr FRED TUBBY: It is not good enough for members to give their maiden speeches and then sit on the back benches like stunned mullet while their Government has rocks thrown at it by the business community in our State, the media, the people of our State and people of other States. What did Gough Whitlam have to say about the Government when he came here? In a public forum, what did he say?

The SPEAKER: Order! I wonder if the member for Roleystone might like to address the Chair?

Mr FRED TUBBY: When the former Prime Minister was here earlier this year he had a few unkind phrases to say about this Government.

Mr Shave: They were words of friendly advice.

Mr FRED TUBBY: Gerry Hand has said similar things about this Government. Senator Button told it to mind its own business and not to offer the Federal Government advice on how to get industry going in Australia because this Government had no credibility at all in that area. I find it intolerable that Government backbenchers, who are part of the Government, can just sit there, because they are labelled as coming from the same basket as the Ministers. How can they sit there and let people from all around Australia, including their own Federal colleagues, throw rocks at their Government? Where is their credibility? Where is the credibility of our State?

Mr Kobelke: Look at the Budget papers - that's where it is.

Mr FRED TUBBY: A follow-up to his maiden speech! The member is learning. He has been here for only 10 days but he is learning that he must contribute, which is more than some other members who have been here a lot longer have learnt.

Mr Pearce: Some of your members who contribute often wish they hadn't, afterward. We have had a bit of that this week!

Mr FRED TUBBY: I will come to the Leader of the House in a moment. He came into my electorate yesterday, sneaking around handing out cheques - and he thinks I did not know about it. He even came onto my own home territory. That is not very honest. He should at least let me know he is coming out to porkbarrel my electorate for me.

Mr Pearce: I think I nearly ran over your cat.

Mr FRED TUBBY: The Leader of the House came very close to home yesterday morning, without telling me.

I do not think there is any doubt in anybody's mind - in the mind of any intelligent, thinking

person anywhere in Australia - that this Government simply does not have any credibility. It has dragged Western Australia's once great integrity through the gutter and I cannot understand how people such as the Minister for Education and the Leader of the House - two people whom I have come to know very well and one of whom I was brought up with - can sit on the front bench and allow this sort of thing to happen. No wonder the Minister for Education is disillusioned with the place and feels she should be somewhere else. No wonder she feels she should return to academic life.

Mr Taylor: If you want to contribute to the dignity of this place you should sit down.

Mr FRED TUBBY: Somebody has to point out what is going on in this place. We have been pointing it out for a long time. The media have now picked it up, and even the Government's mates in the Federal Parliament are throwing brickbats at this Government now. We are trying to tell members opposite to lift their game. It is our State and our credibility on the line as well as theirs. If we go anywhere and say we are from Western Australia people look at us sideways - they think we are lepers. That is the reputation members opposite have given to our State.

Mr Marlborough: That is why you are on that side of the House.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr FRED TUBBY: For the first time in Western Australia's history we have a minority Government in Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

Mr FRED TUBBY: Members should not urge me - I admit it irks me. When current members of the Government were sitting over here back in the 1970s talking about gerrymanders -

Mr Shave interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! It is a bit hard to determine who has the call at the moment. A number of people on my right think they have, and two people on my left know they have. It is very difficult. The member for Roleystone.

Mr FRED TUBBY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Back in the 1970s I used to hear lots of bleats from the then Opposition about gerrymanders, but at least the Governments that were elected in those times received a majority of the votes across the whole State. They may have received more seats than they ought, but at least they did receive a majority of the votes. That was not the case this time. I cannot understand how people such as the Leader of the House and the Minister for Education, and some of the Government backbench members, who I know in my heart of hearts have some integrity, honesty and credibility, can sit there. Their reputations are being dragged down in just the same way as are those of the other members in this House and the people in this State.

I will now discuss areas where some of the money lost could have been spent. One of those areas is transport, and I refer particularly to road funding. In the Budget speech we heard a few moments ago from the Treasurer, he said that \$151 million had been written off for Teachers Credit Society and a couple of other things. The amendment we have moved to the Address-in-Reply does not even mention those matters - they are past history. We are talking about those matters which should have been allocated in the Budget. I cannot find anywhere in these Budget papers a recognition by the Government of the losses that will occur. Where have they been placed in the Budget papers?

The SPEAKER: Order! This debate obviously will go on for some time, and I wish to draw some parameters for members. The subject of the amendment to the Address-in-Reply does come quite close, I admit, to those matters which some members will want to address in the Budget. However, the Budget is listed for debate at a later stage. While I will not restrict the debate and will allow members to talk about it peripherally, the Budget should not be a major part of their speeches. Members should just mention it and then get on with the amendment.

Mr FRED TUBBY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The roads in this State are deplorable. Last year \$171 million was allocated for maintenance and upgrading of roads. If we had not thrown away \$151 million on things that happened last year, and if we did not have a liability for another \$400 million-odd for Rothwells and other associated costs, we could have

doubled the amount of money spent on road development in this State last year and the Brookton Highway would not be in the condition it is in today - none of the country roads would be in the condition they are presently in. Those roads are costing taxpayers and transport operators enormous sums of money in tyres and maintenance.

Earlier the Treasurer announced an increase in the cost of fuel of 1.5¢ a litre - an increase of the order of 30 per cent. Half of that money was to go towards road construction and maintenance and half towards public transport - that is, until the Leader of the National Party said to the Government, "No you don't. If you must put a further impost on fuel costs, all of it should go towards road maintenance and development." I fully support that.

Mr P.J. Smith: Do you believe we should be developing public transport?

Mr FRED TUBBY: My word I do!

Mr P.J. Smith: For rural people in particular?

Mr FRED TUBBY: Does the member believe we should also be developing and maintaining roads in the country?

Mr P.J. Smith: Which are some of the main thoroughfares in poor condition?

Mr FRED TUBBY: How long is it since the member has been on Brookton Highway?

Mr P.J. Smith: I have been on quite a few country roads, but not on that one.

Mr FRED TUBBY: The member should try driving along that highway out past Karragullen.

Mr Marlborough: We had the speech on Brookton Highway six months ago.

Mr FRED TUBBY: I will keep on raising this matter until the Minister for Transport does something about it because it costs farmers, orchardists and other people a lot of money in maintaining their vehicles, and it will also cost people's lives because it is in an atrocious condition.

Mr Marlborough: We heard this speech six months ago.

Mr Court: We have had no speeches from you in the last couple of years.

Mr FRED TUBBY: I have already given the member a serve on that.

Mr Troy: To achieve your objectives for country roads, should there be full cost recovery on road transport?

Mr FRED TUBBY: Full cost recovery?

Mr Troy: Don't you understand what that means?

Mr FRED TUBBY: No.

Mr Troy: Give me half an hour and I will explain it to you. It is a fairly important factor in the argument.

Mr FRED TUBBY: I will accept that. I am not sure what the Minister is saying, but I will agree with it because he must be right.

We have atrocious roads. The condition of these roads could have been addressed if the Government had not thrown away all that money on lost business enterprises. This Government is supposedly committed to families. The extra 1.5 ¢ a litre being levied on petrol is an additional impost on families. They will have to pay that extra 1.5 ¢ for every litre of petrol they pump into their cars. In turn that additional cost will be passed on to all the things they purchase because there is a transport component in all the things sold to them. They will pay again for that. This Government supposedly cares about families yet it has raised the fuel tax by 30 per cent to allow it to recover some of the losses it has made in other areas. That is disgraceful and deplorable.

Mr Thomas: Licence fees were reduced by \$20.

Mr FRED TUBBY: That is excellent - perhaps licence fees were too high before. What has the Government done about some other matters - what about payroll tax? We are not allowed to talk about that because it is in the Budget; we will talk about it later. I ask the Minister for Transport: What will the Government do about roads?

Mr Pearce: You are not allowed to talk about the Budget, but you are allowed to talk about the amendment before the Chair.

Mr FRED TUBBY: That amendment deals with all the things the Government has lost money on, and with all the things the taxpayers have lost money on.

Mr Pearce: We have lost no money on roads. The road section of the Budget, which I am not allowed to tell you about -

Mr FRED TUBBY: I have already read it. Where does that extra \$30 million go on roads?

Mr Pearce: I will table the program if you like.

Mr FRED TUBBY: By my calculation the Government spent \$171 million on road maintenance last year. As a result of inflation that amount should have risen by \$12 million. The Government came out with a Press release the other day and said that an additional \$30 million will be spent on roads. The Minister for Transport in fact made a fool of himself over that matter because it was obvious the National Party had told the Government it would have to spend that money on roads. By my reckoning about \$212 million to \$215 million should have been allocated for spending on the maintenance and upgrading of roads in this State this year. What has been allocated in the Budget?

Mr Pearce: You have a lot to learn, my friend. The main roads program does not go into the Budget; it goes into a section at the beginning and is not dealt with as a whole. My memory of the figure is that \$234 million was allocated for the road program this year and all of that money has been applied to the business of roads. The total has been cut back a bit because of the level of the Commonwealth's cutback, but this has more than been made up for by the generous contribution given by the State itself. It is a matter of some discussion between the Government and the National Party.

Mr FRED TUBBY: The Commonwealth grants and allowances were cut back by \$2 million.

Mr Pearce: They were cut back by more than that.

Mr FRED TUBBY: I am just taking it from the paper to which we are not allowed to refer.

Mr Pearce: When you take it overall, the figures are as I said. There will be plenty of opportunity for us to discuss the road program.

Mr FRED TUBBY: Quite simply the Treasurer wrote off \$151 million from last year in the Budget this morning. That could have almost doubled the amount of money the Government spent on roads last year, and on all the things mentioned in the Opposition's motion.

Mr Pearce: If you are saying that if we had not rescued the TCS and not finalised its financial arrangements, we could have spent that money on roads, of course that is true.

Mr FRED TUBBY: The Government could have spent more money on schools, on hospitals and on many other things.

Mr Pearce: Of course that is true. However what you are saying is that when a financial institution in this State collapses - I assume you, like me, held a passbook in the Teachers Credit Society -

Mr FRED TUBBY: Why did the Government not open the books and say, "Who would like to take over the TCS?" It would have cost the State nothing.

Mr Pearce: You should be an adviser to President Bush because my understanding is that the US Government is currently putting billions of dollars into the rescue of 50 per cent of credit unions in the US. The amount of money the Bush Administration is using to prop up credit societies in the US would swallow the Western Australian Budget 10 times over. The amount of money the Western Australian Government has in its Budget is a small proportion of the funds the Bush Administration is using to prop up credit societies in the US.

Mr FRED TUBBY: I do not know what that has to do with the Budget. The Teachers Credit Society had 90 000 accounts. If those books had been opened up and put out for tender on the open market, any bank could have come along and taken over the TCS.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr FRED TUBBY: There was no reason to bring the R & I Bank into that situation and effectively nationalise those accounts. Why was another financial institute not given that opportunity? It would have cost our State nothing. Did the Government ask them at all?

Mr Pearce interjected.

Mr FRED TUBBY: The Government did not even try. It wrote off that taxpayers' money. That money could have been better spent on schools, roads and other amenities in this State. In addition, we now have the Rothwells debacle, which has resulted in losses of over \$400 million.

Mr Pearce: That is untrue.

Mr FRED TUBBY: I did not see any contingency for that in the Budget papers this morning. Somehow the taxpayers will have to pay for that, and there will be further imposts on the population of Western Australia - further imposts on the taxpayers and families of this State. There will be further cutbacks on road maintenance, which I mentioned earlier and which I will mention again. There will also be further cutbacks in the maintenance of school buildings. All of these cutbacks will be to pay for the losses, for which a contingency was not taken in the Budget papers this morning.

I support the amendment.

Sitting suspended from 12.56 to 2.15 pm

MR STRICKLAND (Scarborough) [2.15 pm]: The amendment to the motion deals with the diminution in services which could result from the actions of the Government. I was interested to hear earlier this morning the points made by the member for Victoria Park about the performance of the Government in relation to the total picture. Those comments were reasonable, but when considering the whole picture one must consider the parts. If one were to use an analogy or paint a picture representing expenditure for the year, I wonder what would we see in that part of the picture which represents Scarborough?

I turn now to the moneys lost through the Petrochemical Industries Ltd project. The amount of \$75 million referred to yesterday has cost this State \$45 000 per day either as lost revenue including interest or as revenue forgone. The original cost of the project was \$175 million which equates to \$600 000 per week. Add all that up, and we see that the money pouring out of the bucket is \$50 million a year in foregone interest or \$1 million a week.

If we are to paint a picture we need a can of paint; the Government's can of paint appears to have a hole in it and in attempting to paint the expenditure picture the leaks are obvious. How significant are the leaks? Expenditure in this State for the year amounts to \$4.8 billion; we have witnessed losses representing \$1 million per week. With a half a billion dollar loss per year one might be deluded into thinking that is only a fraction of the Budget, or around 10 per cent of the State's Budget.

The Budget allocations go to services, maintenance and new facilities. I put it to the House that as the State develops the requirement for services will increase, followed by a need for moneys to cover maintenance. Given that we cannot take the teachers out of the classrooms, and we cannot cut back too much on maintenance, perhaps we are limited by the amount of finance available as much of that goes to new facilities. If new facilities require \$1 billion per year and we have lost half a billion dollars, in effect we have lost half a year's facilities. Perhaps the situation is even worse because many facilities are essential, such as development of the State Energy Commission, the Water Authority and other Government instrumentalities. We cannot do much about that situation so any loss represents a significant percentage of the very small amount of revenue to be spent in other areas of importance.

We are losing \$1 million a week in interest, and we have 57 electorates, which means that it would have been possible to spend about \$1 million in each electorate, on either facilities or services. What would that mean to the Scarborough electorate?

Mr Blaikie: It would mean that it would bring Vasse out of the wilderness for a change.

Mr STRICKLAND: In the area of Innaloo where there is a crime problem, perhaps four policemen could have been appointed to the Innaloo Police Station to man the empty desks and chairs sitting there. That would make up a small part of the \$1 million that could have

been available in Scarborough. Perhaps the schools which require covered assembly areas could have been accommodated in that program. In other words, many of the needs of the district could be met with just the \$1 million which is going out of that paint bucket at a rate of \$1 million a week, or \$1 million per electorate per year.

Where else could the money be spent which would impact on something that is important to the electorate of Scarborough? Although not many people in this House spend a lot of time in Scarborough, one of the things we all know is important to the electorate of Scarborough is the beach. The two beaches which are well known are Scarborough beach and Trigg beach. Now, both of those beaches are serviced by surf life saving clubs and we have a situation in Scarborough where we have two clubs, one of which has become a poor relation. The poor relation is the Trigg Island Surf Life Saving Club. Surf life saving clubs, and the people who volunteer their services for those clubs, carry out a lot of rescues in this State each year. The number of rescues varies from year to year. Last year was a reasonably light year for rescues. There were 179 rescues at Trigg. Trigg, because of the Blue Hole about which many people would have heard, conducts in the order of 60 per cent of the State's rescues each year, while 30 per cent of rescues are conducted at Scarborough. So, 90 per cent of total surf rescues are carried out by the two clubs in the Scarborough electorate. What that means is that there is a demonstrated need for support for those clubs. In 1986 the then Premier went down to the Scarborough Surf Life Saving Club and presented a cheque for \$250 000. While I agree with what was done, and with the offer to add another \$125 000 on the condition that the club raised \$125 000, I was disappointed and the surf life saving movement was outraged at the way in which it was done. To remind older members and inform newer members I will explain that this was prior to the 1986 election.

Points of Order

Mr PEARCE: The Government has sat back and listened to some amazing things during the course of this week and to speeches that are totally irrelevant to the matter before the Chair and the Parliament in general. I draw your attention, Mr Speaker, to the fact that we are discussing an amendment to the Address-in-Reply; an amendment which addresses itself to the alleged claims, the fantastic claims, of the huge losses that were made by this Government over Rothwells and a range of related matters. Now, we are seeing a procession of Opposition backbenchers getting up and speaking about matters in their electorates. There is a difference between the Address-in-Reply debate in which all members have had an opportunity to speak - and in which the member for Scarborough has already spoken - and dealing with a specific amendment.

Mr MacKINNON: Mr Speaker, if you read the motion we are now debating you will see at the end of the motion that there is a footnote - although it is not in *Hansard* - relating to the fact that all of those losses add up to \$1 000 for every family in Western Australia. I quote from the motion -

or \$1 000 for every Western Australian family and as a consequence will suffer a diminution in services provided by Government as a result of these losses, services that will affect every Western Australia taxpayer.

So, it is fair to say that in talking about virtually any service that is Government funded in any way is relevant to that motion; in fact, it is central to the motion itself.

The SPEAKER: There already have been a number of points of order in respect of this amendment and members will appreciate that it is a difficult amendment. Because of its nature it allows for a fairly wide-ranging debate, and as such I feel a bit concerned about it. Nonetheless, it has been moved. I again point out that members should not consider this to be a Budget debate. I do not uphold the point of order.

Debate Resumed

Mr STRICKLAND: The point I was going to make is that if one is going to address the amendment and talk in terms of people suffering the diminution in services provided by the Government, then it is important to establish whether there has been an impact on services, what the services are, and how they are falling away. It is important to look at the whole picture. I can see on the opposite wall of this Chamber a beautiful piece of stained glass. Detracting from that picture is a small piece of faded stained glass. In my picture, the paint in parts has become thin and there are cracks in other parts of it. In fact, it is flawed.

The SPEAKER: I take it that is not a reflection on the House.

Mr STRICKLAND: It is not, because I can see through it.

Surf life saving clubs have become concerned about the way donations are made to them. Some clubs get everything, others get nothing. In fact, some hoped that a precedent had been set because the Government at long last was supportive of such worthwhile organisations. The Minister has decided that he should do things in a proper manner and has sought advice from the surf life saving movement about its priorities for the allocations of funds to assist the work of that movement. The Trigg Island Surf Life Saving Club, for example, patrols for approximately 3 500 hours a year and the Scarborough Surf Life Saving Club patrols for approximately 3 800 hours a year. That is a lot of hours involved in providing a very important service to families which are, in increasing numbers, flocking to Trigg Island and Scarborough Beach.

Mr Blaikie: Is any of that life saving done on a voluntary basis?

Mr STRICKLAND: It is all done on a voluntary basis, except for the midweek patrols. The Stirling City Council initiated a program of payment to life guards for midweek patrols during the America's Cup.

I do not want to spend a lot of time establishing the needs of the surf life saving movement or the Trigg Island Surf Life Saving Club in particular. The fact is that most of their facilities are old. Use of the beach is also increasing and because of that the patrols have to man two points on the beach. For those reasons, this club has a strong needs case for more funds.

An amount of \$45 000 a day in interest is being forgone by the Government as a result of the petrochemical project and its interim finance. In 10 days those losses total \$450 000, an amount which would solve all of the problems of the Trigg Island Surf Life Saving Club. That club could be funded by just three days of interest payments lost on this total project. If the Government plugged up the leak, it could solve the financial problems of surf life saving clubs in days, not in months or years.

As a new member, I am concerned at the revelations of millions and millions of dollars that have been lost through interest payments. I can only hope that the Government accepts that there are problems and that money is being lost. The people of this State seem to realise that and the sooner action is taken to plug up the leaks and cut our losses, the better off we will all be.

MR MINSON (Greenough) [2.35 pm]: I want to refer also to the effects the losses that have been incurred by this Government over the last few months have had on the State.

Mr Pearce: Have you discussed the amendment with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition?

Mr MINSON: I wish the Leader of the House would give me a chance to develop my speech.

Last night I heard much talk about the airline pilots' strike. Living where I do, I do quite a bit of flying. One of the nice things about Geraldton is that it is not far from Perth and I can sit back and enjoy my flights. I am always assured that I will arrive at my destination. In other words, I have a future that I can believe in. The Premier promised the people of Western Australia that they had a future they could believe in when he asked them to vote for the Australian Labor Party at the last election. Forty-eight per cent of them voted for the Labor Party, but fortunately, only 26 per cent of electors in my electorate voted for it. I think that speaks well of the people who live in the Greenough electorate.

In the last couple of days, my more experienced colleagues have outlined the losses that have been incurred and listed in the amendment moved by the member for Marmion, which amendment is now included in *Hansard*. I wish to refer to only a small part of that amendment. The total losses involved in the Petrochemical Industries Co Ltd debacle total \$270 million. I remind the Leader of the House that \$175 million was lost in blue sky payments, \$75 million was lost through interim finance and \$20 million has been lost on interest payments and consumables, totalling \$270 million. As I have said, I am not so much interested in the figures but in what that money could have done for my electorate. Again, I remind the House that only 26 per cent of electors in my electorate voted for the Government. I believe, therefore, that there will not be much joy in the Budget for the electorate of Greenough.

I have not had time to go through the Budget speech yet and in any case I know it is inappropriate to address it in this debate. However, it may have the answers to some of the questions I will pose. It will provide some interesting reading over the weekend.

In the first place I will address the effect that this loss of money has had in some other areas. On the outskirts of my electorate is a mission school run by the Palatine group. The Government provides the school building which is attended by approximately 50 Aboriginal children. The condition of that school must be seen to be believed and, despite repeated requests for the building to be reconditioned or replaced, no action has been taken by the Government. One might be excused for thinking that those children are paying the price for their aboriginality.

A teacher at the Ogilvie school is married and the couple are expecting a child soon, but they are still living in single men's quarters. Despite repeated requests in the last five or six years, no appropriate accommodation has been found for them. The Government removed the library at the Binnu school, which is a small two-teacher, two-classroom school. The old library building which was removed was worth nothing.

Mr Pearce: I approved the water supply for the Binnu school because your Government had not done anything in all the time it was in office.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! We have been a happy family until now and there is absolutely no need for those types of interjections to be made after I have reasonably called for order. The members who continued with their interjections after I had called for order are aware that when I am angry I become nasty. I do not want to be nasty; I want to go home happy this weekend because it is my wife's birthday.

Mr MINSON: I will continue to address my remarks to you, Mr Speaker, and not through the Leader of the House. On the subject of the Binnu school, let us talk about the water supply which the Leader of the House tells me his Government so generously provided. The P & C association at the school has tried to run a tree nursery to earn money to purchase a library to replace that removed by the Government. However, the water is not suitable for watering plants and the seedlings have died. I am approaching the present Minister for Water Resources in an effort to do something about this problem.

I hope that some provision has been made in the Budget for the Morawa school hostel. If workers were asked to live in conditions similar to those at the Morawa hostel, they would probably go on strike until the conditions were improved.

Mr Carr: It is in the Budget.

Mr MINSON: We are not discussing the Budget. I shall also look with interest in the Budget for some provision for expenditure on roads in the electorate of Greenough and, more particularly, the road to Port Gregory. After a few millimetres of rain have fallen that road can be used only by four wheel drive vehicles. The settlement of Port Gregory contributes \$3 million to \$4 million a year to the economy through its crayfishing and scallop fishing industries, the beta carotene plant and the agricultural industry. The Minister for Water Resources visited the area not long ago but he was fortunate to be able to travel by air and, therefore, did not have to use the road to Port Gregory. The rest of us do not have enough money to travel by air.

Even though there are some junior high schools north of Geraldton, there is now a growing need for senior high schools to be established. The first senior high school north of Geraldton is at Camarvon, and that deficiency must be addressed soon.

The money lost by this Government may well be reflected in the amount to be spent on the Department of Agriculture building at Geraldton. Provision may have been made in the Budget, but we are not discussing that at the moment; I am pointing out where the lost money could have been spent. There is an urgent need for research into the CM virus in lupins which is seriously threatening that industry in Western Australia, particularly in the Geraldton region, which is the centre of that industry worldwide. Research is also needed into the root diseases of wheat, which diseases are costing the industry many millions of dollars each year. I shall await the Minister's report and go through the Budget during the weekend. I hope the money wasted in the Government's pathetic dealings will not affect those very vital projects.

From my brief perusal of the Budget, I note that reference has been made to a deepwater port at Oakagee, north of Geraldton. The Minister for Mid-West made it clear that he preferred the option of the deepwater port at Oakagee. It is a vital project, for which the infrastructure will cost in the vicinity of \$200 million. The amount lost on the petrochemical project would have provided the necessary finance and an additional \$75 million. This deepwater port would provide a suitable heavy industrial site for Western Australia. That would mean wheat and grain ships could be loaded with only one stop instead of travelling first to Geraldton and being onloaded to be transported further south. Will that happen or will it just be talked about?

The fishermen at Kalbarri have problems in that some are locked out of the river and some are locked inside the estuary and are unable to earn a living. Those on the outside are exposed to danger when storms occur and those on the inside cannot earn a living. This problem has been ongoing for some time and has become more acute in the last five years because of the size of the operation at Kalbarri.

Capital works expenditure on police quarters is just as important as money spent on police personnel. I suggest that there will not be enough money left over to build new houses and a police station at Carnamah, all of which are desperately needed. The present police station does not contain a toilet block or a separate interview room. I do not think it contains cells but, if it does, they are unfit for habitation and prisoners must be taken to a neighbouring town. In the last few days a great deal has been heard about the figures -

Points of Order

Mr PEARCE: Would you, Mr Speaker, explain the ambit of your ruling on the relevance of some of these matters. I appreciate the point you made in your ruling and I certainly am not seeking to canvass or argue against it. But it is very difficult to avoid the conclusion from listening to the eleven minutes of the member's speech that he is not addressing the amendment, except in passing, and he is giving the speech he would have given had there been a second Address-in-Reply. Surely it cannot be competent for the member to use an amendment to the Address-in-Reply, which is as specific as this, contains a vast numbers of figures, and is certainly the longest we have dealt with, to give a speech which stresses the electorate problems he wants to raise in the Parliament. There are other opportunities for that to occur.

Mr Minson: He is using a lot of my time.

Mr PEARCE: The clock has been stopped. The member for Greenough should note the flashing dot, which is an indication that the clock has been stopped. We would be very grateful if he had a flashing dot. I ask you, Mr Speaker, for the benefit of the Government to outline the extent to which you propose to allow this rambling in the debate so that the Government can consider its position in the matter.

Mr BLAIKIE: On the same point of order, the tradition and convention of this House is that the Address-in-Reply is one of the most important debates which is available to members, and of equal importance are any amendments made to the Address-in-Reply. The amendment currently before the Chair provides for extensive coverage of the expenditure by the Government on behalf of the people of the State. I have been listening carefully to the member on his feet, and he has confined his remarks generally to the amendment. It is simply deplorable for the Leader of the House to attempt to attack a new member by such unconventional means, and I believe he had no point of order.

The SPEAKER: I would be the last person in this place to agree with everything that everybody says in this Chamber, but I am charged with the responsibility of giving members the opportunity to speak, regardless of whether I agree with what they are saying. I believe that at least the last two lines of the amendment, if not other parts, permit the sort of debate that has been going on.

Debate Resumed

Mr MINSON: Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I would suggest that the Minister's comments are almost as puerile as the ones he made the other day.

The SPEAKER: We can hardly be one big happy family if, when we win a point, we get as provocative as that. Let us get on with the amendment.

Mr MINSON: I want to give the Minister a message from the editor of *The Geraldton Guardian*. The editor is a little upset about his paper being called the "Greenough Grumbler".

Mr Pearce: It was the "Greenough Groaner".

Mr MINSON: Whatever it was, I know the editor is not very impressed.

Mr Pearce: You can tell the editor I was not thinking about him; I was thinking about you.

Mr MINSON: I hope the member for Geraldton will apologise on his colleague's behalf next time he visits the premises of *The Geraldton Guardian*.

I believe the point I raised about what the money that was lost could have been used for is relevant to the debate. I suggest that if the money that has been lost on the petrochemical deal - let alone the money that was lost on all the other things listed in this motion - had been spent in the electorate of Greenough, there would still have been enough left over to accomplish more. There is a philosophy underlying the arguments, comments and rhetoric of the past few days which has been overlooked. It has been claimed that all this money has been lost and that the Government has been involved in all these business dealings, and it was put into a position where it was able to be threatened by Bond Corporation. The underlying philosophy is that the Government should not have put itself into a position where it could be blackmailed in the way that it has. I commend the motion to the House.

House to Divide

Mr PEARCE: I move -

That the House do now divide.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (30)

Dr Alexander	Dr Gallop	Mr Marlborough	Mr Thomas
Mrs Beggs	Mr Graham	Mr Parker	Mr Troy
Mr Bridge	Mr Grill	Mr Pearce	Mrs Watkins
Mr Carr	Mrs Henderson	Mr Read	Dr Watson
Mr Catania	Mr Gordon Hill	Mr Ripper	Mr Wilson
Mr Cunningham	Mr Kobelke	Mr D.L. Smith	Mrs Buchanan (Teller)
Mr Donovan	Dr Lawrence	Mr P.J. Smith	
Mr Peter Dowding	Mr Leahy	Mr Taylor	

Noes (25)

Mr Ainsworth	Mr Hassell	Mr Minson	Dr Turnbull
Mr Bradshaw	Mr House	Mr Omodei	Mr Watt
Mr Clarko	Mr Kierath	Mr Shave	Mr Wiese
Mr Court	Mr Lewis	Mr Strickland	Mr Blaikie (Teller)
Mr Cowan	Mr MacKinnon	Mr Thompson	
Mrs Edwardes	Mr McNee	Mr Trenorden	
Mr Grayden	Mr Mensaros	Mr Fred Tubby	

Question thus passed.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (25)

Mr Ainsworth	Mr Hassell	Mr Minson	Dr Turnbull
Mr Bradshaw	Mr House	Mr Omodei	Mr Watt
Mr Clarko	Mr Kierath	Mr Shave	Mr Wiese
Mr Court	Mr Lewis	Mr Strickland	Mr Blaikie (Teller)
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Noes (30)

Dr Alexander	Dr Gallop	Mr Marlborough	Mr Thomas
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Mr Bridge	Mr Grill	Mr Pearce	Mrs Watkins
Mr Carr	Mrs Henderson	Mr Read	Dr Watson
Mr Catania	Mr Gordon Hill	Mr Ripper	Mr Wilson
Mr Cunningham	Mr Kobelke	Mr D.L. Smith	Mrs Buchanan (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr Donovan	Dr Lawrence	Mr P.J. Smith	
Mr Peter Dowding	Mr Leahy	Mr Taylor	

Amendment thus negated.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

DR WATSON (Kenwick) [3.05 pm]: I have spoken in this place on two previous occasions about the most commonly occurring assault in our society - that of wife abuse - and the fear in which many women live, perhaps until their death or until they are forced to confront the death of their spouse.

The SPEAKER: Order! Just a minute, members. I am having some difficulty hearing the member speaking. I am sure others who are trying to listen are having difficulty, and I am sure the Hansard reporter is having difficulty. Would members please cooperate a bit.

Dr WATSON: Most murders are not perpetrated by psychopathic strangers but occur between people who know each other, and more murders occur between spouses than in any other relationship. In New South Wales almost half of the women who are killed are killed by their husbands, and 10 per cent of men who are killed are killed by their wives. These figures are taken from a study of murders over 18 years. Typically, people are murdered in their homes, they are murdered at a weekend and they are murdered in the Christmas holidays. Only in the last 10 years has domestic homicide received any kind of research attention at all.

It is interesting, too, that the methods of homicide used differ for men and for women. Women nearly always use a weapon, usually a knife but often a gun. We do not have any studies of murders over a period in Western Australia, but I do not see that our experience would be very much different from those murders which have been studied in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. The studies covered 1 800 murders in New South Wales and 319 in Victoria, and covered a period of five years in Queensland.

Spousal murder is the extreme end of the continuum of domestic violence. In a recent Queensland study, published only last year, it was found that 22 per cent of all murders were perpetrated by spouses. Eight times more men than women are involved as murderers; that is, eight times more women than men are victims. We must understand that guns are the usual weapon in domestic homicide but people who live in rural situations are particularly vulnerable. Of all murders committed in rural New South Wales and Queensland, 54 per cent were perpetrated using a gun as a weapon.

We note, and it concerns me as Chair of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Committee, that there are certain precipitating factors to spousal murder and these form some kind of vulnerability that may well come to the notice of people who intervene in circumstances of domestic violence. Firstly, there is usually a very long history of such violence. Secondly, a separation can spark off this kind of murder. Very often a woman who wants to leave a violent husband will announce or somehow signify her intention to do so. He says, "You leave and I will find you", and he points to one of those weapons hanging on the wall. That will surely keep her there. We know that women are very vulnerable to murder in those months immediately following separation. Thirdly, sexual jealousy whether it is proved or not, can precipitate attacks; and, fourthly, battles over child custody.

We know some things about women who kill. It is likely the woman will be in her third or fourth decade. She will probably have been living in low socioeconomic circumstances, and at the time of the homicide likely to be suffering a major depressive illness. Not uncommonly when the attacker becomes the victim some family members or neighbours will comment, "I always thought he would kill her one day."

We have before us in Western Australia a very sad case who in many ways is typical of many women who live in daily fear of their spouses. This woman is known as Nina and is currently serving a sentence for wilful murder at Bandyup. She is awaiting an appeal. For 31 years that woman suffered constant escalating physical violence. They lived in the country. She was subjected to the most terrible humiliations including sexual abuse following beatings. She bore five children and as a result of kicking had three miscarriages when she was younger. She now suffers constant neck and back pain. She is deaf as a result of head injuries. She was poor, deprived and hungry throughout life married to this man. A restraining order did not stop him. When she left him with five small children, in those days there were no supporting parents benefit, no ready access to public housing; so the children were separated from her. She could not bear that so she was forced to go back to him. Only recently, after knowledge that her daughters had been victims of incest, did she apply for a legal separation.

Because this case is going to appeal I do not want to talk about the events of the day the man was killed but Nina wrote in a letter to me -

Does someone have to die, do families have to be thrown into the very depths of despair before something can be done? This is what has happened in my family and I can only hope that the existing powers might recognise the profound gravity of this problem and address it in a way which will be meaningful and effective.

Not all homicides are inevitable; some are amenable to a range of intervention strategies. Homicide can be the end result of abuse, conflict, stress and prolonged violence, but it is not inevitable. An American study of women murderers published as long ago as 1978 noted that every offender said she wanted to communicate her distress, but that there was no-one to listen and no-one to intervene. But my argument is that there is a potential for intervention, there are warning signs and vulnerabilities which can be identified. When the barrier is crossed from private to public, when police and general practitioners, social workers and nurses, become involved, those cues have to be picked up. When those people know that guns are present, that there is a history of violence and alcohol abuse, they should be aware of the vulnerability. When they know women are socially and geographically isolated, they have to be even more aware and take appropriate action to try to prevent this terrible end where an attacker becomes a victim - but also where women like Nina can become victims of the State system as much as a victim of their husbands and marriage.

In Western Australia mandatory life imprisonment for wilful murder is the only sentence option open to the judge; we need to look at a number of options. We need to examine the plea of diminished responsibility because we cannot equate these sorts of murders with felonious killings. We need to look at maximum sentences rather than mandatory sentences, such as is the case in New South Wales. It was pleasing to hear on Des Guilloyle's radio program this morning that most people who rang him support maximum rather than mandatory sentences. People are clearly able to distinguish between this kind of killing and other gratuitous killing. I am not asking for soft sentences but for just sentences. We need to make distinctions between these sorts of murders. In the long term, we need to look at a number of law reform approaches. Also, I think, in the long term, we need to look at involving more women, not only in acting for women in these positions but also in sitting on policy committees that will change the laws - from policy committees to community groups, Law Reform Commissions, to drafting laws, to prosecuting, defending and judging. Not until then will we have a sympathetic understanding for women such as Nina.

Nina is not the only woman in Bandyup for killing her husband. Two other women have been sentenced, and two are awaiting sentence. As I have said, we need prevention strategies; those strategies need to be the business of organisations which are dealing with women in violent relationships. We need to examine our sentencing options, and we need to have just sentences.

Government members: Hear, hear!

MR BLAIKIE (Vasse) [3.17 pm]: The Address-in-Reply has always been, and is, traditionally one of the most important debates in any Parliament. Another significant debate is the Budget debate, when the financial aspects of the State are discussed, when the Government seeks the approval of Parliament for the expenditure of money, and for the imposition of increased rates, taxes and charges, and when all members of Parliament can

have their opportunity to present their points of view as to whether the Budget should be agreed to. That is a very important principle and provision of the Westminster system of Parliament. Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Ripper), you have not spent a large number of years in Parliament, but history has shown that successive Governments have fallen because they have not had approval from Parliament for the appropriation of moneys. So I make the point that there are two debates that are of great importance.

The Address-in-Reply is of equal importance because it ensures that every member of Parliament, irrespective of his electorate, irrespective of political dictates, has an opportunity to speak on any subject. The conventions of this House follow the conventions of the Westminster system and ensure the opportunities for these debates are widespread. It is very important that we have an Address-in-Reply debate in the democracy under which we operate because that debate ensures that the backbench members of Parliament have an opportunity to express their points of view. One of the very disturbing things that has been happening in this place over recent years has been the growing tradition for the Parliament to be abused, not used, by the Executive of Government to the extent that the Parliament has become an extension of the Executive. Therefore, the Parliament convenes only when it is convenient for the Government and it considers only those things the Government wants it to consider within the time constraints that it lays down.

A few moments ago the Leader of the House took the outrageous action of stifling debate on the amendment to the Address-in-Reply. Older members understand and newer members should understand that the Address-in-Reply debate is very important because it gives all members the opportunity to participate in the operations of this place. Because of the bully-boy actions by the Leader of the House in a fit of pique, the debate on the amendment to the Address-in-Reply was curtailed.

Mr Pearce: Not at all. If Opposition members were making proper speeches instead of abusing the forms of the House, there would have been no problem.

Mr BLAICKIE: The Leader of the House has dug his own hole and fallen into his own trap because he just said that had members made proper speeches he would have allowed the debate to continue. That is none of his bloody business; it has nothing to do with him. That is the sort of attitude that convinces me that this House is becoming an extension of the Dowding Government and that must be resisted.

A series of motions have been moved in this place about the Government not providing honest and accurate answers to the Parliament. Other Governments operating under the normal Westminster traditions and conventions would stand down. However, this Government has decided that it will not be bound by any ordinary conventions of the Westminster system which have been laid down over hundreds of years. It has decided what will be debated in the Parliament, when it will be debated, and who will debate it. This afternoon, members saw one simple but serious example of that attitude when the Leader of the House gagged debate on the amendment to the Address-in-Reply when there were another six members from this side of the House to speak on it. The Leader of the House was aware of that.

Far more important and serious, though, is the fact that when the Parliament was called together earlier this year following the February election, members were led to believe that it was being called together for a short, quick opening. We were told there was a bit of urgent Government business to transact, but there would be no official opening and that that was being left until later in the year. We now know that the reason the Government called members together was to introduce its Petrochemical Industries Co Ltd legislation. The year 1989 will go down in history as the year that legislation was defeated. More importantly, when the Parliament rose in May after sitting for only eight days -

Mr Pearce: That is eight more days than the Court Government used to sit after an election.

Mr BLAICKIE: I hope the media very carefully views the length of sitting times for this session.

Mr Pearce: My friend, you asked me a question about the number of days. I have a list of all of them.

Mr BLAICKIE: I am not a friend of the Leader of the House. I take strong exception to his calling me his friend; I find it offensive. The Parliament sat for only eight days. The normal

convention would then have been for the Government to prorogue Parliament and have a ceremonial opening of the new Parliament to allow members to debate the Address-in-Reply motion. By saving a few dollars by not having to provide a cup of tea at the official opening, the Government has denied the members of Parliament the opportunity to speak in that debate.

Mr Pearce: You have already debated one Address-in-Reply motion this year. You are speaking on it now. You are complaining about there not being an Address-in-Reply debate.

Mr BLAIKIE: I assure the Leader of the House that he gave a guarantee that there would be an official opening.

Mr Pearce: That is untrue.

Mr BLAIKIE: It is a bit like his Government's other guarantees.

Mr Pearce: I put to your side the proposition that we should not have a full Address-in-Reply at that time but would have it later in the year. The member for Marmion insisted on an Address-in-Reply debate at the beginning of the year. The Opposition would not accept my suggestion for the alternative.

Mr BLAIKIE: Again, the Leader of the House is determining when and on which subjects members are able to speak in this Parliament. He is telling us what is good for the Parliament. He is saying that the Government will determine who will speak in this place. If this Government does not want backbench members to speak in debates, he will ensure that motions and machinery measures are put in place to deny them that opportunity. The Leader of the House and his colleagues are attempting to destroy a fundamental tradition of this place.

Mr Pearce: How long have you been in Parliament?

Mr BLAIKIE: I have been in this House for 18 years.

Mr Pearce: How many times in that 18 years have there been two Address-in-Reply debates? The answer is none.

Mr BLAIKIE: The Leader of the House can make whatever comments he wishes. It was only because of a miscalculation on his part that we are speaking in this Address-in-Reply debate today because he failed to realise that there were still two members to speak in the debate. Otherwise we would not be having this debate today because this Government does not want its operations scrutinised by the House.

That is the whole intention. I suggest to new members of Parliament, whether Government or Opposition members, that they forget their political tags and simply understand what the democratic institution of Parliament is about; that is, why the Parliament exists, the responsibilities of Parliament and the Executive, and how much influence the Executive should have over the Parliament. Members should realise that the rights, privileges and freedom of members of Parliament, and also the constituents they represent, are being seriously eroded. I have referred to two examples; that is, the Minister's outrageous action in moving the gag motion on the amendment, and the refusal to have an official opening of Parliament. Both matters are outrageous in the extreme and members should be aware of what is happening.

My second point in relation to the general conduct in Parliament concerns the examination of Budget papers and the way the general debate on the Budget proceeds. I have long been a critic of the way Budget papers are examined and the time available for members to carry out this task, bearing in mind their responsibility to their constituents and the wider community of Western Australia to ensure rates and taxes are properly collected and expenditure is carried out in a proper and legal way. I am not sure that such expenditure has been properly or legally carried out because members have not had the opportunity to properly scrutinise the Budget papers. For the 18 years I have been a member of Parliament - whether the Tonkin, Court, Burke or Dowding Governments were in office - the process for examining Budget papers has been most unsatisfactory. I had reservations about the process under the Tonkin and Court Governments, but it has become reprehensible under the Burke and Dowding Governments for the following reasons.

On a number of occasions - and I cite the present Minister for Conservation and Land Management as an example - Ministers were not in the Chamber when matters relating to their portfolios were discussed. No doubt the Ministers had good reasons for not being in the Chamber but under a democratic system it is absolutely essential for a Minister to be present to explain the reasons for seeking expenditure for the management and administration of the portfolio for which he is responsible. Members will recall that in the Budget debate last session a number of items were not scrutinised; for example, Aboriginal affairs. The education portfolio which accounts for up to 25 per cent of the total allocation in this State was debated in the Minister's absence. It is unacceptable to expect the Parliament to scrutinise the expenditure of any portfolio through a Minister representing the Minister with responsibility for that portfolio. The practice adopted by the present and former Dowding Governments during the Budget debate was for a Minister to answer questions on behalf of the absent Minister. The standard answer in that circumstance was for the Minister to reply to questions by saying that he was not in full accord of the facts but he would seek the information and ask the Minister to write to the member in due course. I have 18 letters on stand from questions raised in the Budget debate last session; I have not received a reply to or even the courtesy of an acknowledgment of those questions. This Parliament deals with hundreds of millions of dollars in expenditure, and the Budget debate is conducted in a deplorable fashion.

For a long time I have been an advocate of the setting up of an estimates committee similar to that set up in the Federal Parliament and adopted also in the South Australian Parliament. The system allows for a group of members nominated by the House to form a committee. That committee is able to sit outside the sitting times of the House; that is, on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, and on Friday. The responsible Minister has an obligation to attend those meetings and also the departmental head can be requested to attend. Such a system would be preferable to the charade performed in this Parliament for the last six years. My favourite television program is "Yes Minister" which portrays the importance of administrative heads of Government. I understand the difficulties facing Ministers with regard to the expenditure of huge sums of money in their portfolio areas, and I am aware that at the end of the day the departmental head has full knowledge of why the expenditure package was put together. The estimates committee system allows the Parliament to seek information from both the Minister and the administrative head. Such a system should be set up in Western Australia, and this Parliament would be a far better place for it.

Mr Pearce: If it would stop the longwinded speeches in the Committee stage of the Budget debate, it probably would. I advise the member that the Government is prepared to consider that proposition and it is before a Standing Orders Committee at present.

Mr BLAICKIE: That is a positive step in the right direction. Ultimately the House will make that decision although, no doubt, the Leader of the House is muttering under his breath that as the Government has the numbers, it will make the final decision. I hope that is not the order of the day. I hope it will be a genuine attempt by the Government to ensure that members have a far greater opportunity to contribute to this process. I warn the Leader of the House that in politics things change.

Mr Pearce: Of course they do, and I will give an example of how things change. This Government is prepared to consider that proposition, yet I put the same proposition to Sir Charles Court and he would not have a bar of it.

Mr BLAICKIE: I appeal to the Leader of the House - no doubt some opportunity will be provided to speak in a later forum when this is discussed - to ensure that the estimates committee is a vehicle for members of Parliament to represent their constituency and the State as a whole, rather than an extension of the Government. I give the Leader of the House a warning that while the exercise as he has outlined it has considerable merit, if it were to become an extension of the Executive it would be doomed to failure and would take down with it the very important principle of democracy, which I believe has been eroded.

Mr Pearce: It must be done in a fair way, because if what you say is right - that there is always a tendency for Government to not provide the full information and that there are members of the Opposition who are prepared to come in and just scrutinise the Budget as impartial people - there are at the same time others who will seek to use that exercise to

score political points; and the many weeks of Budget debate we saw last year underlined that, and do not give one a lot of confidence that the Opposition will turn up at meetings of the Estimates Committee with objective curiosity rather than in an attempt to score political points.

Mr BLAIKIE: It is of real importance to the House for there to be a proper system of scrutiny. I have sat on both sides of the House, and I remind the Minister that Governments do change, and the standards which the Minister has set in place today may well be standards that he will rue tomorrow; or he may be very thankful he had sufficient vision and foresight to ensure that there was an improvement. If the Minister does not initiate an improvement, he may end up wearing something that he will find to be completely different.

I want now, in referring to the Standing Orders and the conduct of the Parliament, to speak about the environment. I am of the view that this Parliament should establish a Standing Committee of the environment, which will comprise members from both Houses of Parliament. We have observed over the years how the environment debate has taken on new proportions, and members are now required to be better informed than they were previously. We have found ourselves becoming involved in making reactive decisions and acting in an emotive manner, rather than establishing correct and proper procedures.

I have just returned from a visit to the Eastern States, where I was accompanied by four colleagues. One of the outstanding features of that visit was the cooperation that our members received from every Government that we visited. We looked at issues such as land and water management, conservation, and the environment. We received cooperation from the New South Wales Government; some members might say that is a Government of the same colour, so we should expect it to cooperate, but we also received total cooperation from the Commonwealth Government, through the offices of the Minister for Primary Industries and Energy, Hon John Kerin. We also received cooperation from the New South Wales Ministers responsible for the Environment, Heritage and Planning portfolios, who provided officers to brief members on areas where they were having difficulty in their respective States; to demonstrate the pilot schemes that were under way; and to generally inform members in the same manner as they would be informing their respective Governments. The same situation prevailed in South Australia, where the Labor Government received cooperation from the Eastern States.

I see around Australia a positive maturity developing, and I plead with the Government to understand that this maturity is developing also in our State. A Standing Committee of the Parliament should be established to look at matters of environmental concern, which would include environmental planning and management, and where organisations would be required to establish an environmental audit. Such a Standing Committee could make decisions which would represent the views of members on both sides of the Parliament, rather than being purely political or emotive decisions about what is right or wrong in Western Australia.

Amendment to Motion

Mr BLAIKIE I move -

That the following words be added to the motion -

But regret to inform Your Excellency that the Premier's arrogant claims to have saved the State from the Petrochemical debacle by standing up the Bond Corporation are false and untrue.

- (1) The taxpayers are being saved by the State's Constitution which rendered the Government's earlier deals of doubtful legality, and the Liberal and National Parties which rejected the legislation in the Legislative Council to allow the deal to be made lawful.
- (2) The damage to the State's financial reputation is also a disgrace causing difficulties for local businesses to raise funds.

The SPEAKER: Before I give the call to the Leader of the Opposition, I want to look at the amendment; I am a little concerned about its wording. I will allow the amendment. The reason for my concern was that it was my view that it was substantially the same as a number of other matters which had already been raised, as members will be aware, during the course

of this week. It still is my view that it is substantially the same, but after consideration I thought I should allow the amendment. I caution members who wish to speak on the amendment that it does traverse ground which has already been debated at length in this place, and if members want to speak to the amendment it would be right and proper for them to introduce new material and not to go over old material.

MR MacKINNON (Jandakot - Leader of the Opposition) [3.49 pm]: I second the amendment. It is clear once again that the Leader of the House has really lost his touch. I said yesterday that he is a man whom I have admired over the years in terms of the sharpness of his wit and the directness and honesty with which he deals with us behind the Chair. However, this year the pressure which the Premier has been under is beginning to tell also on the Leader of the House. He made a monumental gaffe in closing the debate, only to give us the opportunity of raising once again this particular issue. It is quite clear that the Government really did bungle this afternoon, and for that we are eternally grateful.

This is a particularly new aspect. I want to outline briefly the ground I shall cover so that members can see how this relates to the information we have debated before, and how it will lead to the introduction of new information.

I want to indicate why the petrochemical project failed. We have already covered some of the actions of the Government in relation to the Burt report. I want then to deal with the fundamental reasons why the Government, at the end of the day, was forced to pull out of this project. It was not, as the Premier has indicated, because he magnanimously decided to pull the pin. The tabling of documents in the Parliament this week has given us an opportunity to examine the real reasons why that is so.

Firstly, why did the project fail? Was it because of the Premier's boldness; or was it, as in the Rothwells situation, because the Premier was forced into this position? Clearly, when the facts are examined, including those many tabled documents which we are in the process of analysing and will debate in detail next week, it is quite clear why the project failed. It was because all the guarantees entered into by the Government in respect of this project were placed in doubt.

That doubt began with the Burt Commission report. I shall not quote from it, in line with your rulings, Mr Speaker, because we have already discussed that matter this week. Because of the stature of the author of that report, the doubt expressed in that report started to ring alarm bells around the country, particularly in the offices of the bankers being asked to fund that project. We now know, as a result of the petition to the court which was tabled in this Parliament, that the Government attempted to renegotiate the deal. I shall not traverse the ground which we have covered this week, but the Government signed the documentation on 26 and 27 January. It then approached the banks, and that is where we get into this new ground. As the petition and documentation tabled in this Parliament indicate, even with the change made on 26 and 27 January, the banks had extreme doubts. We have already heard of the monumental deception practised by this Government when it introduced to the Parliament the Western Australian Petrochemical Industries Authority Bill. When the Government introduced that Bill, there was no question of any concern for the guarantee which was the central reason why the Government brought that Bill to the Parliament. The Government's petition to the courts indicates that. If we read the opinion tabled in this Parliament as part of these documents from R.J. Ellicott QC and R.A. Emmett QC - eminent silks - we can see why, in that opinion, there was extreme concern. It was a joint opinion which said words to the effect, "On the other hand, if the provisions of section 5(1) are given a wider interpretation than that which we have suggested, we have serious reservations as to the validity of the Act."

That was the opinion of Bob Ellicott QC and Mr Emmett QC on 10 February. Was that mentioned to this Parliament when we set about debating this matter? No, it was not, and that was, of course, central to the whole question of whether the project would succeed. As we have indicated over and over again, the project could never be funded on a non-recourse basis without an underwriting and a guarantee from the Government. The Government attempted to put that guarantee in place, but the opinions indicated that that was just not possible.

Let us see exactly why we are in this position today. Let us remind ourselves, because I think it is relevant to do so, exactly what that petrochemical authority Bill would have

enabled the Government to do. The Government wanted to get the project off the ground. It knew, as we now know, that the only way to get it off the ground was to underwrite it with a guarantee. The legal opinion from Burt and others was that that was not possible. The next step was to bring legislation to the Parliament to give the Government the power to get the project off the ground.

Let us look at that Bill which we debated in March and at the powers which were available to the Government. It provided for the authority, with the approval of the Government, to enter into covenants, agreements, promises, guarantees, indemnities or other obligations, and so it goes on. These were wide, sweeping powers which would have given the Government the opportunity to overcome the so-called legal difficulties and commit the Government to a much greater equity position in the project, committing taxpayers to even more money than that which was lost. This is central to the motion that we are debating today. The Government would go merrily down the trail. As it has indicated on so many occasions here in its entrepreneurial way, it would make money for Western Australia.

I am disappointed that neither the Premier nor the Treasurer are here to debate what is a very important motion; a motion which goes to the centrepiece of why this Parliament is here at present. The article in *The Australian Financial Review* of 7 August gives a real indication of why Bond and Government people have fallen out. Many people are now putting the blame into one court or the other, but let us look at this article of 7 August and see how well the Premier and the Government now stack up. This is an article which has never been refuted or denied, and I put it to you, Mr Speaker, it will not be denied outside this Parliament by the people quoted. The article is by Mark Smith, and reads -

The Dowding Government plans to use its new petrochemical authority to break its commitments with Bond Corp Holdings Ltd and avoid much of the financial responsibility for the \$1.2 billion petrochemical plant.

The Government believed it did not have to assume all the liabilities of its petrochemical investor, Western Australian Government Holdings, under the proposed WA Petrochemical Authority. It planned to leave most of the financial burden with WAGH and seek its eventual liquidation.

I interpolate, Mr Speaker, knowing, because of the advice it had received, that the Government did not have to pick up the liabilities, even if there had been a guarantee. That is a lot of rot. Little wonder Bond is a little upset. To continue -

The Government's strategy to avoid its excessive financial commitments to the project failed when the legislation to establish the bill was defeated by the Opposition parties in the Upper House in April and May.

The WA Deputy Premier and Treasurer, Mr Parker, said yesterday the legislation gave the Government considerable flexibility in the assumption of WAGH's liabilities.

The bill's failure substantially weakened the Government's negotiating position in talks with Bond Corp on a project restructure, he said.

They probably had to go back and abide by the terms of the law. The Government could not rely on the new Act of Parliament which gave it an iron fist to lead its negotiating position. The Government had to go back and negotiate on what the clauses of the contract then said. That is the type of Government we now have in Western Australia. It comes into this Parliament and claims to be "holier than thou".

This motion goes to the central part of the fact that clearly it was not any great magnanimous effort by the Premier, who is now sitting opposite, to save Western Australian taxpayers; he was forced by this Parliament - thank goodness he was - into a position where he had to go back and endeavour to negotiate his way out of that situation. Given his inabilities and weaknesses as a negotiator, the only way he was able to do that was to come into this Cowards' Castle to strengthen his position. He was not prepared -

Several members interjected.

Withdrawal of Remark

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition might not have been here yesterday when I made a plea to members not to use that term in respect of this place.

Mr MacKINNON: I withdraw that comment. My colleagues have indicated to me what your direction yesterday was. I was not aware of it and I will not repeat it. If I do, Mr Speaker, I am sure you will pull me up.

Debate Resumed

Mr MacKINNON: As I was saying, this Premier could not negotiate for the Government in any normal sense in respect of his position. Of course he came into this Parliament and tried to use the privileges of this House to strengthen his negotiating arm. He was not prepared to go outside this place and repeat those claims. Interestingly the people who supported him yesterday in a written form in Parliament are not available for comment in the public arena today. I wonder why? Perhaps the Premier could answer that question.

The Australian Financial Review carries an article by Mark Smith, which article was not to my knowledge among the documents tabled in Parliament this week, and which reads as follows -

The Government is believed to have assigned its depreciation and amortisation rights in the project to Bond and helped provide Bond with a tax-effective investment in the project.

Is that true, Mr Premier?

Mr Peter Dowding: I would have to get advice on that.

Mr MacKINNON: It is true. Any time the Premier gives that sort of response it means that it is true. Interestingly enough that document to my knowledge was not tabled in Parliament this week. I wonder why? I will conclude, because I have a media commitment -

Mr Peter Dowding: Just before you conclude, may I look at the document from which you quoted?

Mr MacKINNON: It is an article from *The Australian Financial Review* of two weeks ago headed, "WA Government in \$1.2 bn safety net for Bond", which reads -

The Government is believed to have assigned its depreciation and amortisation rights in the project to Bond and helped provide Bond with a tax-effective investment in the project.

Mr Peter Dowding: Can I have a look at it?

Mr MacKINNON: The Premier's advisers can look it up.

Mr Pearce: If you pass it over, we will try to get the information in the course of the afternoon.

Mr MacKINNON: I offer the Government the same courtesy it extended to the Opposition.

It is quite clear that during this debate there has been a deliberate attempt by the Premier to divert attention from the central issue. I am grateful for the mistake made by the Leader of the House because it gave the Opposition an opportunity to conclude this week on the important and central issue of the debate. That is, the Government did not save the people of Western Australia from even greater financial loss than that which we have heard detailed by the Treasurer today, but rather the Opposition did. Premier Dowding did not save the State; the Constitution saved it. It was not a Government skilled in negotiation which we saw endeavour to save the Parliament and the people of this State in this project. The Government was hell bent on using its muscle through legislation to beat into submission the other people involved with that project. Those facts have been documented and outlined, and have not been refuted in the public arena, or even here, surprisingly enough.

This is an important motion and I urge the members of this House to support it.

MR MENSAROS (Floreat) [4.04 pm]: I second the motion.

I would like to deal in particular with the second part of the motion which, as members will appreciate, has not yet come up in the previous debates. Although it was sad to hear about the large sums of money lost during this exercise of the Government, and to hear of the lost opportunities this money could have brought about for the ordinary people of this State in respect of education, health and other matters, much more importantly intangible and unassessable damage has been done by this exercise to the financial reputation of the State of

Western Australia. This loss of reputation, sadly, came about as a result of what are virtually little boys in the Ministry who played around in an interesting big game which they did not understand and in which they gambled and lost.

The other day I mentioned I had recently undertaken a fairly extensive overseas trip. During the course of that trip I saw a number of friends and acquaintances I had made during the time the Liberal Government was in office. All those people are still leaders in resource development or banking around the world. They know very well what has been happening in Western Australia. Most of them drew their information from a little report, which is the interim report of the National Companies and Securities Commission. This was mentioned by the Leader of the House in his speech yesterday, although I did not quite grasp in what connection he referred to it. That interim report is so damaging and tells so much about the impossible activities of this Government that one becomes appalled upon reading it. These overseas people cannot help but be amazed that -

The SPEAKER: Order! Could those members who are having private meetings around the Chamber either take themselves off elsewhere or cease their conversations?

Mr MENSAROS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The people overseas were amazed at what was revealed in that report. One could not accuse the authors of that report of not being genuine or of being party political, or in any other way biased, because the fact is that no writs have been issued against them. Not only that, no denial or refutation has been published. That alone proves that the facts written in the report are true and that the opinions expressed are accepted even by this Government.

Mr Peter Dowding: Which report are you talking about?

Mr MENSAROS: The National Companies and Securities Commission's interim report on the Rothwells affair to the Council of Ministers for the NCSC, of which the Attorney General is a member.

In order to enable members to judge what I am saying, I would mention a few aspects of this report. Members might recall that at the time the first rescue of Rothwells occurred, the then Minister, now the Deputy Premier, and the present Premier often said that it was after all a "genuine" effort because Mr Connell put in \$70 million of his own money towards the rescue operation in order to help preserve the interests of the shareholders. However, in respect of this \$70 million, allegedly of Mr Connell's own money, the report reads as follows -

By March 1988 Connell/Oakhill had borrowed, by the methods such as those mentioned above, from Rothwells principle sums of approximately \$110 million. Such borrowings more than offset the \$70 million contribution made by Connell in October 1987, of which \$20 million had been converted to shares.

The report further states -

The Commission concludes that Connell's \$70 million personal commitment to the Rothwells' rescue on which the other parties to the rescue relied was more than covered by fresh loans to the Connell's companies from Rothwells.

Let us have a look at another aspect. The Premier said in one of these debates that the Government had to rely on advice. I realise that the Government is in possession of very good advice, but it is a question of whether it chooses to use that good advice or to use party political advice such as that offered by Messrs Edwards and Lloyd.

Mr Peter Dowding: To which point are you referring? Are you talking about October 1987?

Mr MENSAROS: I talked about 1987 previously, and now I am talking about the final rescue and I cite from the report things that are in connection with the final rescue. The interim report states -

The Western Australian Government appears to have been prepared to become involved in this package . . .

Mr Peter Dowding: Was that package in October 1987?

Mr MENSAROS: I have only a short time, so the Premier should listen to what I am saying. The report states that Rothwells should be taken over by the State Government Insurance Commission, Bond and Spedleys. I quote from the report -

The Western Australian Government appears to have been prepared to become involved in this package on the strength of a whiteboard presentation by Lloyd, which includes the assertion that there was a nett worth within Rothwells of some \$60 million.

That figure came from the report prepared for Bond Corporation. On any view of the evidence, it was no more than a prospective report with an "optimistic slant based on assurances by certain Rothwells staff". That is the advice the Government went to rather than utilising the many people in Government circles who would have been able to give them proper advice.

Looking at the value of the Petrochemical Industries Co Ltd project and at the value of the \$400 million which the Government put into it, the Government said that it is being supported by First Boston, and various other views. The National Companies and Securities Commission said about this in May 1989 that the valuation of the petrochemical project was prepared by a Mr Webb of Price Waterhouse and set at \$1 022 million. There would be many valuations of this sort and these valuations do not explain how the figure of \$400 million was reached to buy the shares in the company. The report states -

The NCSC is unable to understand how the value of \$400 million could have been put on PICL in July 1988.

The project was still in the planning stage and if it goes ahead it has no other assets, but it has been permitted by the Government to go ahead.

Mr Speaker, let us recall the oft-repeated statement to the Parliament by the Premier and his deputy when they talked about the \$15 million repayment to Western Collieries by the State Energy Commission. When we tried to assure this House that it was part of the Rothwells rescue, the Deputy Premier looked at me and said that I had made deals like this - which I did - and it was an advantage to the SEC to pay for coal in advance, thus securing a much lower price. Looking again at the report from the NCSC we can see how it relates to what I said about this business. In the description of the final rescue it says how Western Collieries was paid by the SEC, and I quote -

This arrangement was intended to assist Rothwells' liquidity and to enable Rothwells to complete the agreement with CSR.

... There was no attractive commercial advantage... and White's concern was that SECWA might effectively become an unsecured creditor of Rothwells once its \$15 million had gone in that direction.

I can refer to the audit procedures which have been severely criticised in this report. In fact, I ask the Premier that in accepting these figures, did they go a little further than the advice given by Lloyd and Edwards, and did the Premier ask the Auditor General about the auditing procedures and whether they were right? The NCSC criticised Price Waterhouse for their system of accounting. I do not have time to read it out but members can find it on pages 60, 61 and 63 of the report. It is no wonder that the overseas bankers are quite appalled and consider this Government as virtually a sad joke with whom nobody should do business.

The tone of reaction from various people depended upon the view or temperament of the country. The prevailing view in the UK is that no decent Minister or Government in the Westminster system would have remained in office after such events, but would have resigned. In the United States they asked me, "Why didn't you sue Price Waterhouse, the auditors? We would have sued Peat Marwick Hungerfords on the basis of that report in our country, and they could have been made liable for several hundred million dollars on account of their assessment and the auditing of various operations which happened during these transactions."

Mr Peter Dowding: Can I ask you about the Statute of Limitations regarding these matters?

Mr MENSAROS: These events occurred only one and a half years ago.

Mr Peter Dowding: You do not think that will be affected by the Statute of Limitations?

Mr MENSAROS: I was speaking about the typical US reaction.

Mr Peter Dowding: It might be the typical US reaction, but in relation to Western Australia this is the second year which means there are another four years to go.

Mr MENSAROS: This NCSC report came out earlier in the year.

To continue, however, the continental response was the same as the Leader of the Opposition's and some of the members' on this side of the House. Once they read this report they simply said, "Where has all this money gone?" That is the logical question when we are talking about several hundred million dollars allegedly paid for the purchase of the project; but there is no trace of where the money has gone to. Even that aspect is mentioned in the report when the commission wonders why Dempster accepted his share of the agreement.

In conclusion, all the people I have met at all places were tremendously concerned and appalled by these things. All these overseas people helped to build up Western Australia's reputation. It took a long time to do that under the leadership of Sir Charles Court - I played a humble part in it - and we travelled to boardrooms in the United States, London and Frankfurt. Western Australians were proud of the way we built up the financial reputation for this State. We had a better reputation than any other State or country anywhere. This was remarkable considering that we have a very small population. However, all that has been undone by this Government and this State's reputation has been ruined.

I put it to Government members, particularly the backbenchers, that the future of this State is up to them. I do not consider this amendment as a simple party political amendment to the Address-in-Reply debate; I consider it vital to Western Australia.

It will take several decades to build up this State's financial reputation again. Western Australians can prosper only with the development of our resources. This can be done only with enormous capital investments, which in turn needs credit facilities for the developers. With a lack of confidence in this State and a lack of financial reputation we will not be able to procure the credit for business. Our prime consideration should not be the hundreds of millions of dollars which have been lost and which have had to be made up by increased taxes and charges, but it should be the survival of Western Australia.

I put it to Government supporters in their modern jargon, which I never use, that the bottom line is that the choice is with them; that is, whether the majority of Labor Party members will carry their responsibility and make the vital choice whether they want to continue with a naive and, at best, a stupid Government - some people would say a crooked Government - or whether they would prefer to secure the future of this State.

MR COURT (Nedlands - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.22 pm]: I support this amendment which clearly spells out that, fortunately, because of our Constitution and the upper House which has certain powers, the legislation which was introduced in this Parliament to establish an authority to enable this Government to raise money for the petrochemical project to go ahead, was rendered of doubtful legality and was rejected.

We have debated the petrochemical project in this Parliament for a week, the first week after the recess, and I would like to thank the Premier for doing something which the Opposition would not have been able to do by itself. He has made the petrochemical deal and the scandal surrounding it a national issue. People throughout Australia are now well and truly aware that this Government has become involved in a petrochemical project which is causing great pain not only to this Government, but also, unfortunately, to the taxpayers of this State who will have to pay the large sums of money which have been lost to date. Unfortunately, there could be more losses in the future.

The eyes of Australia are on this Government. Australians are watching, with interest, the developments in this issue. As a result of the media's scrutiny the country's attention is on the problems this Government is experiencing. Hopefully the media coverage will speed up the outcome of this saga in order that the truth will emerge quickly and the Government will pay the penalty for its actions.

The Premier has been running around for the last few days raising with the media the question of my holding secret meetings with representatives of Bond Corporation.

Mr Peter Dowding: I received a telephone call today and was told not to listen to Richard Court when he said that he had not held meetings with representatives of Bond Corporation because he was having lunch with Ken Judge. I do not know whether he did have lunch with him.

Mr COURT: I said that I had attended one meeting with representatives of Bond Corporation and there is nothing secret about it.

The SPEAKER: Order! I will give the member the opportunity to address himself to the matters he wishes to raise, but I ask that he be brief because I have some difficulty in relating his remarks to the actual amendment.

Mr COURT: I will be brief because I know a number of members wish to speak to this amendment.

I made it clear that there was nothing secret about my meeting with representatives of Bond Corporation. I raised the matter in this House myself. I made it clear that I had a briefing on the petrochemical project. The only thing about which I feel guilty is that normally, with a major project, the Opposition would have attended regular briefings.

Mr Peter Dowding: Why didn't you?

Mr COURT: I will tell the Premier why: It was because of the uncomfortable relationship the Opposition has had with Bond Corporation that we did not participate in such briefings.

The Premier is the man who should have held meetings with Mr Merszei because he has poured into this project hundreds of millions of dollars belonging to this State. Mr Merszei was appointed to control the design and construction of the project, but this Premier has not met with him to date.

At long last, as a result of the bickering and the infighting in debates which have taken place in this House in the last few days, the Premier has found a subject within his area of professional competence; that is, divorce proceedings. That was his speciality as a professional practising lawyer. Did members notice that when the Premier was speaking yesterday about the tussle between Bond Corporation and the Government he was in his element? Hopefully he will be able to use his professional skills as this squabble continues. Fancy bringing a boardroom squabble into this House and fancy using the privilege of this House as he did.

As I said earlier, the one good thing the Premier has done is to make this issue one of national interest and everyone around Australia is now aware of what this Government is involved in.

The other point is that we have had a fascinating insight into the problems which occur when the Government becomes involved in dealings in the business community and tries to become an equity participant in those deals. In years to come I hope that students of politics examine what has taken place with the WA Inc dealings. This State was saved from the project getting further out of hand because the relevant legislation introduced earlier this year was not passed. The Government has done deals with certain business people and it has been eaten for breakfast.

I refer to the Budget which was brought down today by the Treasurer: It was an absolute insult to learn that hundreds of millions of dollars have been put aside to assist the Teachers Credit Society, the Swan Building Society and the petrochemical project.

Why does the Premier have to raise taxes? Why does he have to lift payroll tax? Why does he have to lift the financial institutions duty? Why does he have to introduce something which really boils down to a capital gains tax; that is, changes to stamp duty? He is to do this because this Government has lost so much money.

The petrochemical deal has been a major confidence trick since day one. It was a deal worked out between May and October last year to be a vehicle by which the Government could pour money into Rothwells so that it could retire its guarantee. That is what we are debating this week. The Premier has tried every tactic as a red herring, but we are debating the fact that this Government went into this confidence trick and then tried to cover it up by saying there was no Government guarantee involved when, in fact, it entered into guarantees in secret.

When the Premier came into this House on Tuesday he had a major problem; he was about to present evidence which would show that the Government had been involved in providing major guarantees for this project. All the games that he has played this week will come and go quickly, but the commercial reality is that he has committed the taxpayers of this State to a contractual commitment that he will now try to negotiate his way out of. That is absolutely scandalous! All the secret midnight meetings; we are now paying the price for those dealings. This Premier is fighting for a way to keep covering up what has taken place. I can

assure members of this House that we are determined to keep the pressure on because we will not stand by while this Government carries on in the way it has been doing.

In relation to the last point in this motion, as the member for Floreat said so clearly, one can buy popularity - and the former Premier was an expert at that and this Premier has continued in that tradition as the Government has had plenty of money to go out there with advertising campaigns, and who knows where the money comes from, but one can have a good guess - but one must earn respect. The good reputation of this State has been shattered by the dealings of this Government.

MR LEWIS (Applecross) [4.33 pm]: I support the amendment. I suggest that the real reason for this charade today and for the theatrics that we saw here on Tuesday is that this Government has finally come to the realisation that the deal it did with PICL was a lemon. Government members have racked their brains since January when they appointed a new group of sycophants to advise them and who told them that the deal could not work.

Mr Pearce: Can you spell "sycophant", because you do not know what it means.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr LEWIS: The court jester cannot desist; he gaggles away like the clown that he is. He is hopeless! The fact is that the deal could never work. The Government has been racking its brains as to how it can get out of this deal without facing a massive claim for damages from its equity partner, the Bond Corporation. It sacked First Boston, its original adviser. The report that the Opposition asked to be tabled, if it were tabled in the Parliament, would prove to any prudent observer that the Government's deal would not work because it was contingent on the Government giving guarantees on the financing of the whole project.

First Boston also suggested that Bond's position was favourable and that the Government should think hard if it was going to proceed with the project and ensure that there was an absolute professional in place as project manager and a professional group to handle the construction. A figure for capitalisation of 6 to 8 per cent on a project such as this will vary the value of that project from perhaps \$135 million down to \$90 million, yet the Government paid \$175 million for its share of the project. The problem was that when it had its new advisers on board - the Whitlam Turnbull partnership who are advising the Government on the financial viability of the project - they said to the Government after it had sacked Edwards and Lloyd that it had been taken, it had been run around the breakfast table. Ministers thought they were smart businessmen but they finally realised they had a lemon on their hands.

Mr Shave: Why did they sack them; because they were on criminal charges?

Mr LEWIS: I do not know. That was probably the case. The Government appointed Whitlam Turnbull to advise it and they said that the deal would not work and that the Government ought to try to get out of it. The Government has been trying its hardest to get out of the deal to save face and to prevent them from appearing to be donkeys in the eyes of the public, and to avert the consequences of a huge contingent liability that is dangling over this Government.

If the Bond Corporation litigates successfully for loss of capital of \$225 million and loss of projected profit - profit projected in the Government's own report from First Boston - the Government could be facing damages of between \$600 million and \$1 billion in the long term. That is the risk that this Government has taken and the position it has got this State into. There is a massive contingent liability.

Unfortunately, no-one has really picked that up. It is not the \$250 million already lost that is the problem, it is the contingent liability of the equity partner suing the State of Western Australia for its loss of capital and profit. Heaven knows what that will be, but if one looks at the report by First Boston it could certainly be \$600 million using the Government's own projection figures. That is what we are up against.

There is another reason why the Government perhaps wanted to get out of this project: Informed sources around this town are suggesting that there is not enough feedstock to drive it because the demand for gas has risen so fast that the State Energy Commission, which did the deal along with the Minister for Trade and Energy as I think he then was, now realises that it cannot supply the gas. Therefore, the Government has a project and a commitment to

finance an amount touching \$1 400 million contingent on Government guarantees to finance it and to supply the feedstock - the gas - to the project. I understand the pipeline does not have the capacity to supply the gas. I challenge the Government to get up in this Parliament and tell the people of Western Australia that there is sufficient gas, sufficient feedstock to supply the petrochemical plant.

Mr Carr: There is.

Mr LEWIS: The Minister should get up and tell us about it.

Mr Carr: I do not have to stand to say it; I can say it sitting down. There is.

Mr LEWIS: Produce the figures.

Mr Carr: That was done in this House in answer to a question in the last couple of days.

Mr LEWIS: I suggest that the substantiating letter from Whitlam Turnbull produced yesterday is an absolute disgrace.

Mr Marlborough: Is it true?

Mr LEWIS: I would not have a clue. It is very unethical, from my point of view, to produce a letter from someone being paid as a consultant in order to validate an argument one is making. The credibility of the firm of Whitlam Turnbull is zero.

Mr Peter Dowding: Nonsense.

Mr LEWIS: There is an unwritten convention that what is said over a negotiating table remains confidential until there is agreement to release it.

Mr Peter Dowding: Where did you get that line from - Bond Corporation?

Mr LEWIS: All the Premier knows about is the divorce court; he has never been in the commercial world.

Mr Peter Dowding: I have been.

Several members interjected.

Mr LEWIS: The Premier would not know the first thing about ethics.

Several members interjected.

Mr LEWIS: The major firms of solicitors in this country are shaking their heads about the ethics of this group, Whitlam Turnbull. For the Premier to produce a letter like this under the shelter of this Parliament is a disgrace. The Premier is not prepared to go into the car park and say what he has said here. He hides behind this Parliament and makes these scurrilous statements. I do not know what was said across the negotiating table about Bond Corporation, the Government's partners, partners the Government chose to get into bed with, but one thing I do know is that there is such a thing as honour. When one negotiates anything, whether it be a divorce - no, it does not happen in divorce, because there is no honour in divorce. Perhaps that is where the Premier should be. In commercial law, however, there is such a thing as honour. When agreements are made across a negotiating table, certain things should remain confidential. One does not run into a Parliament and mouth across the whole of Australia allegations about how the deal was being done. The Premier knows that that is a most dishonourable thing. He has brought this State and the Government of this State into absolute discredit.

Mr Peter Dowding: What agreements are you talking about?

Mr LEWIS: I do not know what agreements, but I do know one thing: When one negotiates across a negotiating table there is an unwritten rule that what is said across that table is confidential until both parties agree that it can be published. Is that true or not?

Mr Peter Dowding: You have just made an extraordinary suggestion that Mr Turnbull had breached an agreement about confidentiality.

Mr LEWIS: The Premier was not listening.

Mr Peter Dowding: You said there was an agreement about confidentiality. I am asking whether you are saying there was an agreement that these things would be kept confidential, and if so, where you get that from.

Mr LEWIS: The Premier has taken the integrity of the Government he represents to the pits. Several members interjected.

Mr LEWIS: I do not know whether that is true or not.

Mr Peter Dowding: You would attack anybody who worked as a consultant to the Government.

Several members interjected.

Mr Taylor: The chickens will come home to roost.

Mr LEWIS: The WA Government has been negotiating with the Bond Corporation over PIL for the last nine or 12 months, but it runs into this Parliament and tries to destroy the commercial integrity of Bond Corporation. Last Wednesday week a special Cabinet meeting was held, and Bond Corporation shares dropped 11 cents in one day. The Perth Stock Exchange sent a letter asking Bond Corporation for an explanation for the drop.

This Government performs in a scurrilous and deceitful way. It talks about honour. It has no honour at all. It talks about people destroying other people's character. This Premier has tried to destroy the commercial integrity of Bond Corporation and that is why the shares dropped 11 cents in one day - because there were leaks from the Cabinet meeting to the public and to the Press. That is why those shares dropped overnight. Fancy the Premier coming to this Parliament and hiding behind the privilege of this Parliament. He has said scurrilous things.

Mr Peter Dowding: Step outside and say what you have just said about Malcolm Turnbull.

Mr LEWIS: Malcolm Turnbull should not have given the Premier that letter.

Mr Peter Dowding: Step outside and say that.

Mr LEWIS: The Premier should not have got up in this Parliament and destroyed the reputation of this Government.

Mr Peter Dowding: Step outside and say what you have said about Malcolm Turnbull and see how brave you are.

Mr Court: You have been running all week.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is really no need to shout in this place; we can all have our turn. I respectfully suggest that the member for Applecross return somewhat closer to the amendment.

Mr LEWIS: Thank you, Mr Speaker, but there are times in this Parliament when facts need to be stated.

Mr Court: And you are quite correct in what you say.

Mr Peter Dowding: You are defending Bond Corporation.

Mr Court: What about that letter from Turnbull?

Mr LEWIS: I am not defending Bond Corporation at all. What I am suggesting is that the ethics of this Government and the ethics of Whitlam Turnbull are the absolute pits. May I suggest that for many years to come people will think twice about knocking on the door of the WA Premier and the Government of Western Australia and saying, "I want to talk to you about this." Confidentiality over a negotiating table means nothing.

Mr Court: Why does the Government use Eastern States' financial advisers? Why don't they use local people?

Mr Pearce: Where do you fit in on the front bench line-up?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Peter Dowding: What about Hawkins Court Ltd?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I am doing my utmost to give the member for Applecross the floor. I would appreciate the cooperation of members in letting that happen.

Mr Peter Dowding: Have you asked Hawkins Court?

The SPEAKER: Order! It is not appropriate that after I have tried on several occasions to give the member for Applecross the call members interject even before he has opened his mouth again.

Mr LEWIS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is not particularly palatable for me to come in here and make those statements, but they must be made about the behaviour of the Premier, representing the State of Western Australia and the Government, and the corporation of the Western Australian Government as it exists. No longer can people go to the Government with confidence and know that what is said in confidence to that Government will not be bandied around in Parliament, with the Government hiding behind the privilege of Parliament if it wants to denigrate those people.

Several members interjected.

Mr Court: The member for Applecross has touched a raw nerve with the Government because its cowardly actions will cost it dearly.

Several members interjected.

Mr LEWIS: Mr Speaker, these giggling buffoons on the Government back bench who never have anything to say because they are not allowed to say anything should be quiet when someone else wants to say something.

I think I have made my point. The point is that the integrity of the Western Australian Government is zero. No one will ever negotiate with it again. This Government does not even honour guarantees. It would not honour a guarantee to the National Australia Bank, and now it is not honouring one concerning the PIL deal. This Government is running for cover. What should be on the Budget papers is a contingent liability for a massive writ for damages because of this Government's action in pulling out of PIL.

MR TRENORDEN (Avon) [4.51 pm]: In speaking to this motion I will not become involved in the high emotion that we have heard for the last couple of days because although 20 minutes is shown on the clock I know I do not have a great deal of time. Therefore I will deal with several matters that I wish to place on the record.

Firstly, many people have come to me over the last couple of months urging that I pass on their gratitude to Hon Eric Charlton for the decision his team made a few months ago.

Mr Pearce: They had to change their seats in a hurry.

Mr TRENORDEN: It has been very interesting to see what has been uncovered by that decision, and to watch what has occurred since that time, with all the twists and turns that happened and are still happening. It has been amazing to see just how wonderful the Government thought Bond Corporation was and just how wonderful it thinks it is now - what a change in such a short period of time!

At the time, Hon Eric Charlton was put under extreme pressure to make that decision. He was told things that were just not correct. The true position was never put; but, luckily for this State, Hon Eric Charlton had a gut feeling at the last minute and turned the decision around. I have been approached by literally thousands of people who have expressed their gratitude to him. It took a great deal of courage and the State owes him a big debt of gratitude. Much has come to light since the decision was made. If the National Party's vote in the other place had gone the other way it would have been an absolute disaster, and it is to the credit of Hon Eric Charlton that he made the correct decision.

My second point, which is something close to my heart, is that this nation has a terrible balance of payments problem. It is getting worse under our Federal Government, which is absolutely at a loss as to what to do about it. The real solution to our economic woes is to perform better in two areas - agriculture and mining. There is a dire need to get involved in the value adding of agricultural produce. Western Australia produces \$1.5 billion of agricultural produce annually, which has less than one per cent of value adding activity happening to it. That value adding requires some venture capital and the amount of money that has been lost by this Government, or even the interest on that amount, is sorely needed

in that area. For example, I have been approached in recent times by an individual who requires \$5 million to value add broken wool, of which this State has a considerable amount. If we could put such a plant into this State the value of broken wool would increase 300-fold.

Mr Peter Dowding: Have you discussed that with Mr Grill?

Mr TRENORDEN: I was approached about this only a couple of days ago. I have not approached the Minister for Economic Development and Trade on that matter, although I have on others.

Mr Peter Dowding: I strongly recommend that you do, because even when the conservative parties were in Government, no-one bothered as much as did the previous Minister for Agriculture, Mr Grill, to try to get value adding into agricultural produce. I strongly recommend that you approach him.

Mr TRENORDEN: I am not arguing that point, but I am worried that the money for it will not be around. I would be more than happy to talk to the Minister about it.

Mr Peter Dowding: Come back to the House when you have tried to put it together.

Mr TRENORDEN: My third point is that with the disastrous attitude of the Federal Government toward the gold industry, Kalgoorlie will take a dive. One of the things that could help that place is a gas pipeline running from the pipeline on the coast right through to Kalgoorlie. That would mean a great deal of opportunity for country businesses.

Mr Marlborough: You want it to go through Northam.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr TRENORDEN: Of course I want it in Northam. It would go clean through Northam. Plenty of businesses there require cheap energy in the form of gas. One of the reasons we are struggling to get businesses up and running in the country is the high cost of services. It is essential that country people are able to have access to gas in the same way as are those in the metropolitan area. I do not have expertise in this area but we are trying to pressure the State Energy Commission to do a study on the cost of that pipeline and the potential users of the gas it would carry. It would be of tremendous value to the goldfields and to all towns through which it ran between the coast and the goldfields. It would be a mini-pipeline similar to the O'Connor deal. He was abused and accused for his idea but he was proved right as time went by.

Mr Peter Dowding: Wouldn't it make more sense to wait until we get some onshore gas in the Canning Basin and then do it, rather than to take the gas from an offshore pipeline down to Perth and then across to Kalgoorlie? It would make more sense to wait until we find some good quality onshore gas.

Dr Turnbull: What hope have you got of finding that?

Mr Peter Dowding: Very good. There is a great deal of optimism about it.

Dr Turnbull: There is always a great deal of optimism about many things!

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr TRENORDEN: We did say we would finish at 5.00 pm, for the Premier's benefit, so I will proceed. The point is that we cannot afford to wait. If we waited for what the Premier is talking about we would wait two or three years. We need value adding opportunities now. One billion tonnes of wheat goes into the Asian market for noodles, and we need to value add that wheat now.

Mr Peter Dowding: Why did the National Party do nothing about it when it was part of conservative governments?

Mr TRENORDEN: I am absolutely amazed at the Premier's attitude.

Mr Marlborough: What about live sheep exports to the Middle East?

Mr TRENORDEN: Where the hell did that interjection come from? I am surprised the member knows what sheep are. Are they things with feathers that sit in trees? I am very surprised and impressed - and I would like that to go on the record - that the member for Peel knows what a sheep is.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr TRENORDEN: My fourth point concerns the dire need for a change in attitude towards agricultural education and particularly education in country areas. I could speak for a long time on that.

Mr Peter Dowding: Be fair! Remember my trip to Northam? Remember those announcements?

Mr TRENORDEN: Yes.

Mr Peter Dowding: Remember the agricultural traineeship which we established? Your mob in office did absolutely nothing about value adding for agriculture products, nor for education for people in agricultural areas.

Mr TRENORDEN: I would like to be able to use the extra time I was meant to have, but we have given a guarantee that we would finish at 5.00 pm so I will do so. I would be happy to debate this with the Premier at some other time.

Mr Peter Dowding: Let's do it.

Mr TRENORDEN: I would be more than happy to do so. Several other matters get up the noses of the people in the area I represent. Recently, both the Town of Northam and the Town of Narrogin have been told no money is available for townscapes - yet any amount of money is available for townscapes in Bunbury and Collie. It is only because they are marginal seats - not for long, I might add, in the case of Collie. However, despite the lack of funds for Narrogin, representatives of the Town of Narrogin were asked to go down to those two communities to tell them how to do it. Narrogin will have to do its own townscape with its own dollars because no way will the State Government provide any money. Months after those places were knocked back, both Collie and Bunbury received over \$100 000. We all know why. The reasons smell so much it is unbelievable. The Government has the gall to say the only people entitled to that sort of money live in the marginal areas. That is incredible!

Our job is to tell country people that the services and things we want to establish in those areas - and in the city - will not be put in place due to the habits of the Western Australian Government over the last five years.

MR PETER DOWDING (Maylands - Premier) [5.01 pm]: I am amazed at the members of the Opposition because I would have thought when they came to Parliament on Tuesday they were probably as close to a winning streak as possible. They seemed to have everything running for them. They were buoyant, enthusiastic, and they thought they were about to knock us dead. What has changed? Today we have a proposition, which I assume has the endorsement of the Leader of the Opposition, from the member for Applecross that somehow or other if someone says to me, my officers or my representatives, things that the Bond Corporation has said, those remarks should not be made public.

The member for Applecross suggested those matters should not be made public; they should be kept secret. When the Government is threatened in that way, according to the member for Applecross, with the concurrence of the Leader of the Opposition, those matters should never be mentioned. Not only that, I am some lesser person because he alleges I have not been prepared to speak outside the confines of this House. That is false. I have made many statements outside this House over the last three days. That member took the opportunity for a cowardly and unfounded attack on the integrity of someone who has provided a service for a fee to our Government - cowardly, because he had not one single justification for that attack, and unprincipled because he is not prepared to say that outside the House.

I warned the people of Western Australia that the instant the consultants who had done work for the Government were named, the Opposition would turn on them and challenge their integrity. I read an article recently about Malcolm Turnbull which stated he had the ambition to become a Liberal Prime Minister. I do not know what Mr Turnbull's politics are; I do not know how he votes. I can only tell the House that he, along with his father-in-law, Tom Hughes QC, are two of the most eminent legal practitioners in this country whose integrity would be in no way challenged except by the Opposition benches of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia. Tom Hughes, whom I have acted both with and against, and Malcolm Turnbull, who has worked as a professional for the

Government, are two people who would act for those people who retained them. This House can be sure of their integrity, honesty, dedication and toughness.

It is an extraordinary thing that, having acted for the Government and supplied the Government with a report in a proper way about what was said to them, their integrity is now impugned. For some reason it is now proposed that what was wrong about that is that there was some sort of agreement that none of those things would ever reach the public; that somehow or other someone had given an undertaking that the Government could be threatened but no-one would ever tell the people of Western Australia. I tell the Opposition that I never made that undertaking; perhaps it was the Leader of the Opposition in the Sheraton Garden Restaurant, or other groups from the Opposition who have been involved in meetings and have said those sorts of things. They have not been said by this Government.

In the time allowed I cannot reply to all the assertions which have been made. One of the most damaging things that the member for Applecross said in his extremely wild and unprincipled speech was that there would not be sufficient gas for the petrochemical project. If people want to scare off such a project, that is what should be said. To the member for Applecross I say, that is not true. It is an outrage that he, without justification, should make that sort of public assertion.

I want to tie that into what the member for Floreat said earlier about the way people overseas speak of us. I went overseas and went through the boardrooms of most major banks and merchant banks in London. The people overseas were amazed at the ferocity of our domestic political debate. They said one of the things that would damage Australia's integrity was the way in which members of the Opposition from Western Australia and Australia travelled the world and denigrated the Governments of their home country and home State. That was extraordinary to the people in those boardrooms. They had never seen that from another country. I tried to pass it off by saying we have a very ferocious political system in Australia. But that did not excuse, in their view, the sort of behaviour and comments of members opposite while overseas. Everyone in those boardrooms understood that at times failures in the corporate sector occur for a whole variety of reasons. They pointed me towards the savings and loans societies in America which have fallen over due to mismanagement, incompetence, and in some cases corruption. The cost to the community of the United States of America is such a fantastically large amount of money that it is hard to accommodate. It will cost that country \$380 billion. When we think that the Vietnam war cost that community only \$320 billion we can realise the enormous magnitude of collapse of those organisations. There is currently a row between the Congress and the President about whether that cost will come straight from the taxpayers or in some other way.

Those problems are not dissimilar to some of the problems we have in respect of these organisations in Western Australia which have been corrected so that we are now able to get back to a very stable situation with our credit societies and building societies.

In respect of the motion upon which members opposite waxed lyrical -

Mr Lewis: Tell us about the contingent liability.

Mr PETER DOWDING: I will tell you about that. We have very firm advice that Bond Corporation has no likelihood of a successful action against the Government. That advice comes from both private sector lawyers and public sector lawyers retained by the Western Australian Government.

What is being said to the Government in the course of commercial negotiations by Bond Corporation ought to be absolutely unacceptable to members opposite as well as to members on this side of the House. There is no ground for running for cover or trying to get around the fact that we have had put to us by Bond Corporation propositions which are absolutely unacceptable.

I remind members opposite that I said at the time that we had been threatened with dire political and commercial consequences. The Bond Corporation's intention was to bring the Government down and to work with the Opposition for the destruction of the Government. The Bond Corporation went further than that and told us matters about which we have no evidence except what has come out in the admissions over the last couple of days. The Bond Corporation told us that it was conniving with the Opposition.

The shame of this and previous debates this week is that the Opposition has sought to

transfer its attacks to anybody who supported the fact that these words were uttered. Firstly, it attacked my integrity by saying that I was lying. I have given the Opposition irrefutable support from a man of great integrity that these words were said.

Mr Clarko: Paid for by you.

Mr PETER DOWDING: Does the Opposition deny these words were said? How could the Opposition attack the integrity of a professional person.

I will not subject public servants to the sort of attack on their integrity that the Opposition is now turning on Mr Turnbull. The words uttered to me, to our advisers and to those people negotiating on behalf of the Government were contained in the speech I gave on Tuesday. The support for the truth that those statements were actually uttered rests not only on my shoulders or on the shoulders of Malcolm Turnbull, but also on the shoulders of a number of public servants and other parties who work for the Government.

I give the Opposition the assurance that what I say is the truth in this matter. However, I will not subject those people to the sort of denigration that the Opposition has now directed at Mr Turnbull.

MR HASSELL (Cottesloe) [5.12 pm]: What the Premier has been saying is undoubtedly important. However, what we have seen in this House in the past three days has been the greatest episode of stuntsmanship since Brian Burke was in full flight. We came into this Parliament this week with the public's expectation that what would be examined, debated and pursued by Parliament was the conduct of the Government and the Premier. The Premier is accountable to the Parliament for his conduct over a period now exceeding 12 months. That is the issue. This motion is about the stuntsmanship of the past few days with the Premier trying to paint himself as the hero of the people fighting off the wicked Bond people. He has tried to divert attention from his own conduct and to twist the matter around so that he is perceived by the public as the man who took on Bond who was trying to stand over him.

As I have said since the Premier made his remarks on Tuesday, I regard the allegations of what the executives of the Bond Corporation said to the Premier and Malcolm Turnbull - although their stories are a bit different - to be very serious and probably an offence against a Statute, despite the opinion of the Solicitor General.

Mr Peter Dowding: Are you having a go at the Solicitor General now?

Mr HASSELL: I am disagreeing with him; is that permitted or do we have to agree with the Premier all the time? The Premier wants to bounce everybody. His is the only opinion that is permitted! He should dry up. He had his say and now I am having mine.

I believe that if the Bond Corporation did what the Premier and Mr Turnbull said it did, it should be investigated with a view to charges being laid. I have supported that proposition since Tuesday. Interestingly, the Premier has not supported that proposition. That is the ultimate proof that the Premier has been stunting for three days.

Mr Peter Dowding: That is not true.

Mr HASSELL: We are talking about the substance of what saved this State from the petrochemical deal and the claims that the Premier entered into those negotiations secretly. The problem is not that the Premier did not tell the public things that were commercially confidential about the deals that had been done; it is that he misled the public about the deals that had been done. The Premier's petition that was lodged with the Supreme Court is not our invention; it is the Premier's official document through WA Government Holdings which he controls. Paragraph 17 of that petition states -

Shortly after the negotiations with the Banks in January 1989, doubts were expressed by Counsel instructed by the solicitors for the Banks as to the validity of the guarantee from the Treasurer required under the Second Deed, based on Counsel's interpretation of section 5(1) of the Northern Mining Corporation (Acquisition) Act 1983 and section 72 of the Constitution Act (52 Victoria No. 23). As a result of the doubts expressed by Counsel, the Banks declined to proceed to arrange Project Finance on the basis contemplated by the Shareholders Agreement.

The people were not told of that before the election. The people of this State voted on the

record of this Government without knowing that it had entered into commitments to support the petrochemical project with interim finance, to underwrite the petrochemical project in its operational phase and, in particular, to support and underwrite the energy requirements of the petrochemical project. That fraud was committed against the public. The Premier said that he made the brave decisions, that he fought off the Bond Corporation, and that he saved the State. The truth is that the State was saved by the Constitution which said that what he had done in July and October 1988 was illegal. That is what saved the State.

The Premier tried to circumvent the Constitution and in January made a secret deal before the election with the Bond Corporation that he would introduce the petrochemical authority legislation. When he introduced that legislation he did not say that the Government was introducing it to overcome the legal deficiencies of the deal it had made before. Even after the election he was telling half the truth and misleading the public. Even then the Government continued the charade. It went on with its disgraceful conduct. It said that it was introducing the Bill to satisfy the Burt report. The truth was it had done the deal with the Bond Corporation to introduce the legislation and the Liberal and National Parties, using the constitutional power of this Parliament, threw out the petrochemical authority legislation and thereby saved the State from the enormous obligations that the Government had secretly entered into, but which are now shown to have been illegally entered into.

That is the truth of the situation. The carry-on from the Premier in this House for three days in relation to how he is fighting off the Bond Corporation is so much nonsense. He could have come to the Parliament on Tuesday and made a statement about the Bond Corporation; he could have provided a record of what had happened and what Turnbull said, and told the House that he was now referring the matter to the appropriate authorities for action. Instead he has fiddled around for three days trying to get the focus off himself and his conduct which has proved to be, and is on the record as being, dishonest, dishonourable and downright deceitful. This amendment puts the matter in perspective; it was the Constitution of this State and the Legislative Council which saved Western Australia from the petrochemical project. It was not the Premier, Peter Dowding.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (24)			
Mr Ainsworth	Mr Grayden	Mr McNece	Mr Thompson
Mr Bradshaw	Mr Hassell	Mr Mensaros	Mr Trenorden
Mr Clarko	Mr House	Mr Minson	Mr Fred Tubby
Mr Court	Mr Kierath	Mr Omodei	Dr Turnbull
Mr Cowan	Mr Lewis	Mr Shave	Mr Watt
Mrs Edwardes	Mr MacKinnon	Mr Strickland	Mr Blaikie (Teller)
Noes (28)			
Mrs Beggs	Mr Graham	Mr Marlborough	Mr Taylor
Mr Carr	Mr Grill	Mr Parker	Mr Thomas
Mr Catania	Mrs Henderson	Mr Pearce	Mr Troy
Mr Cunningham	Mr Gordon Hill	Mr Read	Mrs Watkins
Mr Donovan	Mr Kobelke	Mr Ripper	Dr Watson
Mr Peter Dowding	Dr Lawrence	Mr D.L. Smith	Mr Wilson
Dr Gallop	Mr Leahy	Mr P.J. Smith	Mrs Buchanan (Teller)
Pair			
Aye		Noe	
Mr Nicholls		Mr Bridge	

Amendment thus negatived.

Motion Resumed

Question put and passed; the Address-in-Reply thus adopted.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (FINANCIAL INTERESTS) BILL*Second Reading*

MR PETER DOWDING (Maylands - Premier) [5.27 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The contents of this Bill should be well known to all those present because, as we all know, it is not the first time this proposition has been before the Parliament. The fact that the principles contained in this Bill have been rejected by the Opposition in the past does not lessen the Government's determination to proceed with it. This is a Bill for an Act to require members of this Parliament to publicly register their financial interests. It is a mirror of the Bill brought to the Parliament in 1985, which in turn was substantially modelled on the Members of Parliament (Financial Interests) Bill 1983, which was rejected by Opposition members in December 1983.

Public disclosure of the financial interests of members of Parliament is a longstanding commitment of the Labor Party, at both State and Federal levels. I note at this stage the comments of Mr Fitzgerald in his report to the Queensland Government on this matter when he said, "The financial interests of any parliamentarian or person in authority are of public significance. Such interests can result in conflicts between public duty and private interest." On several occasions the Government has spelt out its attitude on this matter. I make no apology for repeating the comments it has made in the past. The Government believes that members of Parliament, as trustees of the public confidence, ought to disclose their financial interests to demonstrate to the electorate that they have not been, nor will be, influenced in their official business by considerations of private gain. The disclosure of interests by members of Parliament is a desirable and necessary step to maintain public confidence that members are discharging their public duties without bias, and free of the influence of private interests or personal advantage. It will reinforce the well recognised principle that any conflict between public duty and private interests should preferably be avoided altogether, but, at very least, always declared. The public confidence which a measure of this kind will encourage is an important part of a healthy parliamentary democracy. Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory all require disclosure of the financial interests of members of Parliament.

It has been claimed by some who oppose this Bill that the requirements are an invasion of privacy. Again I draw on the comments of Mr Fitzgerald. He said the privacy of members of Parliament is important but it is arguably outweighed by the need for decision-makers to be accountable for their decisions, with part of that accountability being the exposure of the decision-maker to scrutiny for conflicting or ulterior motives. A member of the community who voluntarily seeks public office must accept the responsibilities which go with that office. Part of that responsibility, and one of the results of public life, is that one's private affairs become subject to greater public scrutiny than would otherwise be the case. Part of the acceptable public scrutiny which can and should take place so far as a member of Parliament is concerned, is that of his or her financial interests. This allows the public to ensure that decisions made are not affected by conflicts of interests.

I do not propose to go through the Bill clause by clause, given that it is a mirror image of the Bill introduced in 1985. I will deal briefly with the clause which addresses the question of improper use of the information which would flow from the Bill. Clause 19 places restrictions on publication by members of Parliament of information contained in the financial interests register. It provides that a member shall not publish in the course of proceedings any information derived from a register unless that information constitutes a fair and accurate report or summary of the information contained in the register, and is published in good faith. Any comment by a member in the course of proceedings on the facts in the register must be fair, and published in good faith. A member who publishes within Parliament, contrary to these restrictions, is guilty of a contempt for which the House may deal with him or her accordingly. The word "publish" is given the same meaning as is assigned to it in the Criminal Code for the purposes of defamation. A person who publishes information or comment outside Parliament will be subject to the usual laws in respect of defamation.

Clause 20 provides that where a member wilfully contravenes or fails to comply with the

disclosure provisions, the member is guilty of a contempt of the House of which he or she is a member, for which the House may deal with him or her accordingly.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Mensaros.

DAYLIGHT SAVING BILL

Second Reading

MR PETER DOWDING (Maylands - Premier) {5.32 pm}: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

In May this year the State Government announced its intention to introduce daylight saving in Western Australia on a permanent basis. The support for the Government's move from the community at large, and from the business, commercial and industrial sectors, has confirmed the Government's belief that community attitudes towards daylight saving have changed significantly since it was introduced on a trial basis in 1983. Since that time there has been growing support for daylight saving in Western Australia from many thousands of ordinary West Australians, and from sections of the business community; in particular from companies doing business with the Eastern States. The Australian Stock Exchange (Perth) Limited has told the Government that the majority of its members fully support the introduction of daylight saving into Western Australia. The advantages to the business and finance community have been debated many times, and rather than repeat them again at this stage I believe it is sufficient to say they have given us their fullest support in this matter.

The Western Australian Chamber of Commerce has for many years had a policy in support of maintaining only a two-hour time differential between Western Australia and the Eastern States. The Confederation of Western Australian Industry has also expressed support for the Government's proposal, along with the Master Builders Association in Western Australia, which has highlighted the increased efficiency and productivity that such a move would bring.

Many members of the public are also in favour of greater daylight hours for leisure. It is almost six years since the public last experienced daylight saving, and it is quite clear that any referendum decision one way or the other would be decided by only a narrow margin. It would be more appropriate to resolve the issue in a representative way rather than by incurring the expense of a referendum, and the Government has reached a decision to propose that daylight saving be introduced on 3 December. The Bill before the House provides that daylight saving shall commence on Sunday, 3 December 1989; at 2.00 am the clock will be advanced one hour in advance of standard time until 2.00 am on 18 March 1990. This is consistent with the States of South Australia, Victoria, and Tasmania, and up until this year, New South Wales, which will finish daylight saving on the first Sunday in March as from next year.

It is important to note that the National Party Government in Queensland has moved to introduce daylight saving this year on a trial basis. A change to daylight saving would foster more orderly business links between Western Australia and the Eastern States, as well as save time and money and make life less frustrating for travellers. Without daylight saving this summer, Western Australia would again face a situation of having only three hours or less of effective communication with the rest of Australia. We simply cannot afford such a heavy self-handicap in an increasingly competitive business environment.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Cowan (Leader of the National Party.)

[Questions without notice taken.]

House adjourned at 6.06 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ROTHWELLS LTD - GOVERNMENT INDEMNITY *National Australia Bank - Cabinet Authorisation*

371. Mr HASSELL to the Treasurer:

- (1) With reference to question 185 of 1989 and the answer thereto, which indicated in paragraph (4) that the National Australia Bank indemnity was considered by Cabinet, did the Minister sidestep my previous question as to whether the indemnity was authorised by Cabinet and, if so, why?
- (2) Is the Minister now prepared to give a direct answer to the question: Was the indemnity authorised by Cabinet?
- (3) If the Minister is not prepared to give a direct answer, why not?
- (4) On what date was the indemnity either considered or authorised by Cabinet?
- (5) If this consideration or authorisation occurred after the indemnity was given, was the indemnity ratified by Cabinet retrospectively?
- (6) With reference to paragraph (7) of question 185 of 1989 and the answer thereto, why was advice not obtained as to the constitutional propriety or authority of the Executive or the Premier to give such an indemnity before the indemnity was in fact given?
- (7) Was the giving of such an indemnity by the Executive extraordinary and unusual, and in such circumstances should the Government have taken proper legal advice as to its authority and powers?
- (8) Has the Government considered the consequences of the giving of the indemnity in these circumstances being held to be beyond the constitutional limits of the Executive's powers?
- (9) If so what action does the Government propose to take to overcome any presumed or possible illegality or unconstitutionality?
- (10) Alternatively is the Government prepared to positively assert that the indemnity was properly given by the Premier within the constitutional powers of the Executive and is therefore constitutionally sound?

Mr PARKER replied:

The member has been replied to in writing.

ROTHWELLS LTD - GOVERNMENT INDEMNITY *National Australia Bank - Deputy Premier's Discussions*

413. Mr MacKINNON to the Deputy Premier:

- (1) Has the Deputy Premier had any discussions with the National Australia Bank in the last 10 days in an effort to resolve his dispute with the bank with respect to the \$150 million Rothwells indemnity - and so assist with the liquidator's scheme to return funds to small depositors?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If yes, what has been the outcome of those discussions?

Mr PARKER replied:

The member has been replied to in writing.

LIVESTOCK - LAMBS *Carcases - Imports and Exports*

444. Mr McNEE to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Will the Minister please advise -
 - (a) the total number of lambs imported into Western Australia in carcase and carton form from the Eastern States in 1988-89;

- (b) how many of these imports were re-exported overseas by the Western Australian Meat Marketing Corporation or consumed locally;
 - (c) the total number of lambs slaughtered in Western Australia in 1988-89;
 - (d) the total number of carcasses of Western Australian lambs exported; and
 - (e) the total number of carcasses of Western Australian lambs consumed locally?
- (2) Of the total number of Western Australian lambs consumed locally, how many lambs were supplied by -
- (a) the Western Australian private sector; and
 - (b) the Western Australian Meat Marketing Corporation?
- (3) What was the average weight of -
- (a) Western Australian lambs exported; and
 - (b) Western Australian lambs consumed locally?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) (a) I am advised by the Health Department, which inspects and records imports, that -
- 166 439 carcasses; and
3 198 cartons of lamb products
- were imported from the Eastern States in 1988-89;
- (b) the Western Australian Meat Marketing Corporation imported 21 708 lamb carcasses and 1 012 cartons of lamb products. Lamb carcasses were processed into primal cuts, the majority of which were exported, and the cartons were for domestic consumption;
- (c) abattoirs declared that 940 452 lambs were slaughtered;
- (d) 84 381 carcasses plus 3 726 tonnes of primal cuts and offals; and
- (e) 592 424 carcasses plus 791 tonnes of primal cuts, off-cuts and offals.
- (2) At the time of the slaughter, all lambs - except those exempted under section 20 of the Marketing of Meat Act 1971 - are the property of the WAMMC and are slaughtered for or on behalf of the WAMMC.
- (a) Country abattoir operators holding agency agreements to slaughter lambs on behalf of the WAMMC purchased 442 574 lambs from the WAMMC for domestic consumption; and
 - (b) the WAMMC supplied, in addition to the 791 tonnes of lamb products identified in (1)(e), 149 850 lambs slaughtered at export works for domestic consumption.
- (3) (a) Exported in carcase form - 14.53kg, cold weight.
- It is the WAMMC's policy to export lighter weight lambs in carcase form and to process the heavier lambs into primal cuts.
- (b) 15.24kg, cold weight.

PRISONERS - GRAYLANDS HOSPITAL
Mentally Disturbed

468. Mr HASSELL to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many prisoners -
- (a) found "not guilty" by reason of insanity;
 - (b) found "guilty" but considered to require medical treatment for mental illness

- are currently in Graylands Hospital?
- (2) What maximum number in each category have been at Graylands Hospital at one time in each month of this year?
 - (3) What number in each category were at Graylands Hospital on -
 - (a) 31 January; and
 - (b) 31 July
 in each of the years 1985-88 inclusive?
 - (4) What offences against the person were committed by each prisoner referred to in (1)?
 - (5) What security arrangements currently apply at Graylands Hospital in relation to prisoners taken to or kept at that hospital?
 - (6) When was a continuous guard from the prisons service or the police last used in connection with the visit or holding of a prisoner at Graylands Hospital?
 - (7) In connection with the proposed security units for mentally disturbed offenders to be established at Graylands Hospital -
 - (a) what stage has the proposal reached in planning and implementation;
 - (b) has it been approved by Cabinet;
 - (c) what is the proposed capacity;
 - (d) what security is proposed;
 - (e) what classification will apply to that security -
 - (i) low;
 - (ii) medium;
 - (iii) high; or
 - (iv) maximum;
 - (f) will it be manned by prison officers, male or female;
 - (g) why is the unit required;
 - (h) is it correct that it is being built in addition to facilities at Casuarina;
 - (i) have medical and paramedical staff objected to working at Casuarina or in prisons;
 - (j) what is the reason for duplicating facilities at Casuarina and Graylands;
 - (k) can the Minister say there is no danger to children at the local schools or in the surrounding suburbs;
 - (l) if not, what can the Minister say about the level of risk to children in particular and people generally in surrounding areas;
 - (m) does the Minister say this is a suitable and appropriate establishment for a newly established and expanding residential area; and
 - (n) is the Minister concerned it will be adjacent to John XXIII College?
 - (8) In connection with such facilities under construction at Casuarina -
 - (a) what is their capacity;
 - (b) what will be their level of security;
 - (c) what treatment facilities will be available there; and
 - (d) who will provide that treatment?
 - (9) How many prisoners of the categories described in (1) are there on average in Western Australian prisons?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) (a) Four, and
(b) three.

(2)	1989	Not Guilty	Guilty
	End of January	4	1
	February	4	1
	March	4	3
	April	4	Nil
	May	5	1
	June	4	3
	July	5	1

(3)	1985	Not Guilty	Guilty
	January	5	Nil
	July	6	2
	1986		
	January	3	Nil
	June	3	2
	1987		
	January	3	3
	June	5	Nil
	1988		
	January	6	Nil
	July	6	Nil

(4)	Not Guilty		
	Attempted Killing		
	Attempted Murder		
	Wilful Murder		
	Wilful Murder	Total	4
	Guilty		
	Stealing		
	Wilful Murder		
	Armed Robbery	Total	3

- (5) Before being transferred from gaol, the prison superintendent reviews the security required and, if he considers that the level of security possible in the hospital might be insufficient to ensure the continuing custody of the prisoner, he may appoint a prison officer to take charge of the prisoner - in accordance with section 27(3) of the 1981 Prisons Act. In other cases, where no prison officer is in charge of custody of the prisoner, it is up to the treating psychiatrist to determine whether the prisoner is housed in a secure ward, taking into consideration the security classification of the prisoner, a full risk assessment, and the best treatment environment, depending on the mental state of the prisoner.

- (6) There is currently a prison officer in Graylands maintaining guard.

- (7) (a) Preliminary;
(b) yes;
(c) 30 beds;
(d) strict custody;
(e) high;
(f) the staffing will be mental health professionals from the Health Department of WA;

- (g) to ensure that mentally ill offenders are treated at the same standard as that of mentally ill non-offenders;
 - (h) a 34 bed medical facility is being developed at Casuarina. This consists of 24 general medical beds and a six bed psychiatric section. Day areas will be used jointly by medical and psychiatric patients and both sections will share a common staff complement. The psychiatric beds will be used for assessment to determine the need for specialist treatment and for staging psychiatrically disordered offenders back into the prison system from Graylands. An area with four single rooms will be available for acute medical observation; for example, toxic states and drug withdrawal states;
 - (i) not to my knowledge. However, concerns have been raised about professional isolation for health staff working in a prison setting. This has been found to be a major problem in the recruitment and maintenance of high quality staff in other States and it has compromised the quality of services available for mentally disordered offenders;
 - (j) the facilities are not duplicated; rather, they complement each other to provide an appropriate range of assessment and treatment facilities for mentally disordered offenders;
 - (k) it is impossible to give an absolute guarantee of safety in any circumstances. However, the danger to local residents from the patients in Graylands will be no greater than the danger to the population as a whole;
 - (l) the level of risk, after the occupation of the proposed secure unit, will be no greater than that in the current situation;
 - (m) yes; and
 - (n) no.
- (8)(a)-(d) The secure unit planned for Graylands does not duplicate facilities being developed at Casuarina.
- (9) This question should be referred to the Minister for Corrective Services.

ROTHWELLS LTD - COLLAPSE
Attorney General - Inquiry Report

506. Mr HASSELL to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Has the Attorney General received any interim or final report, whether formal or informal, oral or in writing concerning the investigation of the Rothwells Ltd collapse?
- (2) If so, what report has been received?
- (3) Will the Minister exercise the Minister's lawful discretion to make the report public?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) When does the Attorney General anticipate that charges will be laid in respect of the enormous losses incurred in the collapse of Rothwells as set forth in the interim report of the National Companies and Securities Commission to the Ministerial Council on Companies and Securities?
- (6) What is the reason for the continuing delay in action being taken in relation to this matter?
- (7) What is the progress of investigations?
- (8) When is it anticipated that investigations will be completed?
- (9) Has the Attorney General discussed the matter with -
 - (a) the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs; and

(b) Mr Malcolm McCusker, QC?

- (10) In particular, have any discussions been held by the Attorney General with either of those office holders concerning charges which may, might or could be considered or laid against any Minister of the Crown?
- (11) Has the Attorney General given any direction whether formal or informal, orally or in writing in relation to the conduct of the investigations or any aspect of them, whether such direction may have been given directly or indirectly or through a third party or at the behest or with the knowledge of the Attorney General?
- (12) If so, what are the details?
- (13) Of the total investigations staff currently employed by, available to or seconded to the corporate affairs authorities, how many are committed to the Rothwells investigation and how many are committed to all the other work of enforcement of the corporate affairs laws?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Various oral reports of an informal and interim nature have been provided by the special investigator, Mr Malcolm McCusker, QC, and the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs.
- (3) No.
- (4) On the basis of discussion with the special investigator and the commissioner, and on their advice that release at this stage would be contrary to the public interest and might prejudice the investigation.
- (5) Several charges have already been laid. The question of further charges and the timing of them is a matter for the inspector conducting the Rothwells Ltd special investigation.
- (6) I am not aware of any delay.
- (7)-(8) See answer to (4).
- (9) (a)-(b)
Yes.
- (10) As has been previously indicated, questions of this nature are improper. Inquiries, whether by the police, the Corporate Affairs Department or other investigatory authorities are inappropriate for public comment unless proceedings are initiated or, where proceedings are not initiated, the matter is the subject of official report.
- (11) No.
- (12) Not applicable.
- (13) The Commissioner for Corporate Affairs advises that 11 investigators - including attached detectives - are presently working full time on the Rothwells special investigation. Five other professional and support staff are working full time on the investigation. A number of other staff work part time or from time to time on the investigation. The total full time investigation resource of the department is presently 40. This figure does not include Mr Malcolm McCusker, QC, other external consultants employed from time to time or other specialist staff assigned to investigations from time to time on a needs basis, as these figures may fluctuate on a daily basis.

SWAN BUILDING SOCIETY - LOSSES

Government Payments

508. Mr HASSELL to the Treasurer:

- (1) How much has been paid by the Government and to whom in respect of losses by the Swan Building Society?

- (2) What is the estimated total amount yet to be paid and to whom in respect of those losses?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) The Government has -
- provided from the Consolidated Revenue Fund advances totalling \$16 639 870 to Swan Building Society for projected losses on its loan portfolio and legal costs; and
 - provided from the industry levy fund established under section 92A(7) of the Building Societies Act -
- (a) \$1 411 756 to recoup Home Building Society for advances related to losses associated with the Mandurah agency and other costs; and
 - (b) the balance of the fund, namely \$113 019 to Swan Building Society to be applied to projected losses on its loan portfolio.
- (2) The need for further advances is dependent upon the outcome of civil recovery actions against the remaining Swan debtors.

SMOKING - PROHIBITIONS

Legislation

511. Mr HASSELL to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is there any legislation which requires -
- (a) restaurateurs to divide facilities into smoking and non-smoking areas; and
 - (b) employers to prevent their employees from smoking while at work?
- (2) Are there any regulations in force or proposed to require hotels and places of accommodation to distinguish between smoking and non-smoking areas?
- (3) Which Government departments prohibit smoking in workplaces?
- (4) Is there any planned extension of these prohibitions?
- (5) On which areas of Government owned public transport is smoking prohibited?
- (6) On which areas of privately owned public transport is smoking prohibited?
- (7) Is smoking permitted on the Bunbury train?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) (a) No, other than that relating to food hygiene - the Health Act 1911 food hygiene amendment regulations 1985; and
- (b) this question should be directed to the Minister for Labour.
- (2) No.
- (3)-(4) This question should be directed to the Minister for Labour.
- (5) This question should be directed to the Minister for Transport.
- (6) The Government does not maintain records on this.
- (7) No.

STATE ELECTIONS - FEBRUARY 1989

Wages/Salaries - Costs

512. Mr MENSAROS to the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Reform:

- (1) What is the amount in round figures which was spent for the cost of wages/salaries throughout the State for people helping on election day, 4 February 1989, other than permanent officers of the Western Australian Electoral Commission?

- (2) What was the amount in round figures spent on wages/salaries for people helping in the count after the State election in February this year?
- (3) What was the amount in round figures spent for hiring premises for counting votes after the election this year?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) \$1 690 000.
- (2) \$190 000.
- (3) \$5 000.

WATER AUTHORITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA - MANAGING DIRECTOR
Appointment Advertisements - Applications

513. Mr MENSAROS to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) When and through which media was the position of Managing Director of the Water Authority of Western Australia advertised?
- (2) How many applications have been received -
 - (a) from Western Australia;
 - (b) from other States of Australia; and
 - (c) from overseas?
- (3) Has a short list of applicants been recommended and, if so, by whom?
- (4) Would the Minister be prepared to either table the short list or let me see the list privately?
- (5) When can an appointment be expected?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) *The West Australian* and *The Weekend Australian* newspapers on 3 June 1989.
- (2) This information is confidential under the Public Service Act.
- (3) As in (2).
- (4) No.
- (5) As in (2).

WATER AUTHORITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA - PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

Expenditure - Percentage Details

514. Mr MENSAROS to the Minister for Water Resources:

Could the Minister please show the percentage spent on each of the four items shown under "Expenditure" in the profit and loss statement of the Western Australian Water Authority 30 June 1988 annual report showing -

- (a) operating expenses;
- (b) interest expense;
- (c) depreciation; and
- (d) maintenance expenditure

for each of the years from and including 1980-87?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

The 1980-85 figures for predecessor entities of Metropolitan Water Authority and Country Water Supply operations of the Public Works Department prior to 1 July 1985 are not comparable and therefore are not included.

	Operating Expense	Interest Expense	Deprec- iation	Mainten- ance Equalisa- tion
	(1a)	(1b)	(1c)	(1d)
1985-86	58.3	26.3	13.9	1.5
1986-87	55.5	27.7	15.2	1.6
1987-88	57.1	27.5	15.4	-

STATE FINANCE - CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND
*Building Management Authority - Water Authority of Western
 Australia*

515. Mr MENSAROS to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) What was the actual amount of Consolidated Revenue Fund expenditure by the Building Management Authority and after the takeover, the ongoing current expenditure by the Water Authority of Western Australia for country water undertakings in each financial year from 1980-81 to 1987-88?
- (2) What was the amount of Government subsidy towards this Consolidated Revenue Fund and ongoing current expenditure respectively in the same financial years?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

Year	Country Operations Ongoing Current Expenditure	Government Subsidy		Remarks
	\$'000	\$'000		
1980-81	51 314	51 314)	Public Works
1980-81	51 314	51 314)	Public Works
1981-82	57 962	57 962)	Department
1982-83	64 039	64 039)	country
1983-84	68 991	68 991)	operations.
1984-85	75 138	75 138)	
1985-86	74 201	16 899)	Water Authority
1986-87	84 213	22 277)	of WA country
1987-88	103 834	25 670)	operations.

In 1987-88 the Government subsidy included the following items -

- (1) Pemberton Trout Hatchery (Big Brook Dam) \$0.071 million
- (2) New Government Superannuation Scheme
 - (a) Employer Contributions \$0.618 million
 - (b) Lump Sum Payments to Ex-PWD employees \$2.277 million

Funding for local authority sewerage scheme which is administered by the authority has been excluded.

FAMILY COURT - INTERSTATE PARTIES
Proceedings Difficulties

518. Mr HASSELL to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Is the Attorney General aware of the difficulty encountered by interstate parties in relation to Family Court proceedings?
- (2) What action is taken by the Family Court to minimise and alleviate those difficulties?
- (3) Is it correct that the Family Court has power to receive evidence on affidavit?
- (4) Is that power regularly used, especially to minimise the difficulties of interstate litigants and those who must travel great distances?

- (5) Are proceedings of the Family Court able to be formally served by post?
- (6) If post is used, is it ordinary post or registered or certified mail?
- (7) What happens when a litigant who is served by post does not receive the proceedings and is prejudiced?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1) Yes. There are always difficulties in all civil jurisdictions when parties reside in different States.
- (2) A party can apply to the Family Court for transfer of proceedings to another State. The court has to determine that question bearing in mind costs, convenience, delay, witness availability, etc.
- (3) Yes. The Family Law rules require evidence-in-chief to be given by affidavit, but attendance is necessary if the deponent is sought to be cross-examined.
- (4) See (3). In exceptional situations, arrangements are made for a judge to hear part of a case in one city and the balance in another.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Ordinary.
- (7) The court does not usually accept that service by post has been properly effected until a signed acknowledgment of receipt is produced.

FAMILY COURT - WIGS AND GOWNS

Reintroduction

524. Mr HASSELL to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Has consideration been given to the reintroduction of wigs and gowns in the Family Court of Western Australia?
- (2) Has any representation been made to the Attorney General in relation to the matter?
- (3) Has the practice of using wigs and gowns been reintroduced in the Family Court of Australia?
- (4) What is the view of the Attorney General in relation to this matter?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

(1), (2), (4)

The matter has been raised with the Attorney General and is being considered. Any change to the present arrangements would require an amendment to the Family Court Act.

- (3) The prohibition in the Family Law Act against wigs and gowns in the Family Court of Australia was recently repealed. The judges of that court then decided to wear wigs and gowns for trials.

EVENTSCORP - RALLY AUSTRALIA

Role

527. Mr COURT to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) What role is EventsCorp playing in the running of Rally Australia 1989, the first round the world rally championship?
- (2) What is the total expenditure to date in relation to this project?
- (3) What is the budgeted total expenditure for the project?
- (4) How much of this money will be recouped?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) EventsCorp successfully negotiated in 1987 for Perth to be Australia's host for a round of the longstanding international World Rally Championship. Under an agreement with the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport,

EventsCorp organises finances and promotes Rally Australia utilising a wide range of Western Australian companies and services.

(2)-(4)

Expenditure on Rally Australia 1989, budgeted at \$1 450 000, as at 30 July expenditure was \$208 000.

EventsCorp and the Government have taken a long term view to the investment in this project, a decision based on the potential for direct impact on the economy from the annual visitation of tourists and competitors, stimulation of local tourism activity and the benefit it brings to tourist operators in Perth and the regions around Perth. There is also the obvious, but not directly measurable very significant promotion of the State to a worldwide audience by the attendance of media and major corporate executives. In this, its first year, it is expected to produce 5 000 room nights for Perth hotels from competitors, officials and media alone. In the future, as a round of the world championship, we expect it to generate substantial spectator/tourist numbers.

(4) In 1989, the first year that the world championship has been to Perth, EventsCorp expects to recoup through various means, primarily sponsorship, a total of \$720 000. In future years the project will benefit from economies as a result of earlier investments and experience and increased income from spectators and sponsorship. Continued State Government support is not inappropriate. An annual world championship of this status is a major coup and opportunity for Western Australia that calls for support.

EXPO '88 - BRISBANE

Western Australia - Involvement Cost

532. Mr COURT to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Has the final cost of Western Australia's involvement at Brisbane's Expo '88 through the Western Australian exhibition been established?
- (2) If yes, what was the final cost?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) The Government approved a budget of \$3 580 000 to participate in World Expo '88. EventsCorp, which managed the project, returned \$170 802 to Treasury, representing a saving on the budget.
- (2) The final cost to the State was therefore \$3 409 198. This is the total cost for construction and operation. The project was in all ways highly successful. An amount of \$1 777 462.04 of Western Australian product was sold directly through the WA Expo Shop. The Western Australian Pavilion generated more media coverage than any other single pavilion and received unqualified support from Western Australian industry for its promotion of the State both as a tourism destination and a producer.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION - UNLISTED COMPANIES

Interest

534. Mr COURT to the Premier:

What unlisted companies does the Western Australian Development Corporation have an interest in?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

All companies in which the corporation currently has a significant interest were included in my answer to question 453.

GOLD CORPORATION - RESERVE BANK

Gold Borrowings

540. Mr COURT to the Premier:

- (1) What total facility did Gold Corporation have to borrow gold from the Reserve Bank?

(2) How much gold has been borrowed?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) The facility was up to 100 000 ounces until 30 June 1989, and for the year beginning 1 July 1989 it is up to 50 000 ounces.
- (2) The facility is designed to cover gold in process at the Perth Mint during the manufacture of Australian Nugget gold coins, and under the terms of the agreement the gold never leaves the Perth Mint; that is, the facility does not involve Gold Corporation taking a position on gold. Usage of the facility varies from week to week, but under the terms of the agreement is reduced to zero at the end of the financial year.

CONNELL, MR LAURIE - CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION

Courts - Counsel Appearance

547. Mr HASSELL to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Which counsel appeared on Monday, 28 August for the Corporate Affairs Commission -
 - (a) in the Magistrate's Court; and
 - (b) in the Supreme Court
 in respect of -
 - (c) charges against L.R. Connell; and
 - (d) an application for an order to prevent his departure from the country?
- (2) In each case, who instructed counsel?
- (3) Which counsel appeared for L.R. Connell in each of the proceedings referred to?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1) The Corporate Affairs Department's Assistant Director - Litigation, Mr K. Ratneser.
- (2) The department's Director - Legal Division, Mr J. Lightowlers.
- (3) Mr S. Archer instructed by Jackson McDonald.

PREMIER'S PRESS STATEMENT - LAND CARE GROUPS

Names List - Funds Allocation

549. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) Would the Premier list the 100 Land Care groups now established in Western Australia as referred to in his Press statement of 4 August - ref P89/243?
- (2) How will the \$350 000 be provided to projects within those districts as referred to in the same statement?
- (3) Who is responsible for making the decision as to how these funds will be allocated?
- (4) Is that \$350 000 to be provided within the financial year ending 30 June 1989?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) There are now 104 land conservation districts either established or in the process of being established in Western Australia. A list and a map are attached.

[See paper No 387.]

- (2) The \$350 000 will be allocated to districts to assist them to tackle land degradation. Funds will be used for revegetating salt land, regenerating degraded rangelands, developing catchment management plans, facilitating tree planting and managing recharge areas with perennial plants.

- (3) The Minister for Agriculture allocates the funds on the advice of the soil conservation advisory committee.
- (4) Yes.

PREMIER'S PRESS STATEMENT - CATCHMENT PROGRAM
Avon Valley - Land Conservation District Committees

550. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) Who will supervise the major catchment program to be implemented with 11 land conservation district committees in the Avon Valley as referred to by the Premier in his Press statement of 4 August 1989 - ref P89/243?
- (2) Will the Premier list the 11 land conservation district committees which will be part of the program?
- (3) What will that program entail?
- (4) What will be the estimated total cost of the program and expenditure by the State Government on this program during the year ending 30 June 1990?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) The Department of Agriculture is the agency responsible for the project. A project management committee will be established including local government, producers and other Government agencies.
- (2) Upper Avon, Quairading, Beverley, Toodyay, Cunderdin, Northam, Tammin, Goomalling, Wyalkatchem, York, Dowerin.
- (3) The program involves establishing demonstration catchments throughout the area as examples of catchment planning and integrated land use.
- (4) The Government commitment to the project in 1989-90 is \$140 000. It is expected that the Federal Government will also provide \$140 000 under the national soil conservation program.

PREMIER'S PRESS STATEMENT - WETLANDS
Research - Funds Allocation

551. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) Who is responsible for the allocation of the \$300 000 "earmarked for research into wetlands and related matters" referred to in the Premier's Press statement of 4 August 1989 - ref P89/243?
- (2) Into what areas of research will the funds be allocated?
- (3) Who will make the decision with respect to the allocation of these funds?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Water Authority of Western Australia, Environmental Protection Authority, Department of Conservation and Land Management, State Planning Commission.
- (2) Effects of altered water levels on wetland plants.
Effects of urbanisation on groundwater.
Interaction between lakes, wetlands and solute transport.
Life history strategies of aquatic fauna.
Wetland classification on basis of water quality and invertebrates.
Water bird assessment on Swan coastal plain.
Lake Nowergup hydrogeology.
Wetland midge control.
- (3) The agencies involved are all currently funding and managing these projects.

PREMIER'S PRESS STATEMENT - ESTUARINE MANAGEMENT
Funds Allocation

552. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) Who is responsible for the allocation of the \$2.6 million to be spent "on estuarine management, including the Peel-Harvey Inlet, Albany Harbour,

Wilson Inlet, the Vasse-Wonnerup Inlet and the Leschenault Inlet" referred to in his Press statement of 4 August 1989 - ref P89/243?

- (2) Of those funds, how much has been allocated for each individual project?
- (3) What is the nature of the project in each case?
- (4) Is that \$2.6 million in addition to existing Budget allocations and, if so, what is the existing Budget allocation?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) The Water Authority of Western Australia, the Department of Marine and Harbours, the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Authority, and the Waterways Commission.

(2)-(3)

<u>Peel Harvey Inlet</u>	<u>\$2 008 000</u>
Catchment monitoring	170 000
Estuary monitoring	266 000
Catchment management	422 000
Fertiliser management	100 000
Hydrographic monitoring	5 000
Waste disposal systems (piggeries)	8 000
Weed harvesting	750 000
Bird surveys	17 000
Specific pollution monitoring	25 000
Tree crop feasibility	75 000
Mosquito control	160 000
 <u>Albany Harbour</u>	 <u>95 000</u>
Harbour water quality	35 000
Catchment investigations	30 000
Industrial pollution investigation	30 000
 <u>Wilson Inlet</u>	 <u>10 000</u>
Catchment monitoring	10 000
 <u>Vasse-Wonnerup Inlet</u>	 <u>15 000</u>
Hydrodynamics	5 000
Catchment monitoring	10 000
 <u>Leschenault Inlet</u>	 <u>475 000</u>
Water quality monitoring	25 000
Reforestation of Wellington	350 000
Catchment monitoring	10 000
Mosquito control	90 000
 TOTAL -	 \$2 603 000

- (4) Existing budget allocations; some are ongoing projects.

PREMIER'S PRESS STATEMENT - RIVERS
Monitoring and Research - Funds Allocation

553. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

Who is responsible for the allocation of the \$2.5 million on river monitoring and research referred to in his Press statement of 4 August 1989 - ref P89/243?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

The Water Authority of Western Australia, the Environmental Protection Authority, and the Waterways Commission.

PREMIER'S PRESS STATEMENT - REGIONAL PLANNING INITIATIVES
Funds Allocation

554. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

Who is responsible for the allocation of the \$600 000 on regional planning initiatives covering Warren-Blackwood, Leeuwin Naturaliste, Bunbury, Albany, Peel-Harvey and Gnangara Mound referred to in his Press statement of 4 August 1989 - ref P89/243?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

The State Planning Commission as part of its regional planning exercise.

PREMIER'S PRESS STATEMENT - LAND CARE GROUPS
Australian Conservation Foundation Liaison Officer - Funds Allocation

555. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

Who is responsible for the allocation of the \$30 000 to fund a liaison officer with the Australian Conservation Foundation to assist Land Care groups referred to in his Press statement of 4 August 1989 - ref P89/243?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

Cabinet made the decision to assist the Australian Conservation Foundation contribution to the Land Care program in Western Australia. The \$30 000 will be made available through the Department of Agriculture's budget.

PREMIER'S PRESS STATEMENT - LAND AND WATER CARE
Government Departments and Agencies - Special Group Members

556. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) Who are the members of the special group being set up "to draw together the efforts of all Government departments and agencies involved in land and water care" as referred to in his Press statement of 4 August 1989 - ref P89/243?
- (2) How many times has this group met?
- (3) To whom is the group responsible?
- (4) Will the group be making a report?
- (5) If so, when will the report be made available and to whom?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Office of the Cabinet
State Planning Commission
Department of Local Government
Waterways Commission
Environmental Protection Authority
Department of CALM
Department of Agriculture
Water Authority of WA
Mines Department.
- (2) Twelve.
- (3) Premier.
- (4) No. Many reports will be made.
- (5) Already one has been produced - "Integrated Management of Western Australia's Land and Waters".

GOLDBANK - GOLDCORP
Status - Reserve Bank Licence

557. Mr HASSELL to the Premier:

- (1) What is the present status of -
 - (a) GoldBank; and
 - (b) GoldCorp?
- (2) Has a Reserve Bank licence been obtained?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) The Gold Banking Corporation Act 1987 established Gold Corporation as a statutory body engaged in three areas of activity; namely, precious metals processing, refining, and manufacturing, through the subsidiary the Western Australian Mint; the international marketing of value-added precious metal products, through the subsidiary GoldCorp Australia; and gold banking, conducted in the name of the corporation itself.

Effective 1 July 1989, the Rural and Industries Bank has acquired the gold banking assets of Gold Corporation, and staff engaged in these activities have transferred to the R & I to establish a separate gold banking division.

The activities of the WA Mint and GoldCorp Australia are unaffected and they continue to operate as subsidiaries of Gold Corporation, which remains an independent statutory body and, in effect, a holding body.

- (2) As was explained several times during debate on the Gold Banking Corporation Act and subsequent amendments, GoldBank was set up as a State bank and as such did not require a licence from the Reserve Bank; but all State banks operate voluntarily under the prudential supervision of the Reserve Bank, and prior to its transfer to the R & I, GoldBank was being developed towards achieving Reserve Bank supervision. The R & I already operates under Reserve Bank supervision and its new gold banking division - formerly GoldBank - is included.

PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD - OWNERS
*Paid Up Capital Proportions - Western Australian Government
 Holdings Ltd Advance*

558. Mr HASSELL to the Premier:

- (1) Who are the owners and in what proportions of the \$500 002.50 paid up capital of Petrochemical Industries Limited?
- (2) What is the composition of the \$63 million advanced by Western Australian Government Holdings Ltd to Petrochemical Industries Limited, and in particular -
 - (a) when was it advanced;
 - (b) how much was advanced on each occasion;
 - (c) under what specific obligation or obligations or agreement or agreements;
 - (d) for what specified purpose or purposes on each occasion;
 - (e) what was the origin or origins of the moneys advanced by WAGH; and
 - (f) what agreements, arrangements, understandings and securities applied in relation to such moneys obtained by WAGH?
- (3) Who are the owners and in what proportions and to what extent is capital paid up on the shares in -
 - (a) Petrochemical Investments Pty Ltd (PIP); and
 - (b) Petrochemical Holdings Ltd (PCH)?

- (4) What is the purpose of the existence of PIP and PCH?
- (5) What was their part in the settlement dealings involving the Western Australian Government, Bond, Dempster, and Rothwells for the Government to buy into the petrochemical project?
- (6) What persons representing what companies and interests negotiated the substantial amendments to the construction and supply contracts referred to in paragraph 9 of the WAGH petition to wind up PIL?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Petrochemical Investments Pty Ltd (PIP) owns all the issued capital of Petrochemical Industries Ltd being 1 000 010 fully paid ordinary shares of 50¢ each.

- (2) (a)-(b)

Cash advanced by WAGH to Petrochemical Industries Ltd - formerly Petrochemical Industries Co Ltd -

Cash advanced on -

17.11.1988	6 800 000.00
05.12.1988	120 000.00
08.12.1988	230 000.00
14.12.1988	100 000.00
16.12.1988	200 000.00
20.12.1988	4 569 816.61
22.12.1988	120 000.00
29.12.1988	1 674 660.52
30.12.1988	250 000.00
06.01.1989	100 000.00
10.01.1989	500 000.00
20.01.1989	1 656 986.81
27.01.1989	1 360 000.00
31.01.1989	9 950 000.00
02.02.1989	18 000 000.00
10.04.1989	400 000.00
20.04.1989	<u>14 511 653.06</u>

Total cash advanced to 30.04.1989 60 543 117.00

Interest thereon to 30.04.1989 2 306 421.31

Loan balance at 30 April 1989 \$62 849 538.31

- (c) a shareholder's agreement;
- (d) project interim finance;
- (e) from 17 November 1988 to 26 January 1989;
by Treasurer's Advances to a total of \$17.5 million which was repaid in full with applicable interest on 26 January 1989.

From 26 January 1989 to 29 May 1989;
by the issue of promissory notes to a total of \$75 million; and

- (f) a facility agreement between Petrochemical Industries Ltd - then Petrochemical Industries Co Ltd - and WA Government Holdings Ltd pursuant to which the following securities were given -

a registered debenture charge over all the undertaking and all the assets of PIL; and

a registered mortgage over the Kwinana land owned by PIL.

- (3) (a) Petrochemical Holdings Ltd (PCH) owns all the issued capital of PIP, being two fully paid ordinary shares of \$1 each; and

- (b) PCH has issued 100 million fully paid ordinary shares of \$1 each to -
 WAGH - 43.75 per cent;
 Bond Petrochemicals No 1 Pty Ltd - 49.9 per cent; and
 Bond Petrochemicals No 2 Pty Ltd - 6.35 per cent.

(4)-(5)

To facilitate the acquisition of PIL from a number of owners and to allow for the future disposal of part interests in it.

(6) Bond Corporation Holdings Ltd Group -

Mr P. Mitchell	-	Executive Director
Mr K. Judge	-	Associate Director
Mr R.H. Self	-	Technical Manager

WAGH -

Mr W.C. Heron	-	Chairman
Dr J. McKee	-	Director
Mr J.P. Morhall	-	Director (then a consultant - engineering)
Mr R. le Roux	-	Consultant (technoeconomist)
Mr P. Wiese	-	Robinson Cox (legal adviser)
Mr M. Williams	-	Engineer, Dept of Resources Development
Mr N. Johnson	-	First Boston (financial adviser)

PIL -

Mr N. Yellachich	-	Project Manager
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TRIALS - SAMPI, LESLEY

Attorney General - Crown Prosecutor Report

559. Mr HASSELL to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Did the Attorney General call for a report from the Crown Prosecutor on the Broome case of Lesley Sampi, as reported in the *Daily News* on 24 February 1989?
- (2) If so, has that report been received?
- (3) Will the Attorney General make that report available to the House, or to the shadow Attorney General?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) What recommendations were made in the report?
- (6) What action is being taken by the Attorney General?
- (7) Is the Attorney General satisfied with -
 - (a) the conduct of the Sampi trial; and
 - (b) the outcome?
- (8) What areas in the procedures and conduct of criminal trials does the Attorney General believe require reform?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

(1)-(2)

Yes.

(3)-(5)

No. As a general and long standing rule, the advice of the law officers of the Crown is treated as confidential.

- (6) The Crown sought to oppose an appeal against sentence brought in the Court of Criminal Appeal by the person convicted of manslaughter. No other action is being taken.

- (7) (a) Yes; and
- (b) it is inappropriate for the Attorney General to comment on any decision by a jury.
- (8) The Sampi trial is not regarded as raising any special issues in this respect.

**PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD - WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
GOVERNMENT HOLDINGS LTD**
Deed of Undertaking - Obligations

562. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware that in the petition lodged in the Supreme Court by Western Australian Government Holdings Ltd in the matter of Petrochemical Holdings Ltd under clause 10(f) it states as follows -

WAGH entered into a Deed of Undertaking ("The First Deed") pursuant to which it undertook particular obligations concerning the ability of PIL to meet its cash requirements in connection with its operations and debt repayment obligations once the plant was completed.
- (2) What were the particular obligations concerning the ability of PIL to meet its cash requirements that WAGH entered into under this deed?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) This information is contained in the documents tabled on 29 August 1989.

**PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD - WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
GOVERNMENT HOLDINGS LTD**
Petition Clause 12(b) - Agreement Payment

563. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware that in the petition lodged in the Supreme Court by Western Australian Government Holdings Ltd in the matter of Petrochemical Holdings Ltd it states in clause 12(b) -

WAGH undertook to pay all monies due to JGC under the Supply Contract and all monies due to JEA and Clough under the Construction Contract, in consideration of JEA, Clough and JGC entering into the said variation agreements.
- (2) How much did WAGH pay as a consequence of that agreement?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) As at 28 July 1989 WAGH had made cash disbursements of \$68 522 415.04 pursuant to its undertaking to provide project interim finance to Petrochemical Industries Co Ltd. The disbursements include payments of PIL's obligations directly by WAGH to third parties, including JGC Corporation and JEA-Clough Joint Venture.

All advances by WAGH to PIL are secured. See answer to question 558(f).

**PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD - WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
GOVERNMENT HOLDINGS LTD**
State Energy Commission - Energy Supply Agreement

564. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) On what date in February 1989 did Western Australian Government Holdings Ltd become a party with Petrochemical Industries Ltd, and the State Energy Commission of Western Australia, to an agreement pursuant to which SECWA generally agreed to supply electricity, ethane and natural gas to PICL for use in the project, as referred to in the petition lodged in the Supreme Court by WAGH?

- (2) What was the general nature of that agreement?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) WAGH executed the agreement on 27 January 1989.
 (2) SECWA undertook to supply electricity, ethane and natural gas to PIL.

COAL RESERVES - GOVERNMENT ACQUISITION
Power Generation Guarantee - Premier's Recommendation

566. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) When, as the Premier admitted recently in a report in the *Daily News*, did he advocate the acquisition of coal reserves by the State Government to guarantee coal for future power generation?
 (2) Why has the Premier been advocating such acquisition?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

(1)-(2)

The answers to both questions are contained in the quote in the article referred to.

MARKETS - CANNING VALE
Operations Commencement

569. Mr FRED TUBBY to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) On what date are the Canning Vale markets to commence operations?
 (2) Will growers be able to continue the transportation of their produce to the Canning Vale markets?
 (3) Is the Minister aware of any moves by the Transport Workers Union to prevent growers from carting their own produce to the new markets?
 (4) Will growers be able to rely on the support of the Government if unions attempt to prevent growers carting their produce to the markets?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) Tuesday, 3 October 1989 is expected to be the first day of trading.
 (2) Yes.
 (3) No.
 (4) If this becomes an issue, the matter will be investigated.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT - RATES
Peppermint Grove Nine Block Property - Rates Loss

577. Mr HASSELL to the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that a residence being built on nine blocks of land in Peppermint Grove will produce less in local government rates than some properties on single blocks?
 (2) Does the Minister realise that the loss of the rates from the eight properties will mean that the council must raise rates to other landholders in the area to compensate for the loss?
 (3) Would the Minister agree that council rates should relate to the value of the property and not to the gross rental value as happens now?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1) This specific matter has not previously been brought to my attention.
 (2) If the information contained in question (1) is correct and if the council wishes to maintain its level of rate income, it may decide to increase the rates on other properties.
 (3) No. It is generally accepted that gross rental values provide for a more equitable rate distribution in urban areas.

HEALTH - MEDICAL RECORDS
Patient Confidentiality - Rayner, Ms Moira

580. Mr HASSELL to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Minister observed the report on patient records and confidentiality in *The West Australian* on Monday, 28 August 1989 reporting the expressed views of Ms Moira Rayner, Chairman of the Law Reform Commission, and Dr Fiona Stanley, concerning the confidentiality of medical records and their use for purposes of research?
- (2) What statutory protections of patient confidentiality exist in Western Australia?
- (3) Does the Minister agree with the views expressed by Ms Moira Rayner, and are those views reflected in the policies and practices of the department controlled by the Minister?
- (4) If not, what is the precise policy position of the Minister and the Minister's department in relation to medical records?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Statutory protection of patient confidentiality exists in relation to specific areas; for example, treatment of venereal disease, investigation of infant and perinatal death, maternal death during childbirth and anaesthetic deaths.
- (3) I am not prepared to determine whether I agree with the view of Ms Rayner on the basis of a newspaper report of a detailed presentation given at a professional meeting that I did not attend. The examination of legal aspects of confidentiality of medical research undertaken by the Law Reform Commission and chaired by Ms Rayner was initiated at the request of the Health Department. The commission has not yet reached a final decision on the matter and therefore it is not possible to determine whether the department's policies and practices are not in agreement with the commission.
- (4) The policy position has been indicated in the commissioning of the independent Honey report and implementation of Rev Honey's recommendations. Further statutory requirements for the protection of patient confidentiality will be urgently considered as soon as the Law Reform Commission's report is available.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION - FUTURE

583. Mr HASSELL to the Premier:

- (1) Is Western Australian Development Corporation still in existence?
- (2) Does the Government have plans to phase out the operations of WADC?
- (3) Has any directive been given in this regard?
- (4) What is the time frame for phasing out WADC?
- (5) What new projects have been undertaken by WADC in the past three months?
- (6) Who are the present directors of WADC?
- (7) Who is the chairman of WADC, and who are the principal executive officers?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I refer the member to my speech of 30 March 1989 where I indicated that the corporation's LandCorp and EventsCorp functions will continue. However, as also indicated in that speech, the corporation has been asked to wind up its equity investment activities.
- (3) On 14 March 1989 I met with the board of the corporation and requested, on

behalf of the shareholder, that the board initiate activities. This was confirmed in a letter to the board of 17 March 1989.

- (4) As I indicated in the speech referred to above, I expected the corporation to complete the task of winding up its existing investments by 30 September 1989. This program is continuing and is now approximately 80 per cent complete. I understand that it should be concluded by the end of the year. The corporation will not engage in a "fire sale" of its remaining equity investments but will proceed with its program in an orderly and prudent commercial manner.
- (5) In order to facilitate the closure of Exim Corporation, the WADC has agreed to purchase Exim's three remaining pastoral leases. These leases are programmed for sale in the near future. LandCorp has continued to buy and sell land in accordance with its ongoing functions. I understand that no other new projects have been taken on by WADC in the last three months.
- (6) The present directors of WADC are -
 - Mr T.A. Lang
 - Mr M. Lewis
 - Mr C.E. Power
 - Mr R.A. Grant
 - Mr W.M. Mitchell
 - Mr J.N. Osborn
 - Mr D. MacKinlay (Managing Director).
- (7) Mr T.A. Lang is the chairman of the corporation;
Mr D. MacKinlay is managing director;
Mr J.N. Osborn is executive director; and
Mr R.R. Martin is company secretary.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION - WA INC
Public Profile - Distancing Proposal

586. Mr HASSELL to the Premier:

- (1) What action was proposed by Western Australian Development Corporation or its then chairman in 1988-89 to distance itself and its public profile from involvement in WA Inc?
- (2) Was the matter discussed with the Premier?
- (3) What was the view of the Premier?
- (4) What action was taken by the Premier in relation to it?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) The corporation's public profile was a matter for the board.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

CORONERS ACT - ATTORNEY GENERAL
Amendments

588. Mr HASSELL to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) When does the Attorney General propose to introduce amendments to the Coroners Act?
- (2) What will be the scope of those amendments, or the proposals for those amendments?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1)-(2) Possible amendments to the Coroners Act are under consideration by the Government. Present indications are that it will not be possible to introduce legislation in the current sitting of Parliament.

AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF - SOIL CONSERVATION BRANCH
Employee Levels - Government Funding

589. Mr BLAIKIE to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What have been the staffing levels of the soil conservation branch of the Department of Agriculture in each year since 1985?
- (2) What has been the level of funding from -
 - (a) Commonwealth sources;
 - (b) State sources; and
 - (c) local government sources
 in each year since 1985?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) The division of resource management in the Department of Agriculture is responsible for the State's program for soil conservation. The staffing levels of the division since 1985 are -

1985-86	111
1986-87	119
1987-88	117
1988-89	131

- (2) The level of funding of the division of resource management since 1985 has been -

(a) Commonwealth -	\$
1985-86	703 000
1986-87	846 000
1987-88	904 000
1988-89	1 871 059

(b) State sources -	
1985-86	5 217 000
1986-87	5 199 000
1987-88	6 323 000
1988-89	6 761 096

- (c) Local government - nil.

CARAVAN PARKS - NEW LEGISLATION

591. Mr BLAIKIE to the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) When does the Government intend to introduce legislation to change laws relating to caravan parks?
- (2) What steps has the Government taken to ensure all sectors of the caravan industry have participated in discussions leading to the legislative changes?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1) No decision has been made on which recommendations from the report of the caravan industry development strategy working group are to be implemented.
- (2) The 10 member working group, which was appointed to inquire into and review all existing legislation relating to caravans and caravan parks, had two representatives from the Caravan Parks and Trades Association, one from the Royal Automobile Club, and two from the associations of local government.

The working group called for public comment when it was preparing its report and in June 1989 the Government released the report for comment through to 1 September. Submissions so far have been received from operators of caravan parks, caravanning clubs and their members, local government, and other interested persons.

SOUTH WEST - TOWNSCAPE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME*Government Progress - Towns*

592. Mr BLAIKIE to the Minister for South West:

- (1) What progress has the Government made on its \$1 million South West Townscape Enhancement Scheme as announced by the Premier in November 1988?
- (2) What towns are under consideration for inclusion in the scheme?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1) Local governments in the south west region have been advised of the scheme and invited to submit applications for funding in 1989-90. A seminar has been held to further explain townscaping theory and practice to the shire councillors and staff. Applications from local government are expected to be assessed by the South West Development Authority and the State Planning Commission shortly.
- (2) All local government bodies in the south west region have been invited to submit applications for any centres within their boundaries, as they see fit. Townscaping funds for Collie Shire Council have been provided previously.

HEALTH - RESEARCH PROJECT*Rev Colin Honey - Recommendations Compliance*

594. Mr HASSELL to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Further to question 467 of 1989, does the research project referred to in subquestion (9) comply with all the 38 recommendations made by Rev Colin Honey?
- (2) If not, in what way does it fail to meet those requirements?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Rev Honey expressed the view in several recommendations that "it should not be an essential requirement that doctors be consulted before approaches are made to patients or former patients to gain their consent to participate in a study". I placed a requirement on the researchers of the project in question that explicit consent had to be obtained from each patient's doctor prior to patients being contacted to seek participation. In this sense my requirements were more stringent than those recommended by Rev Honey.

WRITS - AUSTRALIAN SECURITIES COMMISSION*High Court Decision - Time Frame Estimates*

596. Mr MENSAROS to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

Will the Minister please tell the House the estimated time frame within which the writ, reportedly filed by the Government in the High Court against the constitutional validity of the Australian Securities Commission, will be heard and a final decision brought down by the court?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

Writs challenging the validity of the Australian Securities Commission Act, the Corporation Act and the Close Corporations Act have been issued by Western Australia and also by Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia. It is expected that these challenges will be heard by the High Court in the first fortnight of October. As the decision of the court will, almost inevitably, be reserved, it is not expected that the result of the challenge will be known until next year.

ELECTIONS - ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS*Installation - Competitive Cost*

597. Mr MENSAROS to the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Reform:

- (1) Has the Minister or the Western Australian Electoral Commissioner

established a competitive cost of installing electronic voting systems throughout Western Australia, except in remote areas with very few voters?

- (2) If so, what is this cost?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) No detailed competitive costings have been carried out. Preliminary costing of supplying electronic voting machines only to all polling places appointed for the 1989 State general election is in the order of \$28 million.
- (2) Not applicable.

ROWE, MR DON - GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

606. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) Is Mr Don Rowe, or a company with which he is associated, employed by the Government?
- (2) If so, what is the nature and form of that employment?
- (3) How much has the Government paid to Mr Rowe's company for work performed by him on behalf of the Government to the year ending 30 June 1989?
- (4) What was the nature of the work he undertook for the Government?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1)-(4) No, to the best of my knowledge.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS - ABORIGINAL LANDS TRUST

Saunders Street, Swan Valley - Land Ownership

609. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) When did the Government originally decide to vest in the Aboriginal Lands Trust land in Saunders Street in the Swan Valley as reported on page 15 of *The West Australian* on Friday, 9 June 1989?
- (2) What is the value of the land that has been vested in the Aboriginal Lands Trust?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1) The vesting of the land in Saunders Street, Swan Valley in the Aboriginal Lands Trust occurred on 11 March 1974.
- (2) No valuation has been carried out; however, my department, the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority, is currently seeking out this information.

STATE ENERGY COMMISSION - GUTZWILLER KUTZ BUNGER LTD BANK

Loans

611. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Has the State Energy Commission of Western Australia arranged any loans from the Gutzwiller Kutz Bunker Ltd Bank?
- (2) If so, when were the loans arranged?
- (3) How much were the loans?
- (4) What is the rate of interest being paid by SECWA on the loans?

Mr CARR replied:

- (1)-(4) SECWA does not have any direct relationship with the bank. It is possible that the bank has held publicly traded paper issued by SECWA in the past. SECWA no longer borrows from the primary markets, having been directed by the Treasurer to borrow through the Western Australian Treasury Corporation.

SPENT CONVICTIONS ACT - AMENDMENTS

614. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Is the Government considering amending the Spent Convictions Act?
- (2) If so, what specific sections of the Act are under review?
- (3) When is it expected the review will be completed?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Section 6(5).
- (3) The Spent Convictions Amendment Bill is currently before this House.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION - PARAGON
RESOURCES NL
Shares - Cost

615. Mr MacKINNON to the Treasurer:

- (1) How many shares does the State Government Insurance Commission own in Paragon Resources and what was their cost?
- (2) How many shares did the SGIC hold in Paragon Resources as at -
 - (a) 1 July 1988;
 - (b) 1 October 1988;
 - (c) 1 January 1989; and
 - (d) 1 July 1989?
- (3) What was the total cost to the SGIC of the shareholding in Paragon at each of the above dates?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) 8 544 393 shares. Total cost \$5 839 035.
- (2)
 - (a) Nil;
 - (b) 6 500 000;
 - (c) 8 544 393; and
 - (d) 8 544 393.
- (3)

1 July 1988	-	Nil;
1 October 1988	-	\$4 419 940;
1 January 1989	-	\$5 839 035; and
1 July 1989	-	\$5 839 035.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS COMMISSION BILL -
LEGISLATION PROPOSAL

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs - Federal Consultation

616. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) Has the Federal Government consulted or discussed with the Minister the proposed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Bill since the Minister's appointment as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs?
- (2) If so, when did the consultation take place?
- (3) What attitude did the Minister express on the proposed legislation on behalf of the Government?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I discussed the proposed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission Bill with the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Gerry Hand, at the Australian Aboriginal Affairs Council meeting in Sydney on 27 April 1989.

- (3) At the time of that meeting the proposed legislation had not been finalised but I expressed my support for the concept of increased participation of Aboriginal people in administration and decision making in Aboriginal affairs.

AIRPORTS - BROOME

Development and Redevelopment - Private Interests/Shire Agreement

619. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Government aware of any agreement between private interests and the Shire of Broome for the development of a new airport at Broome and the consequent redevelopment of the existing airport?
- (2) If so, when did the Government become aware of this agreement?
- (3) What are the details of the agreement?

Mr PEARCE replied:

(1)-(3)

The Government is aware that discussions on Broome Airport have taken place over a period of time between the Shire of Broome and private interests and that a draft agreement between the parties has been drawn up. However, to the Government's knowledge no agreement has been signed.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS - ROEBOURNE ABORIGINALS

Government Services - Government Agencies

620. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) How many State Government agencies provide services to the Aboriginal people in Roebourne?
- (2) How many Commonwealth Government agencies provide services to the Aboriginal people in Roebourne?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1) Locally based/mainstream service -

Department for Community Services

Health Department

Ministry of Education

Homeswest

Police

State Energy Commission of Western Australia

Water Authority of Western Australia

Department of Corrective Services

Occasional - departments based in Perth - Port Hedland -

Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority

Alcohol and Drug Authority

Department of Regional Development and the North West

- (2) This question should be addressed to the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSIONER - EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

Non-Union Members - Breach of Act Awareness

625. Mr COWAN to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Further to question 481 of 1989 asked of the Minister for Transport, what actions have been taken by the Equal Opportunity Commissioner to raise public awareness that discrimination against employment of non-union members is a breach of the Equal Opportunity Act?

- (2) What publications have been prepared by the Equal Opportunity Commission outlining the course of action that should be taken by a worker or job applicant who suffers discrimination on the ground of his or her non-membership of a union?
- (3) Has the Equal Opportunity Commissioner undertaken any research to assess the level of discrimination on these grounds?
- (4) Has the Equal Opportunity Commissioner ever notified an employer at a workplace that is a closed shop that he or she may be in breach of the Equal Opportunity Act?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1) The Commissioner for Equal Opportunity has taken no such action as the Equal Opportunity Act does not have a separate ground of discrimination by reason of non-membership of a trade union.
- (2) None.
- (3) No.
- (4) No. See answer to (1).

LIVESTOCK - SHEEP
Awassi Fat Tail Sheep Project - Cost

627. Mr HOUSE to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) With regard to the Awassi fat tail sheep project, what was -
 - (a) the initial setting up cost of the project;
 - (b) the actual cost of the transfer of the embryos from the original source to Cocos Island;
 - (c) the actual cost of the freighting of the recipient ewes to Cocos Island;
 - (d) the cost of the transfer of the project by special air charter to Port Hedland from Cocos Island;
 - (e) the actual cost of the cartage from Port Hedland to Kununurra;
 - (f) the cost of the cartage of recipient ewes from the south of Western Australia to Kununurra;
 - (g) the actual cost of the installation of facilities at each of the places mentioned;
 - (h) the actual purchase and cartage cost of fodder from the agricultural area to the various sources mentioned;
 - (i) the actual cost of the overseas trips by departmental officers with regard to this project;
 - (j) how many overseas trips have been taken with regard to this project by departmental officers or other people associated with the project;
 - (k) what were the names of the officers involved in these overseas trips;
 - (l) what overseas trips are planned and to what countries with regard to this project in -
 - (i) 1989;
 - (ii) 1990; and
 - (iii) 1991?
- (2) Now that the decision has been made to shift the Awassi fat tail sheep project to Wongan Hills -
 - (a) how much land will be involved at Wongan Hills for the running of these sheep;
 - (b) what will be the cost of the transfer of this project to Wongan Hills;

- (c) what security measures will be undertaken to ensure that these sheep do not come into contact with other sheep; and
- (d) given the current information available, how long will it be before there is any conclusive evidence to suggest that the Awassi fat tail sheep project has been a success or a failure in Western Australia?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

(1) (a)-(i)

Total expenditure to January 1987 by the Western Australian Department of Agriculture in -

setting up the project;
embryo collection in Cyprus;
production of Awassi lambs on Cocos Island;
transfer to Kununurra via Port Hedland; and
installation of facilities at all sites, including Kununurra

is estimated by the department to be \$350 000. Since January 1987 the project has been subject to an official joint venture agreement under which all funding is provided by a Kuwait based company, YYH Holdings Pty Ltd.

(j)-(k)

Overseas travel with regard to this project by departmental staff is summarised below -

Embryo collection - Cyprus, April 1989 -

J. Lightfoot
R. Lewer
C. Maxwell
J. Ryan
R. Gwynne

Production of Awassi lambs on Cocos, April 1986 -

C. Maxwell
J. Hunton

Transfer of Awassi lambs from Cocos to Port Hedland, January 1987 -

J. Lightfoot

Attendance at US Department of Agriculture Scrapie Review Workshop Utah, March 1988 -

J. Lightfoot

(l) Overseas travel planned for the respective years is indicated below -

(i) 1989 travel to South Africa to research dark fibre/kemp contamination issue - J. Lightfoot;

(ii) 1990 - nil; and

(iii)

1991 - nil.

(2) (a) 130 hectares;

(b) \$150 000 - to be paid by the Awassi sheep joint venture;

(c) security measures to ensure that the project sheep do not come in contact with other sheep will be as specified and approved by the Commonwealth quarantine authorities. Details are currently being finalised and will most likely involve three fences, separated by buffer and patrol zones; and

(d) the department expects that the Awassi sheep will be released from quarantine for commercial development by the joint venture in

September 1993. The commercial success of the project should be apparent within three years of that date.

ENERGY - POWER CUTS

Denmark Area

628. Mr HOUSE to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

How many times was the power to the Denmark area cut from 1.00 am Wednesday, 26 July 1989 to 9.00 am Saturday, 29 July 1989?

Mr CARR replied:

Eleven.

EDUCATION - MATHS SYLLABUS

Updating Consultations

629. Mr HOUSE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What process of consultation with parents, teachers and employers occurred prior to the updating of the maths syllabus and when did the consultation take place?
- (2) Could the Minister provide details of the research that shows calculators improve students' basic skill with pencil and paper?
- (3) What constitutes the frame of basic maths concepts?
- (4) Who decides when and for what each child will be given a calculator for maths?
- (5) Once a basic understanding of maths concepts is achieved through use of physical materials, how is this developed for those able students who gain their skills prior to year 7?
- (6) If an implementation procedure in line with the Better Schools philosophy will not be imposed on districts and schools by central office to allow different patterns of implementation to evolve as stated on page 6 of the information bulletin, how is a real evaluation to be made of these changes after 1991?
- (7) What plans are there for parent consultation prior to any further changes to the education syllabus?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1) A consultative group was formed in late 1985 with representation by teachers, curriculum writers, superintendents and tertiary mathematics educationalists. This group continued to meet until the end of 1988. A widely representative reference group which included representation from educators (specialist mathematics and otherwise, preprimary to year 12 and tertiary), the Western Australian Council of State School Organisations and the State School Teachers Union of Western Australia was formed at the beginning of 1989 to facilitate consultation prior to implementation.

Specific and extensive details of the changes were published in the *Education News* of 17 July 1986. In this article, comments were sought on the issues outlined. No response was received through this invitation. A significant and very positive article was published in *The West Australian* of 14 May 1988 which outlined the nature of access to calculators in mathematics classrooms. There was no follow-up response from the community. It is significant that in another article in *The West Australian* of 10 August 1989, Mr David Forrester, President of WACSSO, provided tacit endorsement of access to calculators in schools.

- (2) Yes. One such research paper looked at 79 studies and concluded that "use of calculator in concert with traditional mathematics instruction apparently improves the average student's basic skills with paper and pencil, both in working exercises and in problem solving... students using calculators

possess a better attitude towards mathematics and an especially better self-concept in mathematics than students not using calculators". (Hembree, R.H., Dessart, D.J. Effects of Hand Held Calculators in Pre-College Mathematics Education: A Meta-Analysis, Journal for Research in Mathematics Education 1986, Vol 17, No 2, pp 83-99).

- (3) For mathematics years K-7, the three strands are space, measurement and number.
- (4) The teacher of each child decides with guidance from the syllabus.
- (5) There are many mathematical concepts introduced in years K-7. For some concepts, concrete materials are used, followed by a quite rapid shift to more abstract bases for discussion; for other concepts, concrete materials may well be used at stage 7 or beyond, the ideas being presented being at different levels of sophistication.

The different rates of progress of children in moving from concrete to abstract formulations are taken into account by teachers in developing their programs. Able students can be recommended for involvement in the Primary Extension and Challenge Programme (PEAC).

- (6) The monitoring standards project applies to years 3, 7 and 10. This project includes in its purpose the brief to provide feedback to the central office on standards in schools. This is apart from the work of district superintendents, school development officers, principals and teachers who are constantly working with children and can apply extensive experience to judge standards.
- (7) The reference group for this syllabus update continues to meet. Currently there are no plans to disband this group.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

LIVESTOCK - SHEEP

Saudi Arabia Rejection - Government Action

97. Mr HOUSE to the Minister for Agriculture:

In respect of the rejection by Saudi Arabia and other middle eastern countries of ships carrying live sheep, I ask -

- (1) What action has been taken by the State Government and the Minister to alleviate this problem; and
- (2) Will the Minister initiate immediate and direct talks with the Federal Minister for Agriculture to help resolve this problem as soon as possible?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

(1)-(2)

The member for Stirling has raised a matter which is of considerable concern to us in Western Australia, and a number of proposals are being worked out at the moment to see if we can put forward a resolution to the impasse. The position is that as far back as the beginning of last week, I wrote to the Federal Minister for Agriculture, offering assistance from the Western Australian Government in the area of technical advice in his endeavours to resolve the matter with the Saudi Arabian people. I followed that up yesterday with a further letter to the Federal Minister, indicating that I felt the time was now upon us when he ought to give consideration to establishing a ministerial delegation to deal with this matter. We all know that the Australian Government has sent a delegation to Saudi Arabia to express its concern about this issue, but as I understand it, there has not yet been any resolution to the problem.

We were originally told that it was a health problem with livestock. It now seems that it has become a trade dispute. So it is now appropriate for the

Federal Government to look beyond the sending to Saudi Arabia of a group of technical experts to talk to the people involved in this dispute; the likely way to deal with it is through a high level delegation led by the Minister for Primary Industry, or perhaps even by the Minister for Trade. To that end I suggested yesterday that there ought to be an urgent meeting of Ministers from each of the States which are likely to be the most affected by this dispute, namely Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria, to see if a strategy to deal with this matter can be put forward at a ministerial level.

We in this State are very concerned about this matter because there is rapidly emerging a build-up of sheep; and the overseas live shipping trade is a central part of dealing in an orderly fashion with the disposal of those sheep. We are doing all we can in the context of the concerns of the industry.

Mr Peter Dowding: Do we know why they are taking that attitude?

Mr BRIDGE: No, that is the problem. Originally they talked about health problems with the sheep but it seems now that there are doubts about that situation.

Mr Peter Dowding: But did the National Party meet with a bloke from Bahrain when he was here? Perhaps we should have a talk afterwards.

Mr House: There is a clear indication that this has now become a political problem rather than a problem to do with the sheep. That is why it must be sorted out at ministerial level.

Mr Peter Dowding: Perhaps we should meet and talk about it.

Mr BRIDGE: Certainly I would be happy to do that. In fact the member for Stirling, the Leader of the National Party and I have talked about the issue. People in the industry in this State, and I, are really searching for a solution to this problem without knowing where the solutions are, and I think that is the case with the Federal Government as well. It is high time that the Federal Government took up this issue at a ministerial level rather than continuing to allow a delegation to try to resolve it, and I am keen to encourage that process to occur.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS - RELATIONSHIPS

Safeguards

98. Mr CUNNINGHAM to the Premier:

In the light of revelations of attempts by a private corporation to undermine the integrity of the process of Government, is he concerned as to the adequacy of existing safeguards covering Government-business relations?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

There is a very real concern here and I think it is appropriate that we spell out to the community exactly what the relationships ought to be. The community has received very confused signals from the opposite side of the House. They have received signals today that it is okay to threaten the Government with all sorts of political consequences to get one's own way but that if one does threaten the Government the Government should remain silent.

Mr Lewis: I did not say that at all.

Mr PETER DOWDING: The member did so. So there is very real concern. My colleagues on the front bench and I have given a great deal of thought to putting together a document which would express our view about these matters and I hope that in the very near future we will be able to have such a document released.

ROTHWELLS LTD - RESCUE

Connell, Mr Laurie - Personal Wealth and Assets Commitment

99. Mr COURT to the Treasurer:

In October 1987, at the time of the Government's giving a \$150 million guarantee as a part of the Rothwells rescue, the Government said that

Mr Connell had "backed the rescue with all his personal wealth". I ask the Treasurer -

- (1) Was this in actual fact the case?
- (2) If so, did the Government take action against Mr Connell to secure his assets before the Government paid out on its settlement associated with that guarantee?

Mr PARKER replied:

(1)-(2)

As this is a question without notice I do not have all of the documentation with me, but I recall that in a recent court case which was taken by Wardley's Limited on behalf of a number of preferential shareholders and itself, documentation was tabled concerning the arrangements that had been made and the requirement that was incumbent upon Mr Connell to sign certain documentation prior to the then Treasurer, Mr Burke, providing the indemnity sought by the National Australia Bank. I think we have a copy of that document and if the Deputy Leader of the Opposition would like to place the question on notice for Tuesday I will provide him with it then, or otherwise in writing.

I understand from the evidence in that court case that, notwithstanding the report - and I heard some of the comments earlier this afternoon about the National Companies and Securities Commission's report - the only argument that seemed to be adduced in that court case was whether all of the money had been paid in by a particular date or whether some of it had been paid a week or so later. That being the case, the Government certainly was of the view that the arrangements had been satisfied. However, I will get the documentation and provide it to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

AIRLINE PILOTS - PAY DEMANDS *Member for Riverton - "Special Case" Status*

100. Mr LEAHY to the Minister for Labour:

Is the Minister concerned about the member for Riverton's comments which suggest that pilots are deserving of "special case" status and that the airlines should accede to the pilots' pay demand because it would add only 0.3 of one per cent to the cost of air travel?

Mr TROY replied:

I am not only concerned but also alarmed; but certainly not as much as are many of the employers who since last night have become aware of what one can only describe as unbelievable comments made by the member for Riverton. The member has displayed an unbelievable ignorance of the process of wage fixation in this country and I can only put that down to his personal naivety, his egotism, and, unfortunately for this State, his desire to get into political opportunism.

Mr Kierath interjected.

Mr TROY: I note that in many of the comments he makes he refers to Press releases. I am sure he will be interested in this one, which he made in *The West Australian* on 12 April. It reads -

The State Opposition wants trade unions excluded from general wage rises as a penalty for taking industrial action in protest at Industrial Relations Commission decisions.

The Opposition spokesman on industrial relations, Mr Graham Kierath, said yesterday that tough new industrial laws should be implemented to give the commission legal teeth to stop unions from defying commission orders.

Mr Kierath, who recently replaced Ian Thompson as Liberal Party

industrial spokesman, accused the State Government of caving in to industrial blackmail and warned it could lead to a wages explosion.

Several members interjected.

Mr TROY: The member for Riverton later went on to say -

"The State Government exposed its soft industrial relations underbelly in the way in which it recently caved in to the demand of hospital workers.

Mr Kierath interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr TROY: The member's Press statement concludes -

"This was a very clear signal to all other government employees that they could take industrial laws into their own hands, demand what they want and expect to get it."

Mr Kierath interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Riverton!

Mr TROY: One must wonder what employers, employees, industry and fixed income earners are thinking today, after the member's speech last night. To suggest that the pilots' pay demand should be acceded to because only a negligible cost would be passed on to the consumer ignores the effects that such action would have on the wage fixing system as a whole. I remind the member that the centralised wage fixing system has served to restrain wages growth at a time when this economy could least afford a wages explosion. It has underpinned the process of structural adjustment which is so necessary for Australia to achieve a prospective trading surplus and to relieve the pressure on the current system, and at the same time provide us with acceptable living standards - and jobs, as the Premier mentioned, for many people.

Mr Kierath: What is your solution, then?

Mr TROY: The wage restraint exercised by ordinary wage and salary earners during the life of the Accord has produced pressures in the system which must be contained if we are to derive the benefits that structural adjustment promises. This will not be achievable while ordinary wage and salary earners see unrestrained growth in executive salaries and an already highly paid and privileged few such as the domestic pilots getting increases of the order of five times that which has been deemed fair and reasonable and economically responsible by the Industrial Relations Commission. It will lead to a wages explosion and would cause widespread unemployment of a similar magnitude to that which this Government inherited on assuming office in 1983.

I am certain that employer organisations would join with me in saying that to concede to industrial blackmail would create an unhealthy precedent. I call on the Opposition to get its house in order in terms of its wages policy. My suggestion is that it recall the member for Darling Range to the position of Liberal Party spokesman on industrial relations to develop an appropriate wage policy that is not marked by political gymnastics.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr TROY: The second point is that the Opposition must release this new policy as quickly as possible, for the electorate is demanding it as soon as possible so that everyone in Western Australia can know where the Opposition stands on wage policy.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I take further questions I must say that level of interjection cannot be tolerated, however much members do not like the answers.

TOBACCO - ADVERTISING
Ban Proposal - Unemployment Letter

101. Mrs BUCHANAN to the Minister for Health:

Has the Minister seen a copy of a letter being circulated by the tobacco industry in which it is claimed that the proposed ban on tobacco advertising will lead to unemployment in the outdoor advertising industry?

Mr WILSON replied:

Yes, I have seen the letter to which the member refers. I understand that letter has gone to possibly all members of Parliament. It contains a number of grossly inaccurate and deliberately misleading statements that are becoming the trademark of the tobacco industry in the current debate.

In relation to the matters raised by the member I can assure all members who may have received that letter that it has never been the Government's intention to place a ban on tobacco advertisements to damage the advertising industry; nothing in the proposed legislation will bring about such an effect. I am pleased to say that I met this morning with representatives of two of the leading outdoor advertising companies. I was able to reassure them that Western Australia will follow the same approach to phasing out billboard advertisements as adopted, with the industry's agreement, in Victoria and South Australia. This will involve the progressive reduction in the number of outdoor tobacco advertisements and the buy-out of advertisement space for health promotion purposes.

Arrangements are already in train to negotiate with the industry the details of an agreement which will preserve the industry's position and the jobs of the people involved, while progressively ridding this State of the anti-health message peddled by the tobacco industry at higher cost to the community and to the health of young Australians.

WHITLAM, TURNBULL - PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT
Government Representation - Conflict of Interest

102. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

As Whitlam Turnbull is an unsecured creditor of Rothwells for \$1 012 575, is a conflict of interest involved with that firm's acting for the Government in relation to the petrochemical project which is directly linked to the Rothwells rescue?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

There is no conflict of interest between Whitlam Turnbull's activities and their representation of the Government.

PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD - GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS
Government Avoidance - Morally Wrong Statement

103. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

Is it correct that the Premier admitted in June, as indicated in the statement today by Bond Corporation, that the Government was morally wrong in what it was seeking to do in the avoidance of its obligations on Petrochemical Industries Ltd?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

No.

TRANSPORT - 1 SEPTEMBER
Significant Date

104. Mr CATANIA to the Minister for Transport:

Is tomorrow, 1 September, a significant transport date?

Mr PEARCE replied:

It certainly is. I congratulate the member for his perspicacity in realising the importance of the action the Government is about to undertake in the transport area. Tomorrow I will have the great pleasure of declaring open the first new metropolitan railway station in many years. The station will be named after a former member, the late Ken McIver, in his memory. Transperth recommended that I should name the station after Killer McIver whose efforts on the railway line have been celebrated in this House on many occasions.

Coincidentally, tomorrow is also the anniversary of another significant transport anniversary because it will be 10 years to the day since a former Liberal Government closed the Fremantle railway line. There could be no clearer way -

Several members interjected.

Mr House: You are still closing centres in the country.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! If the member for Stirling wishes to ask a question he must know that this is not the appropriate time.

Mr PEARCE: There could be no more significant way of demonstrating with clarity the difference between the public transport policies of the Liberals and the public transport policies of the Labor Government in that on the same date we see the opening of a new metropolitan station, which is a first step towards a major electrification program, and the construction of a new railway line compared with the closure of the Fremantle line.

Many Liberals, of course, including many members of Parliament, breathed a sigh of relief, when we finally reopened the Fremantle line and removed the weight of that controversial decision from them. Some of those members have probably rethought their attitudes on the Fremantle line and wished we had left it closed when, two or three days before the last election, the member for Cottesloe caught the train at a station on the Fremantle line and travelled to Fremantle in order to make a speech in which he made reference to the Bond Corporation. Those comments finished up on the front page of a number of newspapers and are alleged to have affected the outcome of the election.

If I thought that members opposite were not giving attention to public transport matters I would have been disabused when I listened to 96FM this morning at 7.30 am and discovered that the Leader of the Opposition apparently believes that mysterious lights seen over Canning Vale in his electorate last night were extra terrestrials travelling down his electorate. All I can say is, if he spends his days in Parliament sitting next to Alf, I am not surprised.

EDUCATION - UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Smith, Trent - Australian Labor Party Political Operatives

105. Mr MENSAROS to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it a fact that there were and are several full-time ALP paid political operatives on the University of Western Australia campus to assist Trent Smith, the son of the member for Bunbury, in his guild election campaign?
- (2) Has the UWA ascertained whether these operatives were paid by the ALP for the time they have spent on campus or did they do so on their own time?
- (3) Is it the Government's policy to let such an exercise pass by without comment, or has the Minister commented to relevant authorities at the UWA against this practice?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

(1)-(3)

I am lost for words in this case because I know nothing of the events the member has described. I cannot comment on the questions but I can raise the

matter with the UWA Guild, which is not a body, incidentally, that I direct, nor would I seek to. Every year when guild elections come around complaints are made by one or another guild about the conduct of elections. I think last year it was Curtin; I have heard grumblings from Murdoch and WACAE. I have not heard any from the UWA this year.

Mr Peter Dowding: They had them in 1962.

Dr LAWRENCE: Yes. I think student politics are played more fiercely than they are here. I know of no ALP operatives being paid by anybody to do anything in relation to that election. I suspect it is one of those complaints that are being raised by Liberal members there who feel under threat.

NATIONAL CRIME AUTHORITY - WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Premier of Queensland - Closure Comments

106. Mr DONOVAN to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

Can the Minister respond to allegations by Queensland's temporary Premier Mike Ahern that the Government shut down the National Crime Authority in Western Australia?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

I was very surprised to read the statement put out by the Queensland Premier today in relation to this matter. I can only put his comments down to two things.

Point of Order

Mr BLAIKIE: According to the convention that has been followed in this House in the 18 years that I have been here, it is not competent for a Minister to reflect on the affairs of another State.

Mr Taylor: It has nothing to do with the affairs of another State. The question concerns the affairs of Western Australia.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Specifically, the point of order is correct. However, I do not think the question referred to the affairs of another State; it referred to a statement clearly directed at Western Australia.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr TAYLOR: Spot on, Mr Acting Speaker.

It is unfortunate that the Premier of Queensland has chosen to comment on the affairs of Western Australia. Quite frankly he has shown a very clear misunderstanding and I put that down to two things: Firstly, the events of this week in Queensland may have blunted his intellect somewhat; and, secondly, he seems happy to comment on events that are happening elsewhere rather than concentrating on events that are happening in his own backyard.

Today, he suggested that in 1987 the Western Australian Government closed down the National Crime Authority office in Western Australia. For a start, this Government did not run a National Crime Authority office in Western Australia. At that time the then Premier complained to the Prime Minister about the closure of what was a temporary office here and the former Minister for Police and Emergency Services and now Minister for Regional Development went to Melbourne and met with the Chairman of the National Crime Authority, Mr Justice Stewart, and complained about the actions that were taken at that time by the National Crime Authority.

As Minister for Police and Emergency Services in Western Australia today and being involved with the National Crime Authority I can say that the National Crime Authority has a role to play throughout Australia. Without going into any matter in any depth, at this time there are no matters associated with the role of the National Crime Authority in Western Australia. What happened in 1987 in matters to do with the drug trade is well and truly finished. They were a feather in the cap of both the Western Australian Police Force and the National Crime Authority.

I reject as absurd the Queensland Premier's comments that the National Crime Authority was closed down by this Government. I suggest that he look closely at what is happening in Queensland rather than trying to divert the attention of the Queensland public to Western Australia.

PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT - GOVERNMENT WITHDRAWAL
Treasurer - Budget Provision

107. Mr HASSELL to the Treasurer:

In view of the fact that the Government has withdrawn from the petrochemical project as it was previously structured with Bond Corporation and has announced that it will not go on with that project -

- (1) Why has the Treasurer made a provision of an amount exceeding \$63 million in the Budget for the petrochemical project?
- (2) What portion of that money has already been expended?
- (3) What are the continuing obligations that the Government accepts in relation to that project for which the Treasurer feels he must make provision?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) The Government thought it prudent to make a provision for the amounts involved in order to ensure that the sums that would need to be met for some of the things which are inevitable and which would have been inevitable no matter what stage the petrochemical project had reached - for example, the interest on the debentures - could be met and money may be needed to reduce the levels of external borrowings in relation to the petrochemical project. Those matters were encompassed by the figure that was struck.
- (2) I cannot be precise about the proportion of money that has been expended. A fairly small proportion of it is being spent on things like wages for the administrative staff of WA Government Holdings Ltd and on consultancies that it is undertaking. As the Premier said yesterday, some ex gratia payments have been made in the last few weeks to people who, because of the financial difficulties of PIL, have not found other means of obtaining funds for work they did before our decision to wind up PIL was made. I think, on advice, some of those payments have been made.
- (3) We claim no continuing obligations of the sort that have been alleged by the Opposition in debate. Of course, there are outstanding matters that need our attention because the amount is being made payable to WA Government Holdings Ltd not to PIL and WA Government Holdings Ltd has obligations of its own.

If the member for Cottesloe seeks further information on any of his questions, I will provide it for him.
