

## Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 16th August, 1977

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

### HANSARD

#### *Availability*

**THE PRESIDENT** (the Hon. Clive Griffiths): Members may have noticed that their copies of the last two volumes of *Hansard* have not arrived. I wish to advise that the Government Printing Office has installed a new printing device which is operated by a computer; and, as apparently frequently occurs with computers, something has gone wrong. The Government Printer expresses his sincere apologies for the inability to have *Hansard* Nos. 2 and 3 ready but he has assured me we should have both volumes at this time tomorrow.

### QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FOURTH DAY

#### *Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 4th August, on the following motion moved by the Hon. R. G. Pike—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency—

May it please Your Excellency: We, the Members of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express our loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to deliver to Parliament.

**THE HON. W. M. PIESSE** (Lower Central) [4.58 p.m.]: Mr President, I address myself to the House for the first time with a sense of duty and of high responsibility, and with a sense of obligation to the traditions of services which have been so faithfully observed by those who have preceded me as the representatives of Lower Central Province.

I thank the electors, who supported me on the 19th of February last. I am well aware of the fact that it is my responsibility to represent all the electors of the Lower Central Province.

I take this opportunity of extending my

congratulations to you, Mr President, on your appointment to the high office you now hold. I am aware of the great esteem in which you are held by your colleagues of long-standing, and in the short time it has been my pleasure to know you I can understand why this is so. I trust your term of office will be both stimulating and rewarding for you.

I congratulate the Leader of the House and his fellow Ministers, and also the Leader of the Opposition.

I wish to thank honourable members, both old and new, and the officers and members of the House staff, who have assisted me in so many ways and with such kindness since I was elected to the House.

I take this opportunity also to pay tribute to my predecessor, the Hon. T. O. Perry, who did not seek re-election because of ill-health. Tom Perry worked very hard to understand the needs of the people whom he represented. That understanding, coupled with his sincerity of purpose, often forced him to take the less popular decision, which is not an easy thing to do. I wish him a long and enjoyable retirement.

It is with pleasure that I take my place in the House, and I do so in the full knowledge of my responsibility as a member of the Legislative Council, as the first National Country Party woman member of State Parliament, and as the first woman member of a family which has been associated with the representation of a province since the late C. A. Piesse was elected as a member for South-East Province in 1894.

It goes without saying that many changes have taken place in this State since 1894. However, in studying the history of our early development and the ambitions and disappointments of our pioneers, two things clearly stand out.

One is the courage and determination with which they set about spreading the population throughout the length and breadth of this great State. They worked hard and for long hours under harsh conditions, laying the foundations for the material comforts of today and the far easier circumstances which we now enjoy. Their labours would have been in vain were it not so.

The other factor which shines through the early history of this State is the reason for their efforts—the underlying vision which those early pioneers cherished. That vision, Mr President, was not just to make a quick quid, or should I say a fast buck; not just to gather more creature comforts about themselves. The vision was for the future generations who would follow.

Our pioneers found great satisfaction in their

individual efforts in the shaping of our inheritance. There are times when it seems to me that we have lost that vision. There are times when it seems to me that we have forgotten that the greatest responsibility of any civilization is in the care and the training of its young. In this we must ensure that the foundations already put down for the quality of life must be continued for the benefit of the next generation.

Maybe the goals were easier to identify a generation or two ago when our forebears were engaged in opening up and developing this country of ours. We have progressed far during the intervening years. If we believe that there are no further advances to be made and that we have reached the ultimate, then we have indeed lost the vision.

We have a great responsibility in preparing our children for life. We must give them the incentive to progress. We must encourage them to work on the traditions of their forebears; and to lift their thoughts beyond the immediate future. We must give them the vision splendid.

I was greatly impressed by His Excellency Sir Wallace Kyle who, when opening Parliament, placed stress on the importance of education and particularly on the early childhood branch. It is fairly well known that much harm can be done to the expanding mind of a child if that child is pushed too soon into a formal school situation. Yet, because of our much wider knowledge of child development, we know that much can be done in early childhood to assist the development of confident and well-balanced citizens. This is a very specialised field and I am pleased to see it is being recognised as such.

There are a great many areas within the broad spectrum of education which require close attention. It is not my intention at this stage to elaborate on the specific areas, other than to comment on one or two aspects of concern.

At the present time there are very limited opportunities for country children to obtain an understanding of music. I feel the resources of the department should be utilised at least to bring courses for musical appreciation to classes at all levels. In today's conditions, when life is but a mirage for many young people, an affection for music could well open up a broader avenue of diversion for them.

Another area of education which I would like to see expanded in country areas is technical education. It is true that in most instances people wishing to acquire technical skills have to travel to the metropolitan area, and once having travelled there it is very difficult for them to

return. Others who are already working in country areas find it very difficult to locate a venue at which they can study and improve their skills. Many country towns are in need of a variety of skilled technicians, and it is my hope that planning for expansion of technical education in country areas will be done on a more practical basis.

Referring again to the Speech of His Excellency, I commend the Government on its establishment of a water resources council. The people of Western Australia are most conscious of our vulnerable position in relation to water supplies.

I am concerned that, despite everything, in a normal winter millions of gallons of water escape to the sea. I would suggest we should find better ways of increasing our capacity to conserve water where it falls on the land. I hope, also, that the Water Resources Council will give attention to the recycling of the vast quantities of water now lost in the metropolitan area.

People in country areas still tend to regard scheme water and electricity in the category of luxury items. On the other hand, communications and transport are essential in their life patterns. Costs of the former are prohibitive, and freight charges can almost be described as punitive. The greatest problem confronting country people is the high level of freight costs. Western Australia depends very largely on primary production, yet it calls on the producer to meet freight costs both ways.

Mr President, I am thinking not only of farmers. The greatest handicap imposed upon the small businessman in a country region is the high cost of freights. It is in-built into the high cost of living in the country. If we are going to keep people in the country—and we agree that we must—then we must make living in the country attractive. We must make it possible for the small man who wishes to remain so, to continue in his chosen lifestyle.

Serious consideration must be given to practical support for our decentralisation policies by the introduction of a system of freight equalisation. It is part and parcel of decentralisation programmes in other countries, such as South Africa, and I say this on good authority as it is only a few years since I visited that country and was told that was part of that country's policy. It should not be beyond our resources to subsidise freight, particularly on consumer goods.

We seem to be reversing the endeavours of our State pioneers. They pushed transport lines out in all directions to facilitate the development of the

country and the spread of the population. Now we are contracting and withdrawing those facilities.

Communication in sparsely populated areas is a matter of tremendous importance. Greatly improved telecommunications have been developed, but the cost is such that they cannot be afforded by people in isolated areas.

Mail services costing 18 times as much as they did in 1900 are delayed in some areas because the offices once established there to receive mail have now been closed.

I acknowledge I am intruding into a Federal field, but I am concerned that the dramatic advances which have been made are washing over so many country people.

The matters of which I have spoken are of concern to our whole State. Briefly, I would like now to mention some matters concerning Lower Central Province. One of the problems confronting some areas within the Lower Central Province is the loss of population. In Warren, for example, a contributing factor is that much farm land has been purchased by the Forests Department and planted to softwoods. The circumstances behind this were that rising costs forced many off the land and they welcomed the opportunity to sell out to the Forests Department which, I must add, made the purchases on a very fair basis.

However, there has been an unfortunate snowballing effect. Those still remaining on their properties are becoming more and more isolated, a factor which in itself could well hasten their own departure from the land.

The communities are thinning out and there is a loss of revenue for local government authorities; and, in turn, services are becoming more difficult and more expensive to provide. The swelling burden of diminishing population and an increasing level of costs can only be alleviated by a Government.

I believe there are a number of ways in which a Government can assist. One is by allocating grant moneys to local shires, which have been disadvantaged in the way I have mentioned. However, it would be rather difficult for shires to budget on this unless they have had notice sufficiently in advance to allow them to do so.

Another way that a Government could assist these shires is by encouraging industry within those areas; and surely there must be a potential for forest-associated enterprises, particularly in places like Kirup, Donnybrook, or even Nannup.

The encouragement of industry is a long-term project, of course, but an immediate fillip could

be given to local shires by the Government paying normal rating on Forests Department land under softwood production. I realise this suggestion may be viewed as something of a heresy, but the land of which I speak previously paid rates to local government and is now being utilised for a commercial venture. This places it in a different category from virgin forest or national park land.

I applaud the Government on its action in assisting fruit growers to undertake a replanting programme designed to produce canning varieties of stone fruits for the Manjimup factory, and I congratulate the Manjimup factory on the quality of its products. I have consumed and enjoyed the Manjimup products frequently and I hope other members have given similar support to these products.

In the lower area of Warren, we have some quite unique areas to further tourism, but unfortunately we lack some very necessary facilities, one of which is a reliable, clean water supply in the Pemberton area. Caravans in increasing numbers from the Eastern States are bringing tourists to the trout hatchery, and I believe we have a potential for a great deal more development in the tourist industry down in that area.

In the Collie area, a problem has been created by a lack of foresight resulting in the under-capacity of water storage and increasing salinity. I am in full support of the moratorium imposed by the Government on further clearing in the water catchment area.

An undertaking for the payment of compensation has been given in instances where the restriction has resulted in hardship. However, I consider the Government should offer to buy back undeveloped land at a reasonable price, which a property owner cannot now develop. This would relieve some people of the state of suspense in which they find themselves because of the moratorium on clearing.

Collie has the potential for steady, continuing development in the coal and alumina industries.

The eastern side of Lower Central Province is well known for its production of stud stock, high quality wool, meat and grains. Fortunately, this area of the State has now passed through the drought conditions experienced by the remainder of the State. In Wagin, we have the Pederick Engineering Works, which is the largest private enterprise of this type outside the metropolitan area. It attracted a completely new manufacturing industry to the area; but, here again, the facilities which these works fostered in the area have now been lost, as that new industry

eventually had to move to the metropolitan area because of freight costs and communication problems.

Finally, Mr President, may I say I am mindful of the limitations on the public purse, and it will be my aim to ensure that Government expenditure of a supportive nature be so allocated as to bring the best results for the people of Western Australia.

I thank you, Mr President, and honourable members for your indulgence during this brief address. I have pleasure in supporting the motion.

**THE HON. G. E. MASTERS** (West) [5.14 p.m.]: I rise for the first time this session to congratulate you, Mr President, on your appointment to the high office of President of the House. It is a position I am sure you will hold with great distinction and impartiality, and I am certain you will enjoy it. We shall miss your contributions; however, I am sure your sense of humour will not be lost while you sit in the President's Chair. My congratulations go also to the new Leader of the Government, the Hon. Graham MacKinnon, to the Hon. David Wordsworth on his election to the Cabinet as Minister for Transport, and to the Hon. Ian Medcalf on his appointment as Attorney-General.

Further, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Des Dans for again being appointed to lead the Opposition in this House. I congratulate the Hon. Robert Hetherington who has gained a position on the front bench at his first entry into Parliament. I am sure we will hear a great deal from him.

It is with sadness that we saw a number of members retire and particularly I would like to mention my former colleague, the Hon. Roy Abbey. Roy Abbey served for many years in this House. Although he was quiet, and possibly did not speak often, he was a very sincere and genuine man. It was my privilege to serve with him and to have him as my co-representative of the West Province.

I would like to mention again the Hon. Jack Heitman. I extend my sincere condolences to his wife and his family. The Hon. Margaret McAleer ably expressed the thoughts of all members in relation to our former colleague, and I completely endorse her remarks.

I would like to congratulate the new members in this House, and in particular, my new colleague, the Hon. Neil Oliver, who will be serving with me for many years to come. We both intend to stay here for a long time. In the main the other new members are members of the Liberal Party and the National Country Party

who were swept into this House on a crest of anti-socialist fervour throughout this State, and indeed throughout the country.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: Fixed boundaries!

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: At the last election the voters showed that the Liberal Party and the National Country Party were very popular, and we will continue to be popular for many years to come.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Why don't you acknowledge the rigged boundaries?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: There is no such thing. I know beyond any shadow of doubt that there are no rigged boundaries. If members opposite look at the results of the last election they will see that the Liberal Party and National Country Party candidates would have romped home whatever boundaries might have applied.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Of course the boundaries are rigged.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: He is casting aspersions on a judge.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I am now sitting on a different side of the House. While I was sitting amongst the Opposition during the last session, interjections were often made very softly. Now that I am over here it is possible for the *Hansard* reporter to hear these interjections.

We have heard the word "conservative" used in this House on a number of occasions in the last week. I am a Liberal, and proud of it. If, by standing as a Liberal member and by attempting to uphold the traditions of this House as well as the freedoms and rights of the individuals in this State I am labelled a conservative, I am quite happy to accept the tag. Members opposite may do that as frequently as they like.

In the past Opposition members have squirmed under the term "socialist". Mr Hetherington now states he is a democratic socialist. This is an interesting new label and no doubt we will hear those words very often in the future.

Needless to say, Opposition members are obviously left-wingers, otherwise they would not hold their positions and operate as puppets of Trades Hall. As long as we realise the true situation, we will not be misled by anything they say. I do not want to be controversial tonight, so I intend to dwell on a subject that affects my electorate, and particularly, some of the businessmen in my electorate. It affects also members of the trade union movement and members of the public. I refer to the dispute

which probably is now commonly known as the "fuel agents' black bans".

I know this matter has been dealt with in some detail in another place, and it has been mentioned several times in this House; however, I do not believe members realise the full implications or just what has been going on. So for the sake of the *Hansard* record, and also for Opposition members who may learn a little from my comments, I would like to fill in the details.

The black bans were imposed on fuel agents as a continuing campaign over a number of years. I think it was on the 24th May of this year that the black bans were reintroduced as a result of a meeting of company tanker drivers who decided that the black bans were a necessary step.

The target of these black bans was the agents who had bulk storage at their depots and who also carted their own fuel. These are the important points to remember—the agents who were subjected to the black bans were those who carted their own fuel and who had their own bulk storage. The bans were the result of a telex sent to fuel companies by Mr Cowles of the Transport Workers' Union, and obviously he gave instructions also to his own members. I would like to read to the House this telex which is dated the 18th May, 1977. It says—

Demands: Fuel Agents of Bulk Storage of 9 092 litres or more—Agents and Prime Contractors: No bulk to be loaded ex terminals for direct deliveries; Oil company drivers to deliver to all storage radius 50 miles Fremantle or Kewdale; All bulk products delivered by road to company installations, depots or agents' clients bulk storage, to be delivered by company drivers; Delivery ex company installations and depots to clients and agents bulk storage by road transport to be delivered by oil company drivers where applicable.

It is quite clear those directions were aimed at stopping the fuel agents from carting their own fuel. There is no shadow of doubt it was the intention behind the direction given by Mr Cowles after the meeting of his own members.

We are then entitled to ask the question: Why? Why should these black bans be imposed after all these years? Why impose bans after 10 years, 15 years, and in one case on an agent who had been operating for 25 years? This is the question the fuel agents have been asking for some time but to which they have not received an answer.

We were told by Mr Hetherington in one of his speeches—I think in his speech in the Address-in-Reply debate—that in his experience Mr Cowles

was a moderate man. We were told he was doing his best to protect jobs for the company tanker drivers. Indeed, Mr Hetherington quoted figures to the effect that the number of company drivers had been reduced over the years from 250 to 120. I think those were the figures given. There is no doubt that the figure of 120 is correct, and I would not dispute the 250.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: What were the wages of truck drivers before Cowles came on the scene?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I would like to get in these facts and we can argue about the wages later.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Mr Cowles has done an excellent job as a union leader.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: The comment was made that the stand taken by Mr Cowles and the company tanker drivers was to protect the jobs of those 120 men. Indeed, in July of this year the assurance was given by the fuel companies that the 120 tanker drivers would retain their jobs, and that there was no threat to their jobs. The companies agreed to keep the 120 jobs clear for those men; so as far as we were concerned and as far as the company tanker drivers were concerned there was then no threat to their jobs.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Was there a written agreement?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: Not as far as I know, but it was an agreement. I would like Mr Cooley to know that I would accept his word if it was given at a conference, and I understand he would accept the word of the Industrial Commission.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: It was not a written guarantee.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: So despite what Mr Cooley said—

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS:—assurances were given and we then expected that the black bans would be lifted. Surely Mr Cooley would expect that course to follow!

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: I am a very reasonable man.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: We expected when the assurances were given the black bans would be lifted. What happened? The black bans continued, and in some cases were effectively increased. So there was no lifting of the black bans. We were then entitled to say: Why is there a strike? Why are there still black bans?

If the assurances are given surely there is no

reason the black bans should not be lifted and these fuel agents be permitted to continue operations as in the past.

I am very interested in this whole matter. I speak only when I know the facts. If members opposite would like a copy of this letter, I would be only too pleased to let them see it.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: You might tell us what the wages were.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: The obvious reason for the black bans was not the reason given by the Transport Workers' Union or by the company transport drivers. That was just a miserable excuse. It is not a petty argument between a handful of agents and 120 tanker drivers. It is not a small argument at all; it is a much more serious matter.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: Tell us about it.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I will tell you the true reason; it is quite clear.

The PRESIDENT: I recommend to the honourable member that he tell me about it.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You got advice and you took it.

The PRESIDENT: If the honourable member will address me, I assure him I will not interject!

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: The fact is, over the past years, whenever there has been an industrial dispute, Mr Cowles and the clique from Trades Hall have called out the tanker drivers where possible to restrict the supplies of fuel to the metropolitan and the near areas to Perth. This has been done, I suppose, to help reinforce the obviously unreasonable demands of some other militant groups. These 120 men have attempted to hold the State and the people of the metropolitan area to ransom by restricting fuel to essential services and by causing inconvenience to bus owners, car owners, and everyone else.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: If you go to Mr Harry you will get a completely different picture of the oil industry.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I am talking now, and I say that these 120 tanker drivers have held the State to ransom whenever possible. However, they have not been entirely successful.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I suggest the honourable member continue to address his remarks to me and, as I said before, he can be assured I will not interject!

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: Thank you.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You cannot get that assurance from me.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I repeat, the efforts of the 120 or so tanker drivers have been unsuccessful, and we must ask the reason. It is very obvious. Those fuel agents who cart their own fuel and who have their own storage have taken up the slack. They have managed to supply the residential areas; the cars, buses, trucks, and essential services. The State did not come to a grinding halt. The State came slowly to a stop, so it did not have the immediate effect the company drivers wanted. These company drivers, dictated to by Mr Cowles, Mr Humphries, Mr Higham, and the like—

The Hon. R. Hetherington: You will find that is not true; they were not dictated to.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: The point is that these steps were taken. Now the agents must rely on the company tanker to deliver fuel so that when there is a strike the company tanker drivers can restrict fuel not only to the public generally but also to the fuel agents.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Why don't the oil companies make a statement to the public?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I am coming to them.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I will tell you a few things about oil companies in this country.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I would prefer to hear the Hon. G. E. Masters.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: Thank you. I will make the statement again. The company tanker drivers seek to control all bulk supplies in this State, and most certainly in the metropolitan area. If they succeed, at the drop of a hat they can stop the buses, cars, and essential services. That is what it is all about; there is no argument about it.

In June of this year we saw an act of intimidation that shocked and frightened the people of this State and, indeed, of the whole country. We saw the pickets in operation. We saw an assault carried out on a member of the public who was going about his legal duties as he had every right to do. This man attempted to drive his truck from a fuel terminal, and then to drive it on the Queen's highway. He was a licensed driver and it was a licensed truck.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: This was on private land.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: He had every right to deliver fuel to his clients. This man was hauled out of his truck, and if it had not been for the police, probably he would have been more seriously injured.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: He committed an offence himself.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: He had a right to drive his truck, and he had a right to go about his legal duties. He was restricted in that right.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: When are you coming to the oil companies?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: These picketers were there for the one purpose, to be arrested and to go to gaol in order to gain publicity. That is what it is all about.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Have you ever seen the Fremantle lock-up?

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Have you noticed the ALP is now on the side of the big companies and against law and order?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I say once again that here was a man who was going about his lawful duties. He had every right to drive down the road and to deliver fuel to his customers. He had done this for the last 10 to 15 years.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: When are you going to talk about English shop stewards—your mob?

The Hon. D. K. Dans: The French had a name for it—the English disease.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: The people arrested were brought before the Fremantle court, as they should have been.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Shame!

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: Mr Cooley says "Shame", but I suggest that this was the right course because the men had been breaking the law and using threatening tactics.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: They were not breaking the law. What were the charges?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: The fact is that these men were taken to court.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: They were charged with obstruction.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: There were various reports of this matter, and I am sure the Opposition has not read them thoroughly. We are talking about picketing. Anyone has the right to picket peaceably.

I should like to quote from the editorial in *The West Australian* of the 18th June, 1977. Under the heading "Picketing" the following comment is made—

There is nothing illegal about picketing. Any member of the community is entitled to try to persuade others to his point of view. But it is also fundamental to good order that

any citizen should be able to go about his lawful business unmolested.

When picketing ceases to be persuasion and becomes physical obstruction, which possibly leads to violence, it is a breach of the law and the police are required to act.

I would be amazed if members of the Opposition in this House were not prepared to agree with those comments.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: We do not believe in violence in any form.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: In other words, Mr Cooley agrees with the comment. In fact, I believe the public generally would agree with the sentiments expressed in the editorial. But what do we get? We get action taken by a group I would call the "stirrers". I quote from *The West Australian* of the 15th June, 1977—

A union organiser, Mr John O'Connor said it was the first time that unionists had been locked up for legitimate union activities.

If that is truly the attitude of some of these union organisers involved in the demonstration, heaven help us!

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: You just told us that picketing was legitimate.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I did, but the demonstration at Fremantle was not peaceful; the people involved were not going about their picketing in a peaceful manner. In fact, they grabbed Mr Frank Brockway, and pulled him from his truck onto the ground. Is that peaceful? Are members opposite supporting that sort of conduct? If so, it should be recorded in *Hansard*. Perhaps the classic example of the attitude adopted by the Labor Party is the statement made by a man who in another place is Leader of the Opposition. In his regular column in *The West Australian* under the heading "Opposition", he made some comments with reference to picketing, demonstrations, and court cases. The column appeared on the 23rd June, 1977, and stated as follows—

The Liberal Party official who provoked the incident in which 21 people were arrested, Mr Frank Brockway—

How on earth does the Leader of the Opposition in another place know that Mr Brockway is a Liberal Party official? Mr Brockway lives in my electorate, and I know he is not an official of my party. What a ridiculous comment to come from the Leader of the Opposition in another place! We on this side only hope he remains in the position for a long time, because if that is the sort of attitude he adopts, we will be in power for the

next 20 years. I am not saying that Mr Frank Brockway is not a member of the Liberal Party; he may be. Certainly, he is a supporter of the Liberal and National Country Parties, as are 55 per cent of the population of Western Australia.

The Hon. Grace Vaughan: That is a bit of an exaggeration.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: If the honourable member wishes to split hairs, 54.7 per cent support our parties. Heaven help the Labor Party if that is the sort of comment its leader makes, and heaven help us if he ever gets into power.

Several members interjected.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Your battle for fair play is really touching them on the raw.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I should like to bring to the attention of the House some activities of members of the Labor Party in this dispute. It is significant, of course, that members of the Liberal Party kept well out of the dispute, although they were trying to help their own supporters.

The Hon. Grace Vaughan: What about the devils who pulled Mr Brockway from the truck? Why were they not charged with assault?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: The police have this matter in hand; I will leave it to their good sense. The main thing is that they saved Mr Brockway from injury.

The Hon. Grace Vaughan: That is only your allegation; the police have made no such statement.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: The activities of some members of the Labor Party in this dispute during the picketing and later were deplorable.

Government Members: Hear, hear!

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: Mr President, we even had a new member (Dr Troy) involved in the picketing, desperately trying to get arrested. In fact, he almost broke his arm to get publicity; that is what he was there for, and he succeeded and was very pleased indeed about the whole affair. I understand that two members of this House were also present outside the Fremantle court. I refer to the Hon. D. K. Dans and the Hon. R. Hetherington.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: That is how Mr Dans broke his arm!

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: If I am incorrect, please correct me.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: And I will be there again.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: Presumably to

support those people who say they are above the law.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: We had permission from the Commissioner of Police to be there. In fact, he was standing there with us.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: I was going to hear the cases.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: We know they were supporting the people who broke the law, the people who say they are above the law.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I was supporting the right for peaceful picketing.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: That is very nice to know. However, we are not talking about peaceful picketing; we are talking about people who broke the law. I think the Hon. D. K. Dans made it absolutely clear that he supported those people. He has not really gone down in *Hansard* as having supported them, but both he and Mr Hetherington support those people who broke the law, and have said that they will do so again.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: I have already stated I went to the Fremantle court to listen to the cases.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. R. Hetherington: Do not read motives which were not there.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I recommend to the honourable member that he proceed with his comments and refrain from provoking interjections.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I am sorry, Mr President. Two members of the Labor Party were outside the court; I will leave it at that. I will allow the public to draw their own conclusions.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I was supporting my constituents, just as you are now supporting Mr Brockway.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: It was interesting to hear the Hon. R. Hetherington say, "More dialogue, less confrontation" during his maiden speech to this House. He has not demonstrated that philosophy very well by his actions during this dispute. I should point out that we as members of Parliament are lawmakers, not lawbreakers. If in fact some members oppose support openly the breaking of the law, they have a moral obligation to resign and go before the public.

*Point of Order*

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Mr President, I take a point of order. I should like Mr Masters to tell me where Mr Hetherington broke the law.



The PRESIDENT: Order! What is your point of order?

The Hon. D. K. DAns: Mr Masters has stated that Mr Hetherington broke the law, and I should like him to state where in fact the law was broken.

The PRESIDENT: Order! There is no point of order.

The Hon. D. K. DAns: You tell me where Mr Hetherington broke the law!

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: Mr President, I believe there is a point of order involved here. I cannot locate the precise Standing Order at the moment, but no doubt you would be aware of it. In effect, it states that a member should not cast reflections on another member.

The PRESIDENT: Order! There is no point of order.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: But Mr Masters did accuse one of the members of this House of breaking the law.

The PRESIDENT: Order, please! If the honourable member concerned wishes to request for a withdrawal, that is up to him. However, at this stage there is no point of order. I call the Hon. Gordon Masters, and I request that he refrain from inducing members to answer his comments.

#### *Debate Resumed*

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: Mr President, that is the last thing I would wish to do. In order to make sure I am not calling anyone a lawbreaker, I will repeat my comments: We should not be lawbreakers but lawmakers. If there is anyone who in his conscience is a lawbreaker, so be it. I have not made such an accusation, certainly not to members opposite.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: They are very touchy tonight. You are touching them on the raw.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: Mr Cooley himself in his speech commented that there are militants on both sides and, of course, he is correct. I assume from his comments that he would be prepared to criticise left-wing militants, just as I am free to criticise right-wing militants. I believe the people involved in the dispute at Fremantle were militants, and so do members opposite.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: We do not.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: That is all I am going to say that will upset members of the Opposition. Perhaps my next comments will please them.

The Hon. Grace Vaughan: I thought you said you were not going to be controversial.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: There was nothing controversial in what Mr Masters said.

The Hon. A. A. Lewis: It was just a simple statement of the facts.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: He said nothing very factual, either.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: That is a matter of opinion.

I am concerned at the activities of the fuel companies during this dispute, and I should like to criticise them in that respect. They have not been at all helpful during the whole dispute; in fact, their conduct has been absolutely deplorable.

It appears to me that on many occasions the major fuel companies have put profit before principle and have failed to ensure a continuity of supply to fuel agents, some of whom have been working for them for many years, such as Mr Kennedy from Mt. Helena, who has been a fuel agent for the past 25 years. Some of these fuel companies have refused to comment on the issue and have stood on the sidelines. They know they are going to sell fuel, whatever happens to the fuel agents, so they will not be out of pocket. This is a disgraceful attitude to adopt.

I quote now from an article which appeared in *The West Australian* of Friday, the 22nd July. Under the heading "TWU-agent row may end soon" the following appears—

The Transport Workers' Union's longstanding dispute with fuel agents and oil companies may soon be over.

A meeting of TWU members in Fremantle yesterday was told oil companies had agreed that their tankers should deliver to agents' depots where storage was in excess of 9 000 litres.

From the report it would appear the agents have been sold down the river, whether it be by the TWU or the fuel companies. It seems as though the fuel companies have had quite a hand in the decision, and that is disgraceful. All credit must go to the Minister for Labour and Industry (Mr Grayden) who obviously would not accept the position, and said so.

The decision of oil companies to deliver fuel to agents' depots where storage was in excess of 9 000 litres has not eventuated; as far as I know, bulk fuel is not being delivered to agents' depots. While I am prepared to criticise one side for the demonstration which occurred at Fremantle, I am also prepared to criticise the fuel companies for their activities during the dispute.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: But you will not criticise Mr Brockway.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: In this dispute, the fuel agents are the meat in the sandwich; they are taking all the knocks, and nothing has happened to their benefit.

The Government must act as soon as it can to resolve this dispute. I urge the Minister for Labour and Industry to take what steps he can to enable the fuel agents to go about their legitimate business.

I should like now to list what I believe should be some of the objectives of the Government during the next three years. Firstly, I believe legislation should be introduced which will make those people responsible for causing loss of earnings and jobs, and general hardship, answerable to charges in a court of law and liable to pay compensation.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: You are suggesting we return to the nineteenth century. That is the sort of thing they got rid of in England last century.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: That may be so, but I believe these people should be responsible for the losses and misery they cause.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: You want to destroy trade unions.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I do not wish to destroy trade unions; I believe responsible trade unions are a necessary part of our society. However, I emphasise the word "responsible" because it seems that members opposite forget that word very easily.

Another objective of the Government should be to press for the deregistration of a union where reckless behaviour occurs.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Why did not the Governor mention all this when he was here outlining the Government's objectives for the next three years?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: These are my suggestions, and Ministers of the Government may well disagree with me. However, I hope members on my side in this House agree with me. Unlike members of the Labor Party, members of the Liberal Party are allowed to speak their minds freely, and do so.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Like you did on the Liquor Bill?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: Another objective should be the introduction of secret ballots. I am beginning to think that secret ballots by members should take place before a strike can occur.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: And to stop it again, too?

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I know the rank-and-file member can be manipulated, whichever way the vote is taken, but I am beginning to think the situation now justifies the introduction of secret ballots. In West Germany there must be a two-thirds majority before a strike can take place, and I believe such a provision could well apply here.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: That is a ludicrous suggestion.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: Mr Hetherington protests because he does not want such a provision imposed upon trade unions. It is interesting to think that as a result of these black bans, and as a result of the confrontation and the court cases which followed, a strike was called by 120 tanker drivers, and that those drivers called on all members of the Transport Workers' Union to support them in their strike.

It was reported in *The West Australian* as follows—

#### TWU says men must strike

Transport Workers' Union members employed at Perth Airport have been told to go on strike today—against the wishes of most of them . . .

Most of us in this House would know this is the case. We have had many strikes, but most of those on strike have been unwilling participants. This is the sad part. However, a secret ballot may overcome the problems which I realise exist. Mr Hetherington makes it quite clear he does not support the proposal of secret ballots or that it should require a majority of members before strike action can take place. At the moment there is an urgent demand by the public for the Government to take action to protect them, their rights and their privileges to go about their normal business.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Now we are coming to the point.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: Yes, and we received a mandate to do so at the last election.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: You remove them day by day.

The Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I urge the Government to act now. The public desire action and if it is left too long it may well be too late. The call is coming from the public and members of the trade union movement who are frightened of the present developments.

I was intending to deal with another problem, but I think that at this stage the Opposition has

had enough, so I will conclude by supporting the motion.

**THE HON. A. A. LEWIS** (Lower Central) [5.46 p.m.]: May I turn the House back into a quiet gentle place and firstly congratulate you, Mr President, on your elevation to your present position? Although all of us on the floor of the House will miss your teetering on the side of the step as you give us the benefit of your learned expertise on State Housing Commission houses and suchlike, we are sure you will do a fine job as President. May I congratulate the Leader of the House, and also Mr Wordsworth on his elevation to the Ministry? I also congratulate the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I am sorry to see the Leader of the Opposition is carrying extra weapons tonight but I hope his arm will soon be fixed!

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has had a fairly heavy baptism of fire in this place and if his interjections are as poor as they have been this evening, he will get a worse one later on. I have always had a fellow feeling for the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and despite the fact that Stan Dellar was on the opposite side of the House, he was a man I admired, but we all know what happens at election time. Personally I was very sorry to see him go. He was an extremely fine friend of mine and a gentleman for whom I had a great regard.

May I congratulate the new members on their Address-in-Reply speeches? I apologise to the Hon. Winifred Piesse because I heard only a little of her speech through the back door as I had urgent business to attend to outside the Chamber. The standard of the speeches has been extremely good. Some thought has been put into them and some have been provocative, but I do not think that is a bad thing. At times it might be a good idea if this Chamber had someone to provoke it occasionally and to inject it with new ideas.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I agree.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Some of the speeches covered a great deal of ground and maybe it would have been better had some research been carried out. However, I guess those members will learn lessons in the succeeding years.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Is that in support of academics?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Roy Claughton is a follower of "idolatry". His interjections over the three years I have been here have become steadily worse and worse, from silly to inane.

May I move on now to talk about three people who, since the last sitting of Parliament, have passed on? The first, of course, is Jack Heitman.

To me Jack was always a father figure. However, I could not improve on what Miss McAleer said about him when talking on the condolence motion.

The second is a fellow called Jim Old who was the father of the Leader of the National Country Party. He lived in Katanning and when I first went into that district he was the person who gave me all the help I needed—no advice, but plenty of help. A person knew that if he was in trouble, Jim Old was there to back him up. He was the sort of person who would help any young man in any community and provide him with assistance and a prop. We have all experienced problems as youngsters.

The third was Mr Percy Payne who died only a few weeks ago. All members from the south-west would know what a battle Percy Payne fought for the whole of the south-west. He was the instigator of industrial development committees in the south-west and he was a fighter who could not be beaten. If the Minister concerned disagreed with him he went to the Premier. If the Premier knocked him back, he would go to the Prime Minister. At the same time he would write innumerable letters to Cabinet Ministers, backbenchers, and everyone else. He fought hard and what he achieved for the south-west has remained unparalleled in the State's history.

I now turn to my own province and will deal with it at fair length, Assembly electorate by Assembly electorate. The first electorate I wish to mention is that of Warren and the prominent industry in that area in the last 12 months has been Sunmost fruit. I would be horrified if any member is not acquainted with it.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: I eat it frequently.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Good. I hope the Hon. Lyla Elliott will advise the Hon. Grace Vaughan, the Hon. Margaret McAleer, and the Hon. Winifred Piesse of its excellence so they add it to their shopping lists. I am not going in for a big commercial tonight because most members know of Sunmost fruit. It is the greatest breakthrough the Manjimup cannery has had. I have always believed we should market our products and should not be under boards or have interstate control of our markets. I will come back to marketing in a general sense later on.

The Sunmost promotion has been something really out of the box. I believe the directors have been able to achieve what they have as a result of a very intelligent Government guarantee of the plantings of certain types of fruit. The grower is guaranteed against the closure of the cannery. I will not indicate from whence the suggestion

came, but I thank the Government which adopted it. I am sure that for the growers of certain types of fruit, such as plums, pears, apricots, and peaches, it will have great advantages. The cannery will be able to get itself out of financial trouble in the next three or four years because of a constructive Government move. It is fairly hard for a Government to help business in a constructive way while at the same time helping the primary producers behind it.

The Minister for Water Supplies has studied the Pemberton water supply situation and has agreed that the supply needs upgrading, and the sooner the better. Not only are the people receiving shocking water, but also the major trout hatchery in this State is frequently closed because of a lack of water, and I am sure the Minister for Tourism will back me up on this point. The hatchery is probably one of the foremost tourist attractions in this State. I say that because when I first came to Western Australia, about the only attractions advertised by the Tourist Bureau were the karri trees and the trout hatchery at Pemberton. As one of the old tourist attractions the hatchery should be kept open, and I urge the Government to move very speedily to update the Pemberton water supply so that the hatchery does not close again.

There is another subject about which I am not very happy, and neither is the Minister but for a different reason. I am referring to the problem of access to the coast at Walpole. Successive Governments, both Labor and Liberal, have forgotten the reason national parks have been established. In my opinion they are for people—for the enjoyment of generations of people. I know that the Crystal Springs-Cliffy Head road has been surveyed, but as yet no Government has set aside enough money to provide a road. I am doubtful about the specifications which will be applied to such a road. If a decent road were built together with parking bays and a strict stipulation that no vehicles—four-wheel drive or otherwise—could leave the road, the public would have convenient access to the coast and would not have to walk 16 kilometres carrying fishing gear and other requirements necessary when one goes on a fishing trip. It is a very long haul and the Government should be encouraged to speedily provide that access road.

I now move to a subject on which we have not received the final answer; that is, the Greenbushes police station. I was involved in a deputation to the Minister when he announced that the Greenbushes police station would close. The Minister admitted that it was the best deputation

he had received in the whole time he had been a Minister of the Government, which would have been over some 15 years with one small break. The facts which had been previously provided were out of date. For instance, the Police Department's figures regarding the population alone were out of date because there has been a 50 per cent increase in the population in the town of Greenbushes. Also the Greenbushes police district takes in Balingup which also has had a large increase in population. It was not known that the people of Greenbushes went to the extremes of doing an actual head count of the whole district. They ascertained the boundary of the police district and carried out an actual head count all the way through the Greenbushes police district to ascertain how many people lived there.

I am one who believes that policemen are necessary to prevent crime as well as to apprehend those who commit crime. With regard to the book work required of a policeman, I suggest that it would not be a bad idea if the RTA and the Police Force were provided with far more secretarial assistants. It is ludicrous to see a 6 ft. 8 in. policeman, heavier than I am and with fingers bigger than mine, using a typewriter and trying to act like a 7st. 6 lb. blonde typist. It is even more ludicrous when we realise that the blonde typist can do a policeman's book work in about half an hour. I am sure it would be more helpful to the police officers in country districts if part-time stenographers were provided to type the reports.

The situation could be that a woman would arrive at 9 o'clock in the morning and again at 3 o'clock in the afternoon to do half an hour's work. A married woman could take her children to school, and then work for half an hour or three-quarters of an hour at the police station. She could arrive again at the police station and do half an hour's work before picking up the children after school. She could work on an hourly basis.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: Put them on two-fifths of a week, similar to the situation in the Education Department?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I do not think that would be practicable because I do not believe the time should be tied down to one-fifth or two-fifths. It might be necessary to increase the number of hours to be worked in an outrageous and sinful town such as Bunbury where a greater number of people is involved! In the case of Greenbushes, a girl could handle all the work in half an hour each week. The women who undertake this type of work should be paid at an hourly rate. We have to get away from the idea of

two-fifths or three-fifths. Perhaps that is part of what is wrong with the Education Department!

*Sitting suspended from 6.02 to 7.30 p.m.*

Before the tea suspension I was talking about the Greenbushes police station and I made the statement that any Government would be without soul if it thought that on the basis of the population figures alone, that is the decrease in population, it should close a police station. There are many ways Governments can save money. An example quoted to me is Great Britain where a few village policemen have been withdrawn. The outskirts of one village may be two kilometres away from the outskirts of another village, so we have two villages just four kilometres apart. I do not believe that we in Australia should accept at all readily that sort of argument.

I would like now to make comment about the fact that Labor Leader of the Opposition in this Chamber was at the original meeting with me and apart from some few obvious political statements he went right down the line with me and supported the fact that a town like Greenbushes should continue to have a police station.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: We believe in looking after people.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It is fascinating to hear the academics, who have done nothing but deal with students, talking about looking after people. I have been looking after many people from various walks of life in both Houses for a number of years, and when the honourable member has been in Parliament for as long as I have—he probably will not because he comes up for election in 1980—we can then go on talking about the matter.

I said in my speech on the Supply Bill that the Labor Party members tend to think that they are the only ones who care about people, but what rot that is. Every member of this House without exception thinks and cares about people, and the inane sort of comment about people from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition riles me to some extent.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: I am sorry about that.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: To think that a man who has been in an educational institution all his life can make comments about people, all types of people—

The Hon. R. Hetherington: Don't you think people in educational institutions care about people?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: No, only pieces of paper.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: That is not true.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: If you talk to the gentleman behind you who has worked with me on behalf of many people you will learn something about people.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: Don't you believe students are people? You are treading on dangerous ground now.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I always do very dangerous things. I do not have to be ruled by Caucus, but by my heart and the people.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: So do I.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The honourable member can say anything about us on this side of the House but we represent people as well, if not better, because we sit in Government.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: You do not represent as many as we do.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Miss Elliot says we do not represent quite as many as the Opposition.

The Hon. Lyla Elliot: I represent 80 000 people.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The poor dear! The honourable member could almost take a walk around her electorate before breakfast. Will she deny my 24 000 electors representation? She has already insinuated by her interjections that she denies my electors the same sort of contact as she has with her own electors. May I go on with my speech without dealing with these interjections which I thought the Labor Party selection committee would have eradicated years ago?

The PRESIDENT: I would be delighted if you did continue with your speech.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I will continue.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Yes, you may.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It seems we have a new President!

The PRESIDENT: Order! Please proceed with your comments.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr President. I congratulate the Government on the job it has done on the Boyup Brook flax mill complex. This was a brilliant idea put forward by the member for Blackwood when the Tonkin Government was in power and rejected it completely. When the Leader of this House became the Minister for Education, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs in the subsequent Government, the concept was taken up. In fact, next weekend the Minister for Cultural Affairs will open this complex which has accommodation for 100 people, a mess and an ablution block. This will bring to fruition the suggestion of the ex-

member for Blackwood that students from WAIT should go down there and do one semester a year.

I move now to consider the electorate of Katanning. Firstly, I congratulate the Dumbleyung Shire for what it has done in providing a caravan park. The first suggestion was to have the park placed alongside the lake. However, the shire has now positioned it alongside the shire building. This is a practical and sensible move. The park will be open in a few months and now that Eyre Highway is completely bituminised I am sure it will be a success.

On the debit side I will mention the Dumbleyung police station. When we consider people the policemen at Dumbleyung must be among those who have been disadvantaged for so long that it does not matter. Never have I heard the Opposition talk about the policemen or the RTA officers at Dumbleyung. The Opposition members always seem to be worrying about city people rather than those in the bush. The Opposition has never mentioned that the stumps of the Dumbleyung police station are rotting away, or that the courthouse is merely an office of 6 ft. x 6 ft.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I have supported you on these issues at different times.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Leader of the Opposition has supported me in a vague sort of way.

The D. K. Dans: My knowledge of Dumbleyung is not very great.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: When the Leader of the Opposition has finished his Address-in-Reply speech I will have a go.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: You are trying hard.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Opposition Whip is the most trying thing I have seen in years. I have heard from the Minister for Police that the Dumbleyung police station is on the Estimates for 1977-78. I want more than that.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: We are hoping to have a short sojourn there.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I will disregard that interjection. I mean to be speaking to you, Mr President and, really, the standard of interjections from the Opposition is becoming so low that one cannot answer them.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I recommend that you adopt that policy for the remainder of your speech.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I bet the people in

Dumbleyung will be glad when you move on to some other area.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: We will forget the banalities of the Opposition. This police station and the quarters attached to it are the most disgraceful buildings I have seen in my years in Parliament. If the Government thinks it can get away any longer with this sort of accommodation in my electorate, it is placing itself in a position where it will come under severe attack. As you know, Sir, I will not put up with things which I believe have been neglected over the years. I am given an excuse that I have heard before, and it was a failure. The excuse is that more time is needed. It is not good enough when corners of the building are falling down like, as Mr Cooley might say, a drunken farmer's son!

The Hon. D. K. Dans: In Fremantle or Dumbleyung?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Leader of the Opposition represents Fremantle, but he should let me get on with my speech. The current state of affairs is a disgrace, and provision should be made in the next Budget for the building to be replaced.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: Just like the Bassendean police station.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: There are more things in Bassendean needing replacement than a police station—a football team, for instance!

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: The people in Wanneroo would like a police station.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I move on now to education facilities in Katanning. To a certain degree we are very lucky in Katanning. We have a senior high school and just over the border there is another senior high school in Narrogin. I believe educational benefits should be staggered. A technical school should be established in Wagin within close proximity, allowing many people to become tradesman. Wagin would be the ideal situation. I believe the Government should consider the distance people from all over the area will have to travel, and in that respect Wagin is the ideal site.

I would like to move on now to deal quickly with two subjects, although they are not quick in respect of establishment or in respect of what has been done. The first is St. Andrews Hostel in Katanning. When I first became a member of this place three years ago, the Government was asked to provide some \$6 500 to help the hostel out of the mess it was in. Now under Warden Dennis McKenna the students are doing something for themselves. They have got themselves a swimming

pool and a colour television set, they are on their second school bus, and now they have opened a commercial nursery to sell flowers, shrubs, etc. to the local inhabitants. They are really doing something for themselves.

I like kids, and St. Andrews Hostel has a bunch of kids who want to get on with life and living and are prepared to do something for themselves. Is not this a wonderful thing in today's world where everyone seems to have the attitude of wanting others to do something for him?

Next I would like to congratulate the Government on the stand it has taken and the help it has given to Christmas Islanders in my electorate. These people are a big force in Katanning, and they have brought a new culture into the town. They are really doing something to make an impact of their lifestyle on Katanning. I congratulate the Government for providing, over and above the needs of normal education, additional classrooms and teachers at the further education and high school levels to help the Christmas Islanders overcome their language problem and assimilate into the community.

I move now to the Collie area, and the first thing I would speak about is the Donnybrook police station. For years as a member of the other House, and for years as a member of this House, I have been trying to get a courthouse in Katanning and a police station at Donnybrook. At last the police station is half built; and if someone could convince the Public Works Department that Donnybrook stone should be set in its natural condition and not diamond cut, I would be very pleased.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: We will finish the other half next week.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: If Mr Leeson wants to wait for the other half of my speech, I would be very surprised.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: So would I.

The Hon. R. T. Leeson: I was talking about the building of the police station.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: We are waiting with bated breath.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Thank you, Sir; it was very interesting to hear the comments of those who have not yet been weaned.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I still suck on a bottle occasionally.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That may be the cause of the trouble with the honourable member's left wrist.

I am tickled pink that the Donnybrook police station is being built, but I believe the contractors are being delayed unnecessarily by pettifoggery rules. I feel the quicker the police station is built the cheaper will be the cost to the Government, and certainly the better it will be for the community.

Next, Sir, I would like to mention the Donnybrook-Boyup Brook road. Occasionally in my time as a member of this place I have spoken about the road to Boyup Brook, and I congratulate the Government on the job it is doing in this case. Very seldom does one see such a dangerous road being widened so quickly to enable it to cope with the traffic which uses it. We tried with the previous Government, and the Government before that, to have this road widened; and now the present Government is widening it and making it safe for those who travel on it.

I turn now to Collie itself. I think there is no doubt that the Alwest project will be a functional reality within the next three years, despite the fact that the company is trying to align itself with those people who want progress and also with the conservationists. We know the history of the Alwest situation; members have heard me talk about the shocking attitude of the Whitlam Government towards this project—an attitude which cruelled the progress of the Collie district. Indeed, it fascinated me that the Labor Party could do that to a member who holds that lower House seat.

The Labor Party was quite prepared to ignore the advice of the Labor member for the area and to proceed on its own sweet way, listening to those who have not been further than 10 miles from the Perth GPO. Anybody who had seen the problem agreed that the Alwest project should proceed.

In respect of Collie, I have a few thanks to express and a few wishes to make. We have one pre-primary centre at Fairview. We need one at Wilson Park, and another at Amaroo. The lack of discussion from members opposite on the matter of pre-primary centres is amazing.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: We wish the Government would set them up and not take over existing ones.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I seem to remember coming to this place a long time ago and hearing all the objections of the Labor Party to pre-primary centres. I challenge members opposite to say now whether they propose to get rid of pre-primary centres in our education system.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: Not at all. But we

will not take over the existing ones until we have set up others in places where they are needed.

The Hon. G. E. Masters: You then acknowledge they are a great success?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The only reason pre-primary schools are here is that they are the best possible educational solution to the problem. We have members here such as the Hon. R. F. Claughton who for three years asked questions, made speeches, and played around politically, thinking of nothing but political advantage—

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Thinking of the kids.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS:—and not thinking of the children who would be educated in these pre-primary centres. We now have Mr Hetherington coming to this place and saying his party will not get rid of them. I wonder whether the Labor Party knows where it is going.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: We know where it is going.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Let us take the woodchip deal. The Leader of the Opposition opposed it, and then the next day he started to support it.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Who said that?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I think if he reads his speeches the Leader of the Opposition will find he said that.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: About what?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The wood chipping industry. The Leader of the Opposition should not shake his head.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I was not the Leader of the Opposition when that debate was conducted.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: No, but I heard the honourable member's speech. We on this side have ears.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: You don't use them very often, do you?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: With the sort of comments that come from the Opposition, we do not have to use them.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: You ought to listen sometimes; you might learn something.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Well, I have seen the honourable member's students, and I wonder about that.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: The member for Murdoch in another place was one of my students, and I do not wonder about him. He is all right.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: He has ears, too.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I, too, have ears, and I would like to hear the Hon A. A. Lewis proceed with his speech.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Thank you, Sir; I thought those two members had made their speeches on the Address-in-Reply.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: You helped me; I am trying to help you.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It is very nice when these new members come in and try to help us!

In North Collie there is a need for the State Housing Commission to release some of its land for private development. The Alwest project will create unprecedented expansion in Collie; and, unfortunately, the Housing Commission has too much land tied up in the town. I become very worried about salt and pepper Housing Commission deals, because I have seen previous Governments use that system with certain ethnic races, and I believe it does not work. In my opinion blocks of State Housing Commission land should be made available to private enterprise so that they may be developed.

In respect of Collie, I make two final points. Firstly I congratulate the shire on its new buildings. They are probably the most economical and best designed shire buildings I have seen throughout the world. The buildings are serviceable, not wasteful of space, and unlike other places I know of they do not have parlours for mayoresses that have not been used for five years. These buildings will last the Shire of Collie for many years in a very functional manner.

The other comment is in respect of letters I have received from the Minister for Water Supplies in respect of the Shotts area. The fact that the State Energy Commission in its wisdom will not allow 12 land owners to have water disgusts me in the extreme. I believe the Government is deserving of censure over that matter. Probably the Government is not even aware of the matter; probably a departmental head has made a decision and that is that.

The answer to a query I raised was that the SEC may need more water in several years' time, and that really amuses me. Why cannot we give the water to the people at Shotts now, and discuss in several years' time what should happen then? It seems to me the Government has not really considered the situation at all, but it has been a departmental decision which has gone against people who have been prepared to do something for themselves and to go to a townsite originally without electricity and water supplies. All right, the land was cheap when they went out there; however, they are closer to the mines and to the



power station, and I believe the Government should smarten up its thinking on this.

I would like to speak about several more subjects, and I intend to do so. In the near future we are to have a referendum on meat marketing. I believe the meat producers of this State have not been made aware of all the alternative methods of marketing meat. I was extremely fortunate to be able to see the model produced by the Meat Research Council for the computer marketing of meat whereby the abattoirs, the buyers, and the sellers are linked up with a cheap computer system—when I say cheap, it is about \$600 per outlet—from which they can obtain a printout of the prices offered and so decide whether to sell their product.

Although it was one of the Government's election promises that we would have a referendum on meat marketing, I believe the Government has not done sufficient research into the methods of marketing meat or any other commodity in this country. It seems to me we are being pressurised by groups who want acquisition—the total socialist philosophy of acquisition with the control of supply which follows it. Anybody who knows the rural industries would not consider acquisition without control over the total supply.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Do you not think the referendum will show whether they want acquisition? You say we are being pressurised.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It may say whether they want it, but whether they have the information at their fingertips to make the decision I doubt very much. I doubt whether the average farmer has been given information about alternative marketing systems.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: You are adopting a very paternalistic attitude about it.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It is fascinating to hear Mr Gayfer and know—

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: I shall cross swords with you on statutory marketing.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Knowing the organisations which Mr Gayfer represents, it is fascinating to hear him doubt that there could be any other scheme, or that any other scheme should be put before farmers. I am trying to put other schemes before farmers so that they can have a choice and I hope Mr Gayfer does not deny me that right. If he did we could get into large and vocal holds that would go on for a long time, and I am sure the Opposition would not like to hear that.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I am easy. I always believe in letting people speak.

The Hon. N. E. Baxter interjected.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I can tell Mr Baxter that the last lecture I gave on this subject took three-quarters of an hour. If he wishes my speech to go on until 11 o'clock rather than a quarter past 10—

The PRESIDENT: Order! Would the honourable member mind addressing his comments to me.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Mr President, I would love to.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: Did you learn it all when you spent 12 months in the Assembly?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Obviously Mr Gayfer learnt nothing down there.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am putting forward computer sales of meat as something people should look at. Farmers should look at it and should be given the opportunity to see these alternatives in a reasonable light.

The next subject I should like to talk about—and I am sorry the Leader of the House is not here—is industry in Western Australia; and I hate using the word "decentralisation".

The Hon. D. K. Dans: The myth, you mean.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It is a myth under any Government.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: We agree on that.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: We agree occasionally. I believe all Governments are taking the wrong approach to industrial development in the country. Unfortunately the towns of Geraldton, Bunbury, and Albany are having industries established right on their doorstep. We know that environmentalists want an area by the coast—I shall not say how large an area—set aside for recreation and for people, and I believe Governments should pick up the expense of putting industries further inland. This would have many advantages. It would have the advantage of leaving the coastal environment for those people who want to use it for recreation and tourism, and it would also have the advantage of giving inland towns an impetus that they would not have if the industries were on the coast. I am not convinced that the situation surrounding the Kwinana complex is right.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I agree with you.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: Who does not agree? I am sorry that you are getting agreement from the wrong place.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am glad to hear that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition agrees with me. If he had been walking round there in 1952 with me he might have made some wrong decisions. I certainly did and I admit those mistakes.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Unfortunately Governments of all persuasions have continued to make them in the same area.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I agree with the Leader of the Opposition. That is two agreements in a row, so an argument must be coming up! It is a necessity that as much as possible of the huge coastline of this State be preserved for recreation, tourism, and environmental purposes. So I believe that we—the Government and the Opposition together—should start looking at situations at least 20 miles inland.

It is superb that members of the Opposition agree with me on the theory; but I wonder whether they would agree with me if members of trade unions were made to travel 20 miles from the coast to work, if they wanted to live on the coast. In that event there would be terrific opposition and it would be said that it was interfering with people's lives.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: You are talking nonsense. There are many who travel more than 20 miles.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I imagine quite a number of people live in the City of Kalgoorlie. That is quite a stupid argument, Mr Lewis, and you know it.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: Many Kwinana workers live in the hills.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: If you would like to take the figures out—

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable Mr Lewis is addressing me.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Thank you, Mr President. It was fascinating to hear the arguments that these people are prepared—

The Hon. R. F. Claughton interjected.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I would hate to have to raise my voice to deal with that little man on the end but I am getting a little sick of his interjecting. If I have to deal with him, I shall deal with him severely and he will not be very happy when he gets up tomorrow night.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I shall do the dealing with anybody who does not conform with the Standing Orders.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Thank you, Sir. I go

back to the fact that there would be an argument about travelling to work.

The Hon. R. F. Claughton: That's an opinion.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am giving an opinion based on the best possible facts. Mr Claughton uses opinions in the academic sense but he has never been in the practical situation. Mr Dans stays by the waterside, so let us go on and develop my theories—

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You said "facts". Tell me the facts.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: —about putting people back 20 miles from the coast.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You have a vested interest in causing disruption in the community and you continue to do it.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Is it not fascinating to hear members oppose?

The Hon. D. K. Dans: It is fascinating if you call it fascinating. I call it disastrous. It is an excuse for a speech.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Like the Hon. Gordon Masters, I must have touched on something—

The Hon. D. K. Dans: How ridiculous! People have travelled from Fremantle to Midland Junction for the last 50 or 60 years.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I must have touched on something that got under the Leader of the Opposition's skin.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: No. I like honesty and fair debate.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I think the Leader of the Opposition would say—

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You used the word "facts". You produce them.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I wish the honourable member to proceed with his speech and I want him to do it without provoking interjections. I ask other members please to refrain from this continual crossfire of interjections which, as all members are aware, are completely out of order. If the honourable member would proceed with his speech, I should be delighted to hear it.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I shall do that. I shall leave that subject and discuss the matter later with the Leader of the Opposition. I move on to tourism.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: That is something you might know something about.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Leader of the

Opposition agrees that I travel more than anybody else in the House.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Yes, I know.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: There is a need in this community for cheaper accommodation. Unfortunately the unit complex has been forced upon us by the Licensing Court. I realise that many years ago country accommodation was not of the standard that the traveller wanted, but I wonder whether we should be turning hotels into taverns when their bedrooms have carpet on the floor, electric blankets, and probably only two doors away down the passageway is a bathroom and toilet. I wonder why we should wipe those things out and put in units. The fact that the bedroom with the short walk to the toilet and bathroom costs \$9 for bed and breakfast and that motel units, because of the large capital costs for building, cost \$20, I believe, bars many family people from travelling. I think this is a matter the Licensing Court and we as members of this House should look at.

I direct the next comments to the Minister for Transport. I believe many roads in this State are far too narrow for the traffic travelling on them. I believe that with a rational look at the situation we could have passing points of three or four miles every 20 or 30 miles so that a motorist would know, if he got behind a big truck, as I did recently coming down from the north, that every 30 miles there would be a wider highway and he could get past.

Motel units should be supported by the Department of Tourism in places where there is no accommodation as an alternative. I believe caravan parks in the north are lacking at the moment. Tourists going north are finding that they cannot get into caravan parks and I consider they should be accommodated. I do not believe we in Western Australia have yet realised what the sealing of Eyre Highway has done to our tourist industry. We do not yet realise what tourists want to see. Those members who have been overseas will have been through many areas about which they can say, "We have better than that in Australia". We might have better than that but we have never produced it for the tourist.

From tourism I should like to turn quickly to the Art Gallery; and I know it is a long road from tourism to the Art Gallery.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: They are both important, though.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: They are both extremely important, and I am shocked that the Deputy Director of the Art Gallery has resigned. He became deputy director 12 years ago, for the

last two years he has been acting director, and for four years in total of the 10 years previous to that he was acting director. So for half the time he was at the Art Gallery he was the acting director instead of deputy director.

This Government appointed some fellow from the United States of America who was 29 years of age. I doubted the suitability of his appointment when I first read about it because I did not think he understood art galleries. From the information I received after he had accepted the appointment and then refused it, my doubts were confirmed.

The Art Gallery Board appointed somebody from the Public Service to run the Art Gallery, ahead of the man who had accepted the responsibility for six out of 12 years.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: Disgraceful.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: In fairness, I agree, but Mr Shimmon is only the administrator.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: He is talking about another person.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I am talking about both people.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I am talking in defence of Mr Shimmon.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I do not know Mr Shimmon, but I do know that Mr Whittle, as acting director, put up the majority of the concrete plans for the building of the new Art Gallery, and this Government accepted those plans. I do know that no person on the Art Gallery Board thought he should be sacked when he was deputy director, or when he was acting director. When a new man is appointed as director, his appointment lasts two days only, and the board decides to appoint somebody over the top of the deputy director.

As you know, Mr President, I have had a little to do in the art sphere. I do not get violent about public servants, promotions, or anything else, but I believe the treatment meted out to the past Deputy Director of the Art Gallery was shoddy in the extreme, and no Government should have been part of it.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: Hear, hear!

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Let us hope our new Art Gallery is constructed on time, and let us hope we can get a man dedicated to Western Australia and well equipped to take on the job which Mr Whittle has been doing over the past year.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: It will be difficult considering the way he has been treated.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I agree. I hope we can

override the problems. I can tell Mr Hetherington I have seen some of the problems in the past, such as the Tonkin Government not purchasing Her Majesty's Theatre. The people pressing for that purchase included one of Mr Hetherington's colleagues, who is sitting very close to him. I know that while we have been in Government we have done some things of which we have not been very proud.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: We have to try to solve those problems now.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is right; we have solved most of the problems within the arts community. Fortunately, we had a Minister who appreciated that arts were a part of life and a part of the community. We have solved the majority of those problems during the last three years, but we have this particular problem at the moment.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: I hope we can solve it.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It is unfortunate; I do not blame anybody. I believe that collectively, as a Government, we have done the wrong thing.

I would like to make some suggestions about costs, and I have divided them into two areas. The first area relates to the costs of goods in rural areas. I intend to make some suggestions with regard to the holding or reducing of those costs.

The first suggestion is I believe Telecom should allow a volume discount to businesses and people living in rural areas on the amounts they pay for telephone services. I suggest the cost of phone bills in country areas is not known to the average person. A person living in Armadale can telephone Perth for 9c.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Not like the person living in Rockingham, who cannot.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That person probably pays 25c. A businessman in Bridgetown pays \$1.37 for a three-minute conversation. The answer to the problem should be a volume discount from Telecom. A person ringing from the country commences to pay the moment the receiver of the call, in the city, picks up the telephone. I believe that merchants in the city should understand the communication problem, and realise that telephone calls from the country cost money. They should do their utmost to facilitate orders through the telephone.

I move now to Westrail, and I believe in this instance Westrail should also be giving volume discounts.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: It is giving discounts.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: The Minister believes

Westrail is giving discounts. Unfortunately, the Minister has not received any of my bills.

The Hon. D. J. Wordsworth: Try purchasing in 1-cwt lots, and the member will realise there are discounts.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I believe companies such as Co-operative Bulk Handling receive a special rate which should be provided when 200 000 tons or 400 000 tons is involved. Those quantities should be carted in a businesslike way, and there should be a discount applicable.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: We will have that discount in railway trucks.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Mr Gayfer has given the Minister permission to put the discount into railway trucks—or perhaps we should call them "Gayfer trucks."

I will now touch on pay-roll tax, and the effect it has on people running businesses in the country. Those people have to pay more to employ a tradesman than their equivalents in the city. For that reason, people in the country who have to pay over-award payments to tradesmen pay more pay-roll tax. I believe the pay-roll tax should be on an award basis, or it should be lowered in the country.

The final point with regard to costs in the country is the amount of money available for business-guaranteed housing. For too long people have been trying to have the cost of housing for employees guaranteed. However, those people are not able to get that guarantee in order to provide the houses. This lack of guarantee will mean the downfall of many country towns in the future.

I now move on to the costs of public buildings. There is a need for costs to be analysed by independent people, and I do not mean independent architects or independent engineers, but people like you and me, Mr President.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: You could not get people much more simple!

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I refer to people not directly involved. The costs involved in hospitals, schools, and other public buildings should be examined by average people. The same applies to Westrail investments. For far too long Governments have sat back and agreed to proposals which have been put forward. I am as guilty as the rest of us. On many occasions buildings have been constructed without any examination of the need for public spending, and without an examination of whether or not the building was really necessary.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: That is why it is

getting harder to provide police stations. I read about one costing \$230 000.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I quite agree. Courthouses have been constructed in places where they are not needed. I have a couple in my province. On the other hand, at Dumbleyung the police station and police accommodation are falling down.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: You told us about that two hours ago.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Obviously, Mr Cooley has not been listening because I mentioned the matter at 7.35 p.m. We have to analyse and examine costs involved in Government expenditure.

I move now to the subject of the sale of uranium, and this cannot be considered to be a quiet subject at the moment. This country cannot afford not to mine and export uranium. Anybody who denies the nuclear age should have given up this earth 20 years ago. The number of nuclear power stations in Europe and America is increasing.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Now, be careful about America. They are going back to coal.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Very few of them are going back to coal.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Make a statement of fact.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: There are 527 nuclear power stations in the United States of America, and 37 want to go back to coal. I believe that is not an outstanding proportion.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Have another look at the matter.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: If Mr Dans wants to debate the realities of nuclear power stations I am quite prepared to debate the subject with him.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I will debate it. The Brand Government made a decision with regard to coal and oil, and that is why we are in trouble today.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. D. K. Dans: That is despite the fact that the Government was warned against its decision.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: We have been warned against whaling and wood chipping. We have been warned against many things, but the job of government is to make decisions.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: That is right.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is why, when we sat on that side, the Government vacillated and did not make decisions.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Get back onto nuclear power.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: We cannot be completely sure of some of our decisions, but we admit it. Would the Leader of the Opposition admit that he was quite sure of the decisions of the previous Government?

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I am listening for debate on the uranium issue, and I hope the member opposite participates in it.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: The decision with regard to the Kwinana power station was not a good one.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: That is a decision which cost Western Australia \$59 million.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is interesting, because neither of the members opposite knows what he or she is talking about.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: That would be natural.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: It would be completely natural!

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: In your view.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Well, the member opposite said so, not I. It is amazing to hear the Opposition talk about fossil fuels. No other person in this House, at the moment, represents a fossil fuel area which produces fossil fuel.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Are you ossified or fossilised?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I have been elected by the people in my area to represent them.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Let us get back to uranium.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I ask the member to direct his comments to me as I mentioned earlier, and if he does that I will not interject!

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Had you given me that assurance, Mr President, I would have followed your advice but I felt you might have interjected and I would have been embarrassed. I would like to talk about coal.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: You started to talk about uranium; I am waiting to hear the argument.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I will come back to uranium. I have plenty of time; I do not have to be out of here until 10.30 or 11 o'clock.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Neither do I. You can keep going until three o'clock or four o'clock in the morning if you wish.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is all right; I do

not need to talk for that long, but if I am continually interrupted I will do so.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I want you to answer my questions.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that he refrain from these unruly interjections.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Thank you, Mr President.

The PRESIDENT: Will the honourable member continue with his speech?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I will continue, and I will talk about uranium, nuclear power and coal—if I may. If we listen to the experts in the field of power, when they talk about switching on an electric kettle or an electric light, they do not speak about oil, coal, or wood being used for power generation; they speak about nuclear power. They accept the fact that nuclear power will be a part of our life.

We can talk glibly about the dangers of it. We can talk glibly about the dangers of walking across a road, which are 300 times greater than the dangers of nuclear power generation. With the mining of coal, for instance, someone might slip into a lake left by an open-cut coal mine.

Mr President, nuclear power is as certain as the fact that you will be sitting in that Chair for 12 years. That is the greatest certainty I know of, unless you are promoted to the front bench.

We look at what nuclear power can do in Western Australia in dam making—the cheapness of using nuclear power in making dams.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: No-one has mentioned using nuclear explosives to make dams. We are talking about the mining of uranium.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: In 1973, under the Tonkin Government, some of us travelled to the north-west. We spent some time in Carnarvon where we were lectured on dam making. I am sorry if the Leader of the Opposition was not present on that occasion, but he says nobody has talked about this subject. Members of Parliament of all parties were lectured by—

The Hon. D. K. Dans: A man from the Snowy River Authority. You are saying your policy is not only to mine uranium but also to use nuclear devices to make dams.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is right.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: That is Liberal Party policy. Thank you very much.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: If I may address, you, Sir, as an independent member of this House, I am expressing my philosophy. What the Leader

of the Opposition or the Government wants to make of it is not my business. I am putting the proposition that we should use nuclear explosives.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: That is different from what you said a minute ago. I will get an uncorrected copy of your speech.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I hope the Leader of the Opposition does that because every time he has corrected me in this House I have been right.

The Hon. D. K. Dans interjected.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Mr President, may I go on?

The PRESIDENT: Order! I want to have some order in the House. When I make the next decision I can assure members I will be right. I suggest the honourable member continue his speech and endeavour not to provoke interjections. I ask the Leader of the Opposition to contain himself.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I will do that if I can, Sir.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Sir, you know I would never in your presence provoke interjections. I believe I am talking to the point and talking to you at all times.

I move on from sinking dams with nuclear explosives to mining with nuclear explosives. Those of us who know something about mining know that nuclear power would be of great assistance in mining some of our iron ore deposits, because we could fracture it and push it down slopes onto railheads, which would save us millions of dollars. Finally, as regards ports, it is absolutely amazing what we could do to enable us to bring in ships of the size we need to compete in world trade.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Do you know of any other country that is doing these things?

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I will answer the honourable member if he comes to see me afterwards.

It may sound simplistic but to me, as a decision maker, it seems to be a simple decision when we weigh up what is for it and against it in terms of people, in economic terms, in national terms, and in terms of this wonderful State of ours. I believe we should not be looking at these matters with a closed mind. In some areas I may be a little off beam but I am sure 95 per cent of what I say will be proved right. There is no doubt in my mind about that.

The next subject I wish to speak about is the formation of a Farm Machinery Dealers Association, which I believe will be of great benefit to people in the country. It is amazing that

in all these years we have not had such an association to look after businessmen in country towns. Now, for the first time, we have this association and I believe the businessmen, as a unified body, will receive great benefits in advertising costs, freight costs, selling, and perhaps in the sale of parts by computer. I spoke earlier about computer meat sales. I believe parts could be supplied to country people by computer.

The Hon. H. W. Gayfer: It has a good secretary.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: At least we have the association off the ground. It has taken me since 1969 to do that. My progress in that field was slower than my progress in this field.

I now want to speak about televised football. Members of this House have previously heard me speak about the fact that country areas cannot get football finals or interstate matches on television. I think it is disgraceful. Many of us cannot afford the time to go to the city for the matches. The Hon. Claude Stubbs, the Hon. R. T. Leeson, and I have spoken about this matter on many occasions. I believe the ABC should again be approached to give country people the benefit of seeing football finals and interstate matches.

I am not speaking from the point of view of a selfish member of Parliament; I could probably stay in Perth. I am speaking about the majority of people in my electorate who cannot see a football match. The replays are televised at 11.00 p.m., when people in a country community are probably out at a P & C cabaret, and they have conflicting interests which will not allow them to see the replays. I do not know why they cannot be permitted to see a football match on Saturday afternoon, as the city people can.

The mining and liquor legislation will be dealt with later in the session, and I believe the Government will be asked to accept many amendments.

Finally, I wish to speak about the archaic Western Australian Statutes. *The West Australian* of Thursday, the 11th July, 1963, carried this headline—

Archaic W.A. Statutes will soon be revised.

The article went on to say—

About 3 000 enactments will be reviewed in a major revision of Western Australia's Statute Book, starting this year.

The article went on to quote the former Minister for Justice (the Hon. A. F. Griffith) as saying it would be the first full revision of the Statute book

since 1890 and that Mr G. D. Clarkson had been retained on a part-time basis to look at it.

This is the second time I have spoken about the matter in this House. The article I have just quoted was dated 14 years ago. The man who is working part-time must be working very hard, if he is still alive. The office of the Clerk of this Chamber is the only place where members of Parliament can find properly revised Statutes. The other Chamber does not have them. We were promised by the previous Minister for Justice and the Premier before last that we would have revised Statutes. All members need the Statutes at times. I believe 13 or 14 years is an extremely long time for successive Governments to take to provide them.

With the advent of electoral offices, some of us have to spend more time in the bush than in the city, in the interests of our electorates. I hope the present Government will hasten to provide members with the revised Statutes which have been promised since 1963. Successive Ministers for Justice and Leaders of the Opposition have agreed it is a wonderful idea and I am sure all members of this place need them.

I support the motion.

**THE HON. T. KNIGHT** (South) [8.41 p.m.]: Mr President, I have already congratulated you on your elevation to the office of President of this Chamber, and I do so again now in the presence of members of the Chamber. You have worked extremely hard and have gained a great deal of respect in this Chamber and in the Parliament over the years. I believe it is fitting that someone of your calibre, with the backing you have of members of Parliament, should be elevated to the position.

I would like to congratulate the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon on his election to the position of Leader of the House. I believe his experience and background will be of benefit in the deliberations of this Chamber. I also congratulate my colleague in my province (the Hon. David Wordsworth) on his promotion to the Ministry. With his conscientious approach to his job and the Government of this State, I know he will carry out his duties in a manner befitting a person in that capacity. In addition, I congratulate the Hon. I. G. Medcalf on his re-election as a Minister, and the Hon. Des Dans on his re-election as Leader of the Opposition.

I congratulate all new members of this House. They follow people who have had good standing in the Parliament. I call to mind two former members: firstly, the Hon. Roy Abbey, who has been succeeded by the Hon. Neil Oliver; and

secondly, the Hon Jack Heitman, who has now passed on and has been replaced by the Hon. Tom McNeil.

I have conveyed my condolences to the Heitman family. I agree with the Hon. A. A. Lewis who said that in her address to this House the Hon. Margaret McAleer admirably stated how we all felt about Jack Heitman. In the last three years I came to know Jack extremely well. He was as honest as he was blunt. He was the kind of person to whom one could talk about a problem. With his years of experience in parliamentary circles, local government, and as Chairman of Committees, he was always prepared to sit down and talk to a new member and guide him along the right lines. On many occasions I sat in his office and discussed problems with him. His answers always helped me in my deliberations.

In welcoming the new members I would like to say that their achievements so far in winning an election are minor. The hardest part now is to represent their electors as their electors wish to be represented, and as I am sure those members would want to represent them. Their job has only just started, but I believe they can look forward to many years of fruitful discussion, and indeed, to the happy feeling that they are helping the people they represent.

I have just returned from a trip overseas between the convening and the opening of Parliament. I travelled through England, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, West Germany, Spain, Portugal, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and I finished up in Hong Kong. As I travelled through these countries I hoped to widen my own knowledge about what was happening in other parts of the world to help me during deliberations in this House and in my duties of representing my constituents. As members of Parliament, we travel around different places and we tend to look for new ideas which will benefit our constituents, and indeed, our country. I noticed a few things and I wish now to refer to them in my speech on the Address-in-Reply as I believe they could be of benefit to the citizens of Australia, Western Australia, my own province, and of course, the Government.

I have noticed, as other members have probably noticed over the last few weeks, that comments have appeared in the Press regarding the registration of travel agents and I believe such a course is absolutely necessary. During my travels I booked trips through three or four different agencies, and I found that the attitude of the European or English based companies which have

branches in Western Australia is practically to regard Australians as second-class citizens.

This was particularly apparent with one company with which we booked a bus tour. When we arrived at the terminal at Ostend in Belgium to board the bus to take us through Europe, we were told to take seats right at the back as we were not allocated seats. Other members of the tour who had booked trips in England only a matter of weeks earlier had been allocated seat numbers. Apparently there is no allocation of seat numbers for travellers who book in Australia, so that we had to take the leftovers.

I spoke to several of the English tourists who informed me that when booking the tours through a booking agent they had stipulated the seats in which they wished to travel. These people knew the best seats in order to appreciate the views. On being told that such seats were not available that week or the next, the English tourists were able to book the seats for, say, a month ahead. However, travellers from Australia had to take what was left. My wife and I finished up in the back seat of the buses. The advertising brochures for this tour state that the buses have aircraft-type reclining seats for personal comfort, and that if the traveller becomes tired, he need only tilt his seat back to have a snooze. However, the back seats are jammed against the back of the bus, and will not recline and yet the people just in front can tilt their seats back virtually into the lap of those behind. Naturally I was not particularly happy with the situation.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Did you book from Perth?

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: I booked from Albany.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You should blame your local travel agent—not anyone else.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: I had contacted my local travel agent, but I was told all seats would be allocated when the tourists arrived in England.

The other matter stipulated in the brochures was that the travellers would be carried in customline comfort, and so on. The bus into which we stepped had a notice on the window that it was air-conditioned. I am sure all members know what is meant by air-conditioning, and there was certainly none on that coach. When I questioned the courier she said that the bus had forced-draught ventilation; however, that is not air-conditioning. After three or four days of heat-wave conditions, she had to agree with me that the bus was not air-conditioned.

If these overseas companies are permitted to appoint agents in Western Australia, there should be some control over such matters as the



allocation of seating. I notice that Mr Semmens, the Director of Tourism, as well as representatives of other travel departments, said that travel agents should be registered. This statement was made because of the collapse of AUS Travel I believe, but it does show that overseas companies should be registered with an Australian company so that we have someone responsible to turn to.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: The Whitlam Government had legislation drafted on this matter, and it would have gone through had it not been for the action taken by the Liberal Party and the National Country Party in 1975.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: That is very nice to know. However, if it was good legislation, I am sure notice would have been taken of it and other Governments and other members of Parliament would have looked at it.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: That legislation would have saved many people a great deal of money.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: I next want to move to the subject of road making because I believe possibly we are wasting money in Western Australia and also Australia. Most of the highways on which we travelled in Europe were the equivalent of three lanes wide, with one-and-a-half lanes on each side of the centre line. It is the usual practice here to have four lanes for our major roads, and this means another 12 ft. of bitumen, draining, cutting, and whatever other work may be necessary to build the road.

There is a very high density of traffic right throughout Europe and yet we found that the drivers conditioned themselves to these three-lane highways. The drivers use their rear vision mirrors efficiently and as soon as a car commences to overtake, they swing to the half lane and the overtaking car can pass comfortably without any danger. It is for this reason I say we are wasting money.

I put this forward as a suggestion because I saw the system working efficiently. I discussed it with various drivers whom I met on the trip and they said they experienced no trouble at all with the system, and even passing buses and trucks was no problem.

Members will be aware that the road out to the Canning Dam turnoff has been clearly marked with a white line along the road edges. From my own personal observation the result of this is that the breaking away of the bitumen edges is minimal compared with the same width of road for the next 20 to 30 miles with no such white line.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: Just going back to

this road with the three lanes, were the lanes marked?

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: One-and-a-half lanes were marked each side of the centre line. When something wished to overtake, the front car would move over to the half on his side of the road, thus leaving a full 8 ft. to 10 ft. for the overtaking car. Virtually the half lane was an overtaking lane.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I think you would agree that the manners of the drivers were a little better.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: Through you, Mr President, I reply to the honourable member that I did say the drivers there used their rear vision mirrors. When a driver saw someone wishing to pass, he would pull out of the way. I do agree with the honourable member that driver training was involved here as well. Because vehicles were not travelling the whole time on the outside lane without a marked edge, it was obvious the roads remained in far better condition than is observed on our highways in Western Australia. Members will realise also that the seasonal conditions—snow, ice, etc.—would result in far more damage to the highways. I believe an adoption of this system would minimise broken edges which can cause traffic hazards.

I have looked at another matter over the years in an endeavour to formulate a system of classified speed limits for different classes of vehicles and drivers similar to that used for pilots. Unless a pilot has undertaken a conversion course for a particular aircraft, he cannot fly that aircraft. I will be completely facetious here in order to cite an example. Let us imagine a man owns an E-type Jaguar with four wheel disc brakes, steel-ribbed tyres, and all the necessary safety factors for a car that is expected to travel at high speeds. No-one in this world can tell me that a 1939 Ford Prefect with transverse springing is as safe on the road doing the legal speed of 110 kilometres an hour as that E-type Jaguar. Many of our problems in relation to road accidents are created because of this anomaly.

Many years ago, before we had speed limits on our roads, when one travelled in a big car from country areas to Perth, one would pass many small cars travelling at 30 to 40 miles an hour. However, when one travels along a major highway now, one finds that the size of the car makes no difference to the speed; every car is travelling at around the speed limit. Many small cars do not have the road holding capabilities and the inbuilt safety factors of a car which costs \$15 000 to \$20 000, and I believe we have overlooked this point.

A person who can afford to purchase a big car with the safety factors as laid down by the National Safety Council, and who can prove also that he has the ability to control such a car, including the necessary reflex actions and unimpaired vision, should be permitted to travel at a faster speed than the average which is presumably laid down for the worst car on the road. This is what we should be looking at. If we say that every car is able to be driven at 110 kilometres an hour, we have problems, because everyone will drive at that speed even when the car he is driving does not have adequate safety features.

I have been asked how the police would operate under such a system. Throughout Spain, Portugal, and Italy, a disc was fitted to the bumper bar and the rear of every vehicle setting out the maximum speed at which that vehicle could travel. I saw buses with discs that they were permitted to travel at 75, 80 or 90 kilometres an hour. Whenever a police trap was set up, the police officers would work in pairs, with one using binoculars. I assume that the policeman with the binoculars would check the disc on the car whilst it was travelling through the radar area and thus only the cars travelling in excess of their permitted speed would be picked up. This resulted in a great saving of time. It is my personal opinion that such a system would prevent many accidents.

Travelling through Spain and Portugal I was amazed to see the number of cork and olive trees growing on farmland identical to that around our mid-eastern and southern wheatbelt areas. The cork trees, and indeed any kind of tree, offer shade and shelter to the stock as well as protecting the land from soil erosion by the root structure. All the paddocks I saw were growing grain, wheat, barley, and oats, and they were running stock.

I imagine that the bark of the cork and olive trees is not attractive to stock, because the trees were not ringbarked in the way they are here. These farmers in Spain and Portugal have a secondary industry in the production of cork and olives. Perhaps this matter has been discussed here before, but I believe we should bring to the notice of members anything which may be of benefit to our constituents.

I would like to see the Department of Agriculture investigating the possibility of growing cork and olives on our farms. This would overcome soil erosion, and would provide shade and shelter for stock during the summer and winter months and also supplement the farmers' income. At a time when they are battling with their grain, wheat or wool, they could have a

supplementary income which would help them through difficult times. I believe the market exists, and has only to be filled. The wine industry needs corks for the wine bottles, so the growing of cork would also assist that industry.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: They take a long time to grow, do they not?

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: One does not look to the future yesterday.

The Hon. W. R. Withers: Is it not of the order of 50 years?

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: Many things work on a 50-year basis. In two years' time, this State will be only 150 years old.

The Hon. Ron Thompson probably will be interested to learn that when I was in Copenhagen I saw a park set up in a miniature street setting, complete with traffic signs and working traffic lights. Children from the age of six to eight from Copenhagen schools were walking or riding pushbikes through the complex and were getting to understand the various road signs and traffic signals; they were being acclimatised in a most practical way. I believe that with the driver training which Mr Thompson mentioned earlier, the chances of a child being knocked down on the road in Denmark or Sweden would be greatly lessened because of their early knowledge of the meaning of road signs and the value of safety.

The Hon. R. Thompson: We had such a system in Western Australia long before I was Minister for Police.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: Does anyone use it?

The Hon. R. Thompson: Yes, anyone who wants to.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: In other words, it is a good idea.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: The Belmont Shire used Commonwealth funds for that purpose.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: That is good. I gather that because the system was in use before Mr Thompson was Minister, it must have been established by a Liberal Government.

Whilst in England, I had the opportunity to visit Hull, and because British United Trawlers is amalgamating with Southern Ocean Fish Processors in Albany, I thought I would have look at its trawlers, factories, processing works and administration—in fact, everything to do with the fishing industry in Hull and Grimsby, which as members would know have world-wide reputations as fishing ports.

I inspected the 1 600-ton Othello class trawlers similar to the type to be sent out to Albany some

time in October to commence trawling operations there. It is really something to see how the operation has been set up. For instance, the bridge can be operated by one man, the captain, virtually by remote control. He has echo sounders, depth sounders, a radar screen and other sophisticated equipment. He can control the trawl, the height and length of the net, and the hauling in of the net. Every member of the crew of that trawler is operative.

I cannot memorise some of the classifications I went through, but I noted them down. The trawlers to be delivered to Albany will only semi-process the fish to be returned to the shore-based factory. The fish will be frozen into blocks measuring 42 in. x 21 in. x 4 in. and delivered to the factory. However, the ship I inspected was a factory ship, and was capable of processing its entire catch, so that when it arrived back in port the fish were ready for further processing or immediate sale.

This trawler was equipped with bridge-operated winches towing a variety of bottom and mid-water trawls to a maximum depth of 400 fathoms with net drums for pelagic trawls. Its electronic equipment included electronic fish-finding aids, echo sounders, bottom sounders, net sounders, with sonar and radar radio and navigational receivers.

This brings me back to another point: If this industry is to be a success, it needs a little support from the Federal Government in the form of a Decca or Omega navigational system. On the North Sea, after a particular area is trawled the crew collate a sheet for that trawl, designating the ocean bottom and any rock formations which may occur. The sheet is slid into a machine for the next trawl, and it does not matter how thick the fog is, the depth of the trawl and the course of the ship are known quite precisely. In fact, it may pass only six inches from or above a rock outcrop in complete safety. Apparently the Decca system of navigation is superior, because it allows for much more accurate navigation. I do not know what its cost would be, but its introduction would represent the biggest improvement to safety ever seen in the fishing industry in Australia. We urgently need accurate charts of the ocean bottom, and this is one method of achieving that objective.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Before you leave the matter of traffic completely, you would have noticed in your travels that you did not see commercial vehicles between the hours of eight o'clock on Saturday to late on Sunday night, but you did not speak about that.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: I travelled through Spain and Portugal and I saw commercial vehicles in Lisbon and Barcelona on the weekends while I was there.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Not on the highways.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: I saw them travelling through the cities; I did not spend my weekends on the highways. I saw commercial vehicles in Britain on the weekends and in West Germany on the weekends and in fact I was travelling on the highways in West Germany when I saw them. Perhaps in the 12 months or 18 months since Mr Thompson has been to Europe, a few things have changed.

The Hon. R. Thompson: That is uniform European law.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: I am addressing my remarks to Mr President, and to conclude on this point, I saw commercial vehicles including trucks and vans on the roads during the weekends.

I believe that the establishment of processing factories and the work which generally is associated with the establishment of a fishing industry will be a tremendous boon not only to Albany but also to the rest of the State. I understand that some \$400 million worth of fish is consumed in Australia annually, and Australia itself supplies only a fraction of that total. Everyone believes the fish are there and I believe the amalgamation of the two companies will prove the industry to be viable and workable.

Another thing which I found very interesting was the flume tank at Hull. It is the first one of its kind in the world, and it is a tank 31 metres long, 5 metres wide, and 5 metres deep. It is divided horizontally into two chambers which are interconnected at the ends to allow the water to circulate. The top area of the chamber is the working area, while the bottom area is the return passage to allow water to circulate. The water capacity of the tank is some 155 000 gallons, and the tanks can be completely filtered in 24 hours. The tank has observation windows along the sides. A large moving conveyor belt forms the floor of the working section, and simulates the ocean floor. Impellers circulate water through the tank to create trawl speeds and currents similar to those experienced by a ship trawling. There is a glass-bottomed observation platform that moves over the top to view the trawl from above. It is possible to simulate the opening of the trawl and the depth at which it operates.

Until the installation of the flume tank, captains had been completely in the dark about how the trawl behaved behind the boats; they had simply assumed what was going on behind them.

Now, the captains, crew, net designers, fisheries experts and so on can see different types of trawls in operation on a scaled down basis and can test new methods and new ideas under working conditions.

According to the fisheries people in Hull the flume tank is the biggest single advantage to trawling in the North Sea, and now even the French and Scandinavians are visiting Hull to inspect the system in operation. It is under the control of an industrial development unit known as the White Fish Authority and I understand it was built at a cost of 350 000 or \$525 000. It is so simple that one wonders why it was not thought of earlier, and it has proved extremely successful and useful to the fishing industry.

I move away now from my overseas trip to discuss a few matters closer to home which I believe are inconsistent with the policies of our Government. It has been brought to my notice by many machinery dealers that tenders for vehicles for the Public Works Department, the State Housing Commission, the State Energy Commission and other Government instrumentalities are called in Perth. Now that we have regional administration with the idea of promoting regional development and allowing decisions affecting local regions to be made on the spot, it is believed the calling of tenders should be made at the regional offices. These are the sentiments of the local machinery dealers, and I could not agree more; I should like to see the Government doing this. I believe it would back up the stand the Government has taken in promoting decentralisation by establishing regional offices and it would certainly help the people we said we would help when we placed the control of local areas into the hands of the local people.

The Hon. R. Thompson: What is to stop those people from tendering now?

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: It is too big for them because they are tendering on a State-wide basis. The other thing is that the vehicles are to be delivered to the Jewell Street depot in Perth for inspection.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I know successful tenderers who have come from country regions.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: I do not believe it is correct procedure; it is not right.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It is right.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: I do not believe it should be done this way.

I should like to make a few brief points in the hope that, having noted them in *Hansard*, some action will be taken. I refer firstly to the matter of

handicapped persons. I do not believe we are doing enough to assist these people. I have been in touch with a couple of departments in Victoria which work under the auspices of the Victorian Health Department. They have operating there a system whereby caravans are sent out into the various country districts with therapists, doctors, nurses and people specialising in the care and health of handicapped children. These people advise the parents on how best to care for their children. I have several mentally and physically handicapped children in my province and, whenever they need treatment, they must come to Perth. Their parents must book into a motel or other accommodation and, in some cases, they must even find someone to manage their farms.

Naturally, the cost of such an exercise can be astronomical and I suggest that we adopt a similar system to that operating in Victoria, and make available a caravan or some sort of unit which could travel to the country areas every school term to instruct parents on the health and care of their children. At the moment, I am waiting for a letter from the Victorian Department of Health outlining the details of its scheme.

To go one step further, I believe we should integrate the care of handicapped people into industry. In Shenton Park there is a fine example of such an operation. I refer to Para-Quad Industries, where handicapped people are engaged in a multitude of occupations. It is a very worthwhile experience to go down there and see what these people are achieving. Their whole aim is to work and help themselves. However, they need bigger workshop facilities. In addition, I believe the people in the older age group who have never married or whose parents are too old to look after them should be provided with some sort of motel-type accommodation adjacent to the workshop, so that the inconvenience of travelling to and from work is minimised.

These people do not want the Government to give them hand-outs. They want to work and help to pay their own way. I believe the Government should do what it has been doing with builders and different contractors in country areas. It should give them a 5 per cent subsidy or concession when quoting against other industries so that it will help these people to help themselves.

I make the point that the Government provides unemployment benefit to sound, able-bodied people who are—I will use the term again because there are still people exploiting the unemployment situation—dole bludgers. On the one hand, we have people with physical handicaps who would

do anything they could to be able to pay their own way and work for themselves, but we do not help them. I would rather the money go to these people who want to work instead of to those who do not want to work and who merely bludge. The money should go to those who want to help themselves, whether they are handicapped or otherwise. I believe that if these people want to help themselves, the Government should help them to do so, and not stand back and profess sorrow because they are handicapped. We have handicapped people on the beach. They are handicapped because they do not want to work, but prefer to bludge, and the Government pays them \$50 a week. This is what should be stopped. We should establish workshops to enable handicapped people to help themselves.

Over the last three years I have been consistently once every two or three months to see the people. They are keen to work and merely require the facilities to do so. In time these people will stand on their own two feet so to speak. They will be able to pay their own way instead of the Government having to pay \$100 a day to hospitalise them. Money spent in helping these people is better than paying out dole bludgers. As a taxpayer, like many others, I want my taxes to assist people who are prepared to help themselves, not to pay people who have no ambition to work.

I have another idea which I consider should be aired. This Government, and Governments before it, have complained about the lack of funds for roads. I have just been talking about unemployment. Unemployment benefits paid out in Western Australia in 1975-76 totalled \$33 824 000 which benefited 84 625 people. We had a shortfall of \$20 million to \$30 million on roads in the north because the Federal Government did not see fit to let us have the money. That unemployment benefit money should be given to the Western Australian Government so that it can create jobs in the north for those people. The Government should do the same as the mining companies do. It should fly the people up and then fly them back every three months. It should clothe and feed them, and pay them an equitable wage. The full benefit of the money may not be gained, but at least the \$33 million-odd which was paid out in unemployment benefits would go into roads in the north.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: Philip Lynch would not like that very much.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: No person has the right to refuse a job if it is offered to him while he is taking taxpayers' money. While I am a taxpayer and my money is being accepted by people who do not want to work I will continue to

speak like this. The people who work and earn money pay taxes which are used to support the bludgers.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: I wish you would stop talking about those who don't want to work and concentrate on the thousands who want to work, but cannot find jobs.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: I now wish to deal with whaling in Albany. The Greenpeace Venture, comprising Canadians and Americans, is apparently coming to Australia to disrupt whaling activities at Albany. Those involved have openly advocated militant and radical action. They intend to enter Albany waters and go in front of the boats, thus disrupting the industry. They have twisted quirks about talking to the whales and so on with instruments supposedly to help science.

When I heard about this, I saw fit three weeks ago to write to Mr Grayden. I wrote to him particularly because of the immigration aspect and also the fact that whaling is an industry. I believe that the situation will be clearly explained if I read the letter I wrote to him. It is as follows—

The Hon. W. L. Grayden, M.L.A.,  
Minister for Labour and Industry, Consumer  
Affairs and Immigration,  
1st Floor, Central Government Buildings,  
Barrack Street,  
PERTH. W.A. 6000

Dear Mr Grayden,

I am enclosing photostat of an article which appeared in the "Albany Advertiser" on 22nd July, indicating that American and Canadian members of the Greenpeace Venture will be coming to Western Australia to help the Friends of the Earth Organisation (F.O.E.) disrupt whaling operations in Albany. It will be apparent to you from this news article that they are openly advocating militant and radical action to disrupt whaling operations in this area.

The Cheynes Beach Whaling Company is conducting an industry which is operating legally under the guide lines of the International Whaling Commission, (I.W.C.). They have abided by the guidelines throughout and have not tried to operate in any other manner other than to assist the I.W.C. and to help maintain whale numbers in the Southern Ocean.

These people (F.O.E.) must be taught that democracy is based on the wish of the majority not the incessant squeaking of radical minorities. I hope that our Government will take all the necessary

precautions and action to prevent these people from interfering with an industry which is operating legally, unselfishly and with the greatest of care to see that the industry is maintained in the best interests of all concerned.

I trust that you can request from the Federal Minister for Immigration his assurance that these Americans and Canadians will not be issued with entry permits to enable them to enter our country to disrupt and disorganise one of our industries. If they do enter without a visa, I request they be treated as any other alien and be immediately deported.

I would also request that you contact the Minister for the Navy and gain his assurance that his Department will send a patrol boat to intercept and apprehend any boat that intends to carry out the disruptive policies advocated by F.O.E. Accordingly, as with Tiawanese fishing boats, their craft be impounded and sold if necessary, to pay any costs, inconvenience and damage caused to the ships or crew of the Cheynes Beach Whaling Company.

I believe that you, and likewise our Premier, will agree with my sentiments and my concern, that a group of militant radicals can openly advertise their intentions and expect to carry out their threats without reciprocal action being taken by our Government to protect the people and industries we represent.

The Hon. R. Thompson: What action could the Minister for Immigration take?

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: That is how I feel about the situation. We have legislation to protect the people and industries of our State. A member in another place the other week stated that we should legislate to stop this occurring. We do not need legislation. We already have many rules, regulations, and laws to back us up in our attempts to prevent it. All we need is Governments to enforce them. It is time we took some action instead of being kowtowed to by militant radicals who wish to disrupt our people and industries because they have some stupid quirk that it is wrong to their particular way of thinking.

Conservationists believe that everything should be saved. The point is that some things must be exploited. We have grown up and have realised that certain things have occurred in the past, and as a result certain groups have been established to look into conservation and we have a Minister for Conservation and the Environment in this State to

assist these bodies. These are the people and bodies which have the ability, the background, and the research resources to decide what should be conserved.

The Greenpeace people say they have no money and yet they are coming into the country and advocating something about which they know nothing. I am bitterly opposed to the group.

The Hon. R. Thompson: What action could the local Minister for Immigration take? It is a Commonwealth matter, not a State matter.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: I hate to say this, but it is obvious that Mr Thompson was not listening. I requested the State Minister to contact the Federal Minister. I know that Mr Grayden is the State Minister, but I thought he was the best person to contact.

The Hon. R. Thompson: It is not under his control.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: I asked him to contact the Federal Minister for Immigration.

The Hon. R. Thompson: Why not write to him?

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: I sent him a copy of the letter. I am an ordinary back-bencher, a State member. I am aware of the fact that anything which has the backing of a Minister would carry a lot more weight than something from a mere back-bencher representing the south of the State. That was the reason I wrote to the local Minister. I had three strings to my bow.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I appreciate that you have a different party structure from ours.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: We have so much of this type of action at the moment and the public are fed up to the teeth with it. We heard Mr Masters talking about the TWU situation. I know that we have good, honest, hard-working trade unionists, and we have trade union officials of the same calibre. We also have a colossal number of militant radicals whose only objective is to disrupt the welfare and the well-being of the country and the people who live in it. It is time we used some of the legislation we have on the Statute book to stop it.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Are you going to deport them all?

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: I would appreciate it if Mr Cooley would allow me to make my speech. Communist-backed radical union leaders are responsible for this action, but what do we do about it? Our Government does nothing. Our rules, regulations, and legislation provide imprisonment and fines—in fact the whole works—for this type of action. The public are looking to the Government to stand up to these

people and push them over. Every unionist is fed up with the situation. I have talked to many of them.

Several members interjected.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: They do not argue back from the union floor. They go outside and talk about it. That is the feeling among the grass roots union members. The Federal Government should support the people who elected it last year. It should do something for them by protecting them.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: The present situation reminds me of what occurred during the first World War and leads me to read something which was published at that time. I want to read it for the benefit of all members. It was rather interesting that in May, 1919, at Dusseldorf in Germany, the allied forces obtained a copy of some communist rules for revolution. I will read them in a moment and members will realise that they line up completely with the present-day disruption policy of many trade union officials. I repeat that I am referring to only some officials, because the decent ones do not give us any problems. The document reads—

- (a) Corrupt the young, get them interested in sex. Make them superficial; destroy their ruggedness.
- (b) Get control of all means of publicity, thereby get people's minds off their Government by focusing their attention on athletics, sexy books, plays and other trivialities.

Several members interjected.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: To continue—

- (c) Divide the people into hostile groups by constantly harping on controversial matters of no importance.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: I can see that it is getting through to members opposite.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: You get the people's minds off the Government by union bashing.

The Hon. R. F. Cloughton: The Minister for Labour and Industry must be a communist.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: To continue—

- (d) Destroy the people's faith in their natural leaders by holding them up to contempt and ridicule.

- (e) Always preach true democracy, but seize power as fast and as ruthlessly as possible.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order, please!

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: It always seems that when something touches members opposite on the funny bone there is always a lot of noise. However, I do intend to pass a copy of this to *Hansard* so that members will know exactly what I am trying to impart to them. I will read paragraph (e) again because I do not think members heard it above the interjections. It is as follows—

- (e) Always preach true democracy, but seize power as fast and as ruthlessly as possible.
- (f) By encouraging government extravagance, destroy its credit and produce fear of inflation with rising prices and general discontent.
- (g) Promote unnecessary strikes in vital industries, encourage civil disorders and foster a lenient and soft attitude on the part of the Government towards such disorders.

This is what I am trying to get through to members opposite. This manifesto was formulated nearly 60 years ago and this is what is being advocated.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: What are you quoting from?

#### *Point of Order*

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: On a point of order, are we entitled to know the source of the quotes read by the honourable member? I recall that I was required to table some documents for the benefit of members opposite in a previous session.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable member can ask for the document to be tabled.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: Could we know the source of the quotations?

The PRESIDENT: The honourable member has available to him the opportunity to seek the tabling of the document.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: I thought for continuity of debate—

The PRESIDENT: Order! There is no provision for you to demand through me the author of the document. The Hon. T. Knight indicated earlier in his speech where the documents originated.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: Did he?

The PRESIDENT: I understand him to have done so.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: I would be happy to find the book from which I have taken these quotes. I have been reading two books about the communist manifesto.

The Hon. D. W. COOLEY: By the member's own admission the quotations have no origin. I do not think they should be admissible.

The PRESIDENT: Order! There is no point of order. I call the member for South Province.

*Debate Resumed*

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: I do not wish to go on with this argument. Members on the other side of the House know they have read from books and no member has risen and asked to have the name of the printer, the publisher, or the author, etc. If Mr Cooley is really that interested I will get it for him although I would be surprised if he has not read it before. I will carry on with the quotation as it is so fitting with what is happening in the world today. This is why I had the quotation typed out for me to read tonight.

The Hon. Neil McNeill: I wonder why the Opposition is so sensitive.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: To continue—

- (h) By deceptive argument cause breakdown of the moral virtues, honesty, sobriety, chastity and faith in the pledged word.

And the last one goes on to say—

- (i) Cause the registration of all firearms on some pretext with a view to confiscating them and leaving the population helpless.

That rang true to me as an indication of a lot of things happening in society today. I have stood in this Chamber before and made similar comments. I have been criticised by the Opposition when I have said such things before and have been called a scaremonger. However, there is actual proof that members of the Communist Party have top posts in Australian trade unions. The Opposition can try to deny this but I can give them proof.

The Hon. R. Thompson: I want you to tell us which are the bad unions and which are the good unions.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: I think it is obvious to all of us just by reading the paper that we have some unions which do not wish to cause strife but others that do. A little while back Mr Cook stated that if the Premier continued as he was doing the unions would start to create disruptions of the like never before seen. I believe I read that one union official said there would be "blood in the streets".

This is the sort of thing that incites people. We have the situation of demonstrators marching through the streets, starting off in a peaceful manner, and then being incited to cause trouble.

We have to stand up and face the situation and I know some good moves have been made in this direction. Trade unionists Australia-wide want to have secret ballots when voting. I do not believe any trade union, employer, or Government, should say to someone that he must compulsorily join the Liberal Party, the Labor Party, or a trade union. We believe in the freedom of the individual, the freedom of speech, and the right of enterprise. I do not think any citizen in this State should be forced into a particular situation. In the past, we have had compulsory unionism, but I do not agree with it. I am glad we are enacting right-to-work legislation.

The Hon. R. Thompson: You believe in one-vote-one-value?

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: I believe that at some times. I believe we are moving in the right direction. The Government should take action against the people who intend to move into the Southern Ocean to disrupt whaling activities. I read those quotes because they are fitting and they highlight what is happening. It emphasises what I am saying about the activists involved in disrupting whaling activities. Everyone should be aware of the sort of things we are having to face. We have unemployment and inflation and the ideas in the manifesto I have quoted help to create the situation. While there is a peaceful quoted society in which everyone is working with the aim to benefit the community one does not find unemployment.

The Hon. R. Hetherington: You do when you have overproduction.

The Hon. T. KNIGHT: I believe the average unionist has some pride. I believe, however, our national pride is slipping because of the strife we are facing as a result of militant unionists and radicals. It is sickening to see and read about the present situation. I would like to see Australia sitting at the top of the national ladder. I want to be proud of being an Australian.

I have heard members of the Opposition talking about union bashing. Do the socialists opposite ever think about the bashings which the unions give the public? Every time there is a strike the housewives and the children suffer. Dad finds he is behind in his payments for the house, the car, and household effects, but do the unions ever help him out at such times?

I now move on to one of my favourite themes over the last few years; that is, the Hopetoun



water supply. Hopetoun is a little town on the south coast of my electorate. The people there have no water supply apart from rainwater. I have brought this subject up time after time because the lack of a water supply halts growth. I hope the Minister can find some way to provide the money necessary to give these people some water. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. F. Cloughton.

*House adjourned at 9.38 p.m.*

## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE BUILDING BLOCKS

### Costs

45. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of reports that the cost of a block of land in Western Australia now represents 33 per cent of the price of a house compared to ten years ago?
- (2) Does the Minister agree that these estimates give an approximately correct reflection on current land costs in the Perth region?
- (3) If so, does he accept the Government policies to contain increases in land prices have failed?
- (4) What new policies is the Government adopting to ensure the possibility of home ownership remains within the reach of most young couples?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

The Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning has provided the following information in reply to the honourable member's question—

- (1) Yes, the Minister is aware of the reports.
- (2) Comparison with 10 years ago is irrelevant. Generally the percentage is less.
- (3) No.
- (4) The Government believes that the best method to ensure that the possibility of home ownership remains within the reach of most young couples is to have a vigorous supply of residential allotments thereby restraining the price.

In 1976, 14 223 serviced allotments under 3 000 m<sup>2</sup> were created in the metropolitan area.

Despite a slow start to production figures early in 1977 compared with the record figures for 1976, indicators including a high level of preliminary approvals and increasing production figures (in the first two weeks of August 1 228 lots were created), lead us to believe that there will be a satisfactory continuation of supply responsive to demand.

The Urban Lands Council has been surveying its purchasers and the results are an additional indication of the success of the Government's policies.

So far this calendar year the Urban Lands Council has sold 486 at an average price in the vicinity of \$8 900.

The survey indicated that approximately 75 per cent of purchasers were purchasing land for the erection of their first home. 76 per cent approximately indicated an annual income of below \$10 000 p.a. and 77 per cent of purchasers were under the age of 30 years.

## WATER SUPPLIES

### *South West Coastal Groundwater Area*

46. The Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

Referring to Plans—South West Coastal Groundwater Area—tabled in this House on the 2nd August, 1977, under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act, 1976—

- (1) Apart from notice proclaiming the South West Coastal Groundwater Area appearing in the *Government Gazette* on Friday, the 22nd April, 1977, what other notice, if any, and by what means, was given to local authorities and individual landowners or occupiers in the area that provisions of Section 18 of the Act were being applied to areas contained in the proclamation?
- (2) If landowners or occupiers have not been individually advised of the licensing requirements for the drawing of water in the proclaimed areas, which extend from south of the Mandurah townsite to south of the Binningup townsite, will the Minister please request for this to be done?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) Each landowner was sent an explanatory letter and later, a departmental officer visited each occupier.

Local authorities have received no other notice, but it is intended that they will be contacted before the initial batch of licences are issued in September.

- (2) Not applicable.

### FIRE BRIGADES

#### *Country Areas*

47. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Leader of the House representing the Chief Secretary:

When the Fire Brigades Board of Western Australia decides on the building of a fire station in a country municipality to be manned by volunteer fire fighters, what is the criteria used to assist the Board in reaching a decision when several municipalities are seeking such facilities?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

The general criteria used by the WA Fire Brigades Board are--

- availability of funds;
- extent of local contribution or self-help;
- present and projected extent of development to be serviced;
- extent of relevant fire risk;
- water supply;
- length of time brigade has been operating with inadequate facilities.

### MANAGEMENT TRAINING

#### *Programme*

48. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Federal Affairs:

- (1) Does the Premier agree with the statement made by the Australian Minister for Industry and Commerce on the 11th May, 1977, that "Australia will find it increasingly difficult to maintain efficiency and remain competitive with overseas nations without the continuing development of well planned management training"?
- (2) Does he also agree that Australia's low levels of productivity result as much as from a lack of management skills as from any other factor?

- (3) In what ways is the State Government co-operating with the Australian Government with its management training programmes?

- (4) What new initiatives is the State Government taking to improve management skills within the State?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) The development of up-to-date management skills is an essential element in increasing productivity, and hence the standard of living of the Australian community. However, good management can do little to improve productivity without the full co-operation of the work-force through the various unions.

- (3) Officers of the Technical Education Division of the Education Department support and participate in the activities of the National Training Council, particularly the Industry Training Committees. Management skills are an important part of the training programmes conducted by these committees.

- (4) Comprehensive advice on all aspects of management is being provided by the Small Business Advisory Service of the Department of Industrial Development. Since this service was introduced by the Government in 1975 hundreds of businesses have received advice and assistance with management techniques, at centres throughout the State. The Small Business Advisory Service collaborates with the Technical Education Division in the teaching of management principles, and plans are currently in hand to expand the service. Within the Public Service itself the Government is continuing to provide strong support to the Ralph Doig Executive Development Centre, which is constantly seeking and implementing new techniques of management development.

### BEEF INDUSTRY

#### *Kimberley*

49. The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Between the 1st July, 1976 and the 30th June, 1977, how many live cattle were shipped from—
  - (a) Wyndham; and

- (b) Broome;  
and what was the destination country for each shipment?
- (2) In the same period, what cattle numbers were trucked to southern or eastern destinations from the Kimberley?
- (3) What stations have supplied the cattle referred to in (2) above, and, in general terms, what has been their destination (abattoirs, agistment, etc.)?
- (4) Since the 30th June, 1977, what live cattle numbers have been trucked south or east, and what has been the source and destination?
- (5) What is the estimated kill at the three Kimberley meatworks in 1977?
- (6) (a) Is an estimate available of the probable numbers of live cattle to be trucked out of the Kimberley in the 1977 season; and  
(b) if so, what is it?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) For the period July 1, 1976 to June 30, 1977—  
(a) Wyndham 7 1728 to Hong Kong, 300 to Malaysia.  
(b) Broome Nil.
- (2) 9 589.
- (3) Information as to the source of the cattle is confidential to the properties concerned. About one-third of the cattle in question were consigned to abattoirs; and a large number of the remainder were breeders.
- (4) 1 229 were consigned south to abattoirs; 1 586 were consigned to the Northern Territory.
- (5) About 78 000.
- (6) (a) and (b) Yes, about 6 000 during the present Kimberley season—of which 5 205 have already been moved commencing in May, 1977.

## DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

*Dr T. Riggert: Resignation*

50. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Leader of the House:

Would the Minister advise the reasons given by Dr T. Riggert for his resignation from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

No. The question should be directed to Dr Riggert.

## PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

### *Salmon Gums*

51. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Education:

Further to question No. 25 on the 3rd August, 1977, regarding the Salmon Gums Pre-Primary Centre—

- (1) What improvements have been instigated?  
(2) What improvements will continue until a replacement building is provided?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) A new heating system has been installed.  
(2) The local committee has agreed to obtain a quotation from a local contractor for upgrading other facilities.

## PORT

### *Wyndham*

52. The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Would the Minister please outline the progress being made with the grain direct loading installation at the port of Wyndham?  
(2) What completion date has been stipulated in the contract to construct this installation?  
(3) Will the ship loader be completed on the due date?  
(4) What is the scheduled date for the first export consignment of sorghum to Singapore?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) The various components of the ship loader are being built in Perth and transported to Wyndham for erection on the wharf. The first of these components, an inclined elevator, arrived on site on the 8th August.  
(2) Mid-October.  
(3) Yes.  
(4) Early November, depending upon shipping arrangements.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

### *Star Swamp Area*

53. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

- (1) Does the Minister's statement appearing in today's *The West Australian* that half

the Swan coastal plain wetlands have been lost, reflect a genuine concern by the Minister?

- (2) If so, will he take steps to set aside sufficient land to preserve "Star Swamp", located in the area bounded by North Beach Road, Hope Road, Beach Road and Marmion Avenue, North Beach?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) Yes.  
(2) At present I am awaiting advice of the Environmental Protection Authority which is studying the matter.

### RAILWAY ROAD BUSES

#### *Country Services*

54. The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many Westrail buses are used on country routes?  
(2) How many are fitted with—  
(a) air-conditioning;  
(b) heating devices;  
(c) toilets; and  
(d) drinking water?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) 48.  
(2) (a) nil.  
(b) 36.  
(c) 26.  
(d) 48.

### PORT

#### *Wyndham*

55. The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it planned to extend the jetty at the port of Wyndham in the 1977/78 capital works programme?  
(2) In general terms, what form will such extension take, and will a second berth be achieved?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) Yes, if funds are approved.  
(2) The planned extension is 30 metres to the south to position the ship loader out of the operational area when it is not in use.  
Depending upon the length of ships, Wyndham is already a two-berth port.

### SCHOOL

#### *Doubleview*

56. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has a request been made for after-school care staff and facilities to be provided at Doubleview primary school?  
(2) If so, will the Minister advise—  
(a) whether the request has been approved; and  
(b) when the facilities will be provided?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) and (2) On the 10th June the Doubleview Parents & Citizens' Association was advised that after-school care was controlled by the Office of Child Care, Department of Social Security, and approaches regarding out-of-school activities should be made to that department.

### HOUSING

#### *Rental Accomodation: North-west*

57. The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) In the years 1972/73, 1973/74, 1974/75, 1975/76 and 1976/77, how many houses have been built in Kununurra by the State Housing Commission in the following categories—  
(a) normal rental homes;  
(b) rental homes for Aboriginal tenants (D.A.A. funding);  
(c) Government Employees' Housing Authority; and  
(d) houses for other departments and instrumentalities?

- (2) How many "rental" homes have been made available for purchase in the same periods?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) Figures for 1972/73 to 1975/76 (inclusive) are published in annual reports of the State Housing Commission. For 1976-77, details are—  
(a) Nil.  
(b) Nil.  
(c) Six.  
(d) Nil.  
(2) One was purchased in 1975-76

## PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

### *Doubleview School*

58. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Education:

Will the Minister advise when a new pre-primary block is to be constructed at Doubleview primary school?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

On the 10th June the Doubleview Parents & Citizens' Association was advised that the present pre-primary centre was set up at the demand of Doubleview parents, and the association was reminded that there was an understanding that once the centre was agreed to, there would not be an immediate demand for a new centre. There are no plans to provide a new facility at Doubleview during the 1977-78 building programme.

## SUPERANNUATION BUILDING

### *Opening*

59. The Hon. D. W. COOLEY, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Works:

What was the date of the official opening of the State Superannuation Building?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

The 21st July, 1967.

## AMERICA'S CUP

### *Government Grant*

60. The Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Leader of the House:

- (1) On what date was the amount of \$50 000 paid in connection with the participation of a yacht in the America's Cup?

- (2) Who was the amount paid to and to what address?

In asking this question I would just comment that the fault lay on my side last week when I asked a question without notice on this subject. The message had not been passed on to the Minister's office.

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

I thank the honourable member for clarifying that situation. He caught me a little nonplussed on that occasion. The answer to the question is—

- (1) The 23rd June, 1977.

- (2) Mr Warren Jones, Executive Director, America's Cup Challenge—1977 Ltd., 2 William Street, Perth. 6000.

## QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

### BUILDING BLOCKS

#### *Wittenoom*

The Hon. J. C. TOZER, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Lands and Forests:

- (1) Are the eight allotments in the Wittenoom townsite which are being offered at public auction in the Shire of Roebourne offices at Karratha on Tuesday, the 23rd August, 1977, being made available for sale as a result of public demand?
- (2) Do the allotments have derelict houses on them and, if so, what value is likely to be placed on such "improvements"?
- (3) Have these lots been previously offered for sale?
- (4) Why is it considered necessary to have a public auction for these allotments rather than offer them "across the counter" at the upset price of \$200?
- (5) Why is the public auction to be conducted in Karratha rather than in Wittenoom or some other convenient centre in the Shire of West Pilbara?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

- (1) to (5) There is no known demand for residential lots at Wittenoom and there are no improvements on the lots available. These lots were previously made available for sale by public auction at Roebourne, in conjunction with Roebourne residential lots, on the 27th May, 1976, following the demand for lots at that time and were those lots "passed in" and which remained available "across the counter" until the 26th May, 1977, under section 41A of the Land Act.

It is departmental policy to have lots available, where possible, in all country centres including the Pilbara and public auction is the means of achieving this result.

The auction of the Wittenoom lots is to be held in conjunction with the sale of Karratha and Roebourne residential lots, which sales are to be conducted by

the Government Auctioneer who will be travelling to Karratha for this purpose.

In the circumstances the extra expense of travelling to Wittenoom is not warranted.

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