

# Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 7 August 1980

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

## BILLS (2): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Constitution Amendment Bill.
2. Constitution Amendment Bill (No. 2).

Bills introduced, on motions by Mr O'Connor (Deputy Premier), and read a first time.

## GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES (PROMOTIONS APPEAL BOARD) AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Labour and Industry) [2.24 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Legislation was introduced in 1979 to replace the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1912.

The new legislation provided that one area in which the Industrial Commission could not deal was in respect of union membership or preference.

In this regard the Government made its point very clear. I refer to my second reading speech in which I said—

The Industrial Commission is to be prevented from awarding either compulsory unionism or preference to unionists and such provision in any existing awards and industrial agreements will be nullified.

The amendment to the Act now before members reflects the continuation of that policy.

Further, it is considered neither equitable nor desirable to continue to allow preference in appeal rights to union members as opposed to those who are not members of a union.

I commend the Bill to the House.

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

## PUBLIC SERVICE AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Labour and Industry) [2.25 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is consequential to the Government Employees (Promotions Appeal Board)

Amendment Bill, the second reading speech of which I have just given.

For the same reasons as outlined in that speech, amendment to the Public Service Act is required.

I commend the Bill to the House.

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

## ESSENTIAL FOODSTUFFS AND COMMODITIES AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Labour and Industry) [2.26 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Essential Foodstuffs and Commodities Act was introduced in 1979 to ensure that the community would be supplied with essential foodstuffs or essential commodities during times of interruption or dislocation. It ensured that the public interest was not abused or neglected.

The legislation is due to expire in this session of Parliament.

Although it has not been necessary to proclaim any foodstuff or commodity as an essential foodstuff or commodity under section 3 of the Act, the Government considers it desirable in the public interest that the life of the legislation be extended.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Hodge.

## AGRICULTURE AND RELATED RESOURCES PROTECTION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

MR OLD (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [2.28 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The present Act provides for the levy of a rate on pastoral properties. The proceeds of the rate, plus an appropriation from the Consolidated Revenue Fund are paid into a fund to finance the control of declared plants and animals on private land held under pastoral lease.

In each of the four financial years since the fund was created in 1976, the rate has remained uniform at 3c in the dollar on the unimproved value of the leasehold land.

The contribution from the Consolidated Revenue Fund is an amount calculated to be sufficient to finance control work at a level equal to that performed by the Agriculture Protection Board, local authorities, regional councils, and

vermin boards in the 1975-76 year, which was the year immediately preceding the coming into operation of the Act. In the past two years the Government contribution to overmatch the rate collections has been on a basis of approximately five-to-two.

The legislation as it stands at present applies this arrangement, with a maximum rate of 3c in the dollar, up to the year which ended on 30 June 1980. It states that thereafter the amount of the rate shall not exceed 4.5c, and the proceeds from the rate are to be matched from the Consolidated Revenue Fund on an equal basis.

Although good rains have been received in the last few months in most pastoral areas, it is felt that it will take at least two years for properties to recover from the drought conditions they have suffered for some years past. It is considered the maximum level of the rate at 3c should be continued, with the overmatching contribution by the Government, for the years 1980-81 and 1981-1982. The amendments in the Bill to sections 60 and 65 of the Act would permit this to be done.

The proceeds of the rate levied on pastoral properties are collected by the Commissioner of State Taxation on behalf of the APB. The commissioner's powers of collection have been found to be inadequate, and it is therefore desirable that the Act be amended to give him the same authority to recover outstanding rates which he possesses under the Land Tax Assessment Act. The suggested amendment to section 63 will provide him with these powers.

The Act empowers the making of regulations to prohibit the storage, use, or transport of prescribed agricultural chemicals in specified parts of the State where their presence may cause damage to certain crops, particularly tomatoes and grape vines. Enforcement of the prohibition has been found difficult because of lack of authority by inspectors to take samples of herbicides when necessary, or to seize or remove them or give directions for their removal from an area where plants are endangered by their presence.

The proposed amendment to section 106A will enable the making of regulations to allow action to be taken in regard to sampling, seizure, or removal of banned agricultural chemicals, whilst the amendments to sections 84 and 85 empower the board's inspectors to search premises and vehicles to put this action into effect.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr H. D. Evans (Deputy Leader of the Opposition).

## BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY COMPANY LIMITED AGREEMENTS (VARIATION) BILL

### *Second Reading*

**MR P. V. JONES** (Narrogin—Minister for Resources Development) [2.31 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to obtain parliamentary ratification of an agreement made in April this year varying the terms of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company's Integrated Steel Works Agreement of 1960, as varied by the Iron Ore (The Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited) Agreement of 1964 and also by the Broken Hill Proprietary Company's Integrated Steel Works Agreement of 1973.

The companies now involved with the State under these agreements are The Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited (B.H.P.); Australian Iron & Steel Proprietary Limited; and Dampier Mining Company Limited; which I will collectively refer to as "the company".

From this point on, I will refer to the 1960 agreement, as varied by the 1964 and 1973 agreements, as the principal agreement. When referring either to the 1960 or the 1964 agreement only, that agreement will be identified accordingly.

The April 1980 agreement contains two important variations to the present obligations of the company under the principal agreement and the 1964 agreement. I shall explain these variations. Firstly, for reasons which I will explain later, the obligations on the company under the principal agreement and as extended under the 1964 agreement are to be altered. The change is necessary to meet the State's altered requirements of the company in view of the now long-standing depression in the world steel market. Under the agreement, the company is currently obliged to construct steelmaking facilities and a second rolling mill at Kwinana.

The initial date set down for completion of these projects was 31 December 1978, but that date was extended in 1976 to 31 December 1980.

Those proposed new installations, combined with the existing plant, were to have increased the company's production capacity to not less than 500 000 tons of finished products (rolled steel) per annum. Such a production tonnage is not an economically viable capacity by today's world steel-producing standards, because of the much greater scale production rate necessary to make the enormous capital input on plant and technology a feasible proposition.

Production must be measured in millions of tonnes per annum if a producer is to remain viable against worldwide competitors in the steel market.

In partial substitution for that obligation, the 1980 agreement will commit the company to certain other undertakings with the object of establishing steel making facilities in this State if this proves both technically and economically feasible. Those undertakings are—

1. The company must carry out an ongoing programme of investigation into the technical and economic prospects of steelmaking in Western Australia.
2. The company must keep the Government fully advised on the progress and result of such investigations.
3. It must, if required by the Minister, submit to him a detailed report on its investigations and consult with him on that report. The Minister may call for the company's detailed report every three years if it is not forthcoming in the interim.
4. If the Government and the company agree that the establishment of steelmaking facilities in Western Australia is technically and economically feasible, the company will be required, after consulting with the Minister, to establish those facilities either alone or in conjunction with others.

The second major variation is contained in clause 6 of the 1980 agreement. It completes the substitution of alternative commitments by the company for those existing commitments which are to be altered or lifted. Under the 1980 agreement, the company will be obliged to reline and upgrade the blast furnace at Kwinana to increase its technical and cost efficiency by 31 December 1981, at a cost of not less than \$20 million.

The other matters dealt with in the 1980 agreement are necessary as a result of the already-mentioned substitutions in the company's obligations under the principal agreement and the 1964 agreement. All of those commitments, except those of expenditure, the construction of steelmaking facilities and the construction of a new rolling mill, have, in fact, been met by the company. However, with the required expenditure of \$20 million on the existing blast furnace, the company will, in fact, have spent at least \$8 million as required under clause 6 of the 1960 agreement.

I have already detailed the other new obligations to be borne by the company under clause 4 of the 1980 agreement in place of its unmet obligations under the 1960 and the principal agreements. Under paragraph (c) of clause 14 of the 1964 agreement, the company is obliged to install plant within this State capable of producing in the aggregate three million tons of processed material by 30 June 1985. Although the company has not fulfilled this obligation completely, its existing plant at Kwinana has a total processing capacity of 2 580 000 tonnes.

Clause 6 of the 1980 agreement, which provides for the relining of the company's blast furnace at Kwinana, provides an appropriate alternative to further expansion of the company's productive capacity in the light of the present steel marketing difficulties.

The reasons for the 1980 agreement are brief, but cogent. The world market for ferrous products has been at a drastically low level for several years, and it would be totally unrealistic for the Government to insist that the company build steelmaking facilities and a new rolling mill when there is too restricted a demand for steel. It would also be totally unrealistic for any responsible Government to insist on increases in production by the company when it has had for several years, and still has, long-term problems in marketing its current output of processed material.

It will be to this State's advantage that the company's capital and its technological and marketing expertise be devoted to areas with much greater prospects of viability. The spheres of activity in which the company is obliged to participate under the provisions of the 1980 agreement are much more realistic in the light of knowledge of the current worldwide problems in steel production and marketing. The wisdom of requiring the company continually to monitor and research the economic and technical aspects of steel manufacturing in Western Australia cannot be denied.

Clause 3 of the 1980 agreement provides the appropriate change. It also requires the company to establish steel manufacturing in this State when the time for such a venture is economically sound. The existing blast furnace at Kwinana must be upgraded substantially if the company is to remain a world competitor as a viable producer of ferrous products and as an employer of those possessing the necessary skills.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Harman.

# **TAXI-CARS (CO-ORDINATION AND CONTROL) AMENDMENT BILL**

## *Second Reading*

**MR RUSHTON** (Dale—Minister for Transport) [2.40 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill provides for three separate amendments to the Act. The first of these will make some changes to the requirements for determining the eligibility of an applicant for a taxi plate issued at a premium.

Recently, the Taxi Control Board wished to issue a plate at a premium for a service confined to hirings originating from within the boundaries of an outer metropolitan shire. However, the only applications received were from persons who could not meet the prescribed requirements.

To qualify, a person must—

- be registered as a full-time operator;
- have been engaged in the industry for at least the two years preceding his application;
- not hold a current licence; and
- not have transferred a taxi licence during the preceding five years.

In the case in point, although no one applicant could meet all of the conditions, one person who was not a registered full-time taxi-car driver was, nevertheless, considered to be a fit and proper person to operate a taxi.

The amendment will allow the Minister to authorise the issue of a plate in such cases.

The second amendment will raise the maximum licence fee for an unrestricted and restricted taxi-car from \$50 to \$100, and \$30 to \$60 per annum respectively.

The principle sources of revenue available to the board are from—

premiums payable on the issue of new taxi-car plates—there has not been an issue of these since September 1974;

fees payable on the transfer of a taxi-car licence—the number of transfers within the past 12 months have not met budget expectations; and

fees payable on the issue of a taxi-car licence and a taxi operators' licence.

Whilst there is no intention to increase taxi-car licence fees within the foreseeable future, nevertheless, the maximum fees payable under the Act have now been reached and it is considered desirable that the opportunity should be taken to increase this maximum to allow for an additional source of revenue should the expenses of the board make this necessary.

In the past, the Act has provided that only the chairman of the board may impose penalties for breaches of the Act. Prescribed penalties include the cancellation or suspension of a licence or the issue of a warning.

It is considered that the board itself, which includes three elected industry members, should also have and be able to exercise these same powers, and the amendment before the House provides for this authority.

I would add also that any penalty imposed in this manner is subject to appeal in the local court.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr McIver.

## **BILLS (2): MESSAGES**

### *Appropriations*

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

1. Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Amendment Bill.
2. Essential Foodstuffs and Commodities Amendment Bill.

## **ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY**

### *Motion*

Debate resumed from 6 August.

**MR TRETHOWAN** (East Melville) [2.44 p.m.]: In speaking to the Address-in Reply, which was so ably moved by my colleague, the member for Mundaring, I wish to voice my concern for the continuation and strengthening of parliamentary democracy and the spirit of enterprise within this State. Firstly, let me add my congratulations to those of my colleagues upon your re-election, Mr Speaker. I am sure it is tribute to the manner in which you carried out that office in the last Parliament in upholding its authority and dignity. I take this opportunity to thank members from both sides of the House for the friendliness with which they have welcomed me and, further, I place on record my appreciation for the guidance and assistance that has been rendered to me as a new member by the staff and officers of this Parliament.

It is a great honour for me to represent the seat previously occupied by such a person as Sir Desmond O'Neil. Sir Desmond's distinguished career spanned nearly 21 years, commencing with his election to the seat of Canning in 1959. In 1962, following a redistribution, the seat of East

Melville was created, and he served as the member for that seat for the following 18 years.

Sir Desmond's record of parliamentary achievements is considerable—as the Minister for Housing and Labour from 1965 to 1971; as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition from 1972 to 1974; as the Minister for Works, Water Supplies, and Housing from 1974 to 1975; as Deputy Premier and Minister for Works, Water Supplies, and the North West from 1975 to 1977; and as Chief Secretary, Minister for Police and Traffic, Regional Administration, and the North West from 1977 until this year.

I congratulate Sir Desmond upon his recent Knighthood and understand that this is a public recognition of the service he has rendered to this State. I know that he will be remembered with affection in the electorate of East Melville. I am sure also that he will be remembered with respect in this House as a great parliamentarian.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr TRETHOWAN: It is my intention to follow as closely as I can Sir Desmond's example in carrying out his parliamentary duties with both dedication and integrity. Further, I express my best wishes to Lady Nancy, together with Sir Desmond, in their, I hope, long and happy retirement.

Although my electorate has been so ably represented for the last 18 years, I believe, as a new member, I can claim to have received two privileges which had not previously occurred. Firstly, I happened to be elected unopposed. Secondly, I believe I am the first person as the member for East Melville to make his maiden speech in this House, for as members will recall, Sir Desmond was the member for Canning when he made his maiden speech. I thank political fortune for one and Sir Desmond O'Neil for the other.

To enter Parliament at the commencement of a decade such as the 1980s is indeed an exciting, if a slightly daunting, experience. I can see before us one of the most exciting periods of great expansion, probably greater than we have seen in the history of this State. I believe it can be a time of great enterprise; a time for great industrial, social, and cultural achievement. However, this will be achieved only if we, the people of Western Australia, have the determination to make it so.

When we look outside this State and outside this nation, I think we see a picture which we can call, at the very least, unsettled, if not grim. We have a situation of escalating energy costs throughout the world, and this particularly concerns those countries which are totally

dependent for their energy needs on Middle East oil.

This situation has been accompanied by a serious rate of inflation, a downturn in international trade, in recessionary conditions, and an increase in the general rate of unemployment. In addition to this economic instability, there has been a widespread and very serious increase in political extremism and urban terrorism. If we couple this with the rapidly increasing rate of expansion, both politically and militarily, of one of the world's major totalitarian and imperial powers, the Soviet Union, I do not believe it is an understatement to describe the current world outlook as grim.

We in Western Australia cannot afford to overlook the effect of all these factors and the degree to which they will influence our future.

We must remember that the wealth of this State is principally dependent upon our primary industries of mining, energy production, and agriculture. Our wealth is based on our ability efficiently to extract and export those commodities.

If we, as a community, allow unrealistic wage demands to price our products out of the international market, if we allow irresponsible strikes to destroy our reliability as an exporter, and if we allow extreme minority pressure groups to inhibit the normal development of any major concerns within our commercial life, not only will we be putting at risk the potential we see for the future, but we will also stand to lose much of that which we have already.

It is likely that over the next 10 years many countries throughout the world, particularly those which do not have indigenous sources of energy, will have to fight for their economic survival. This will produce a degree of competitiveness in international trade which will be exceptionally fierce. If we are to achieve an adequate rate of growth and productivity, we will have to have the necessary determination and strength to compete in this environment.

Western Australia is very fortunate in its abundance of raw materials and natural resources; but if they remain undeveloped, unexported, or unsold no jobs will be created and in fact we will have an extremely difficult time even maintaining our current standard of living.

It is now time that we, as Western Australians, take stock of our economic strengths and weaknesses. It is time for us again to rely on that spirit of enterprise which has brought us great prosperity over the last 150 years and to ensure

that, once more, it becomes the main spring to this new period of growth.

We in Western Australia are most fortunate in another area. We have one of the most successful systems of parliamentary democracy in the world today. Each of us can claim a greater degree of political, economic, social, and religious freedom than citizens in almost any other country of the world. Our freedom seems so secure that it is well for us to remember that, even at this very time in other parts of the world in other countries which are less fortunate with their political systems, men and women are being tortured and are dying in an attempt to win or defend the basic rights which we in this country take so much for granted.

If we do not value our basic rights sufficiently, they will slowly but surely be eroded by those forces whose objective is to replace our current political system with that of a totally alien political philosophy. It is interesting to see how attempts are made to bring about such change in other parts of the world. The steps seem relatively clear: firstly, the objective seems to be to bring about economic disruption and a debasement of the rule of law. The next step appears to be the promotion of antagonism and hatred between different sections of the community. This is then fuelled through the action of urban terrorism. This process is supposed to, and in fact sometimes does, lead to a situation of such instability that revolution takes place and an all-controlling totalitarian Government replaces the previous system. In doing so, it exerts such strength of control that it removes virtually individual freedom.

Our principal protection against such a downhill slide—the most effective guarantee which will allow us to retain our present degree of freedom—is the repute and stature of this Parliament. The laws passed by this House represent a framework of guarantees. They guarantee the rights of every individual within our community. Therefore, no section of our society should seek to set itself above the law, either through its economic power or as a result of racial or religious origins. If such an attempt is made, the section of society concerned seeks to set itself apart from the rest of the community and, in doing so, it seeks privilege, not equality. Any achievement of such privilege is contrary to the democratic freedom of the whole community. In addition, it provides the basis for dissension and hatred, the fuels of revolution and human misery.

However, Sir, it is interesting to note that many of those who protest about alleged injustice and inequality also profess a political philosophy which, where it has been put into practice

elsewhere in this world, has produced totalitarian and repressive regimes whose citizens are virtually devoid of all human rights and freedom.

We should be very careful of the superficial persuasiveness of such wolves in sheep's clothing. We must be very careful that, in grasping for that little bit more, we do not stand to lose most, or all, of what we have now.

It is the responsibility of this Parliament in representing the people of Western Australia to ensure that we progress through the 1980s on the strong foundation that we now have and, through leadership and good government, achieve for this State the true potential which lies before us.

[Applause.]

**MR BRIDGE** (Kimberley) [3.01 p.m.]: Before proceeding to take part in this Address-in-Reply debate, Mr Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to express to you personally my congratulations on your being re-elected to the very high office that you hold.

On the first day of Parliament I was told that it was the first time for a very long time that a ballot was used for the purpose of determining the position of speakership. Having gone through that ballot so successfully is evidence and a source of satisfaction to you to know that the House indeed holds you in high esteem. The House has accorded you its confidence.

I would also like to thank other members of this Parliament most sincerely. When I first came to this Parliament I was met by a great number of people from all parties and the warmth and kindness that has been extended to me on the few days I have been here is something I shall remember for a long time.

It is not an easy task for a bushman who comes to town and to a place such as this and suddenly finds the surroundings unfamiliar. It was indeed a great satisfaction and a comfort for me to have such friendly people greeting me as has taken place over the last few days.

I also extend my appreciation and thanks to the staff of this House. Again, like other members of Parliament I have had a great deal of support and encouragement from all members of the staff in this House, particularly the gentlemen at the front entrance. They have always been kind to me and given me assurance, especially when I came into this place for the first time. I appreciate the support and encouragement which has been extended to me by all the members in this House.

I would also like to thank my wife for the support and encouragement given to me through

the many difficult times I experienced in reaching this place.

Last, but not least, I wish to mention the members of the electorate of Kimberley. It is the place in which my thoughts are at the moment and I wish to extend to my electorate and the people there my sincere thanks and appreciation for the tremendous dedication and support given to me over the many hard times I went through in attempting to become a member of Parliament.

However, having made it to this House I stand here with a great deal of satisfaction, and the support of my electorate was a great encouragement to me.

As the first Aboriginal member of the Houses of Parliament in Western Australia it is important that I should reflect upon some of the matters that unfolded over the days that led up to my ultimate success and entry to Parliament. I think it is essential that I do that, particularly in the light of some of the events I have had the misfortune to have been associated with. I think it is important that the facts are presented. This Parliament would be very much better off if I could clear up a few points.

I was stunned a couple of years ago when I saw before my own eyes some of the incidents which I will highlight now. In highlighting these points I wish to show that there are some people in our society who face certain hardships.

My first example is of an aged man who walked into one of the polling centres in the Kimberley for the purpose of exercising what he considered to be a vote in that election. Having arrived there, he was confronted with a barrage of questions, one being, "How old are you?" Not understanding the terminology in the Statute book which states affirmative or otherwise, he said he was an old man rather than answering the question. He was immediately ejected from the polling centre and told to go home.

There was another occasion where several people broke down and cried in the polling centres because of the pressures placed on them. Another case, one which has been documented a number of times—the Turkey Creek incident—was where people actually waded a flooded river in their attempt to vote. Having waded across the creek, despite the fact it was running chest high which indicates the flow was strong, they were not given any assistance to vote and as a consequence a large number of informal votes were recorded.

We have heard today a number of comments about the irresponsibility and illiteracy of many of these people. Despite all these problems, these people want their true thoughts known. These

people faced two elections and had to go before a Court of Disputed Returns and give evidence. They were subjected to a considerable amount of harassment by way of cross-examination. However, they pursued the whole process with bravery and considerable dignity to the point where at the end, at the last election, they went to the polling booths on their own to cast a valid vote.

Members would have read about those people who chose not to go to the polling centre and applied for a postal vote, only to find they were carted away in a paddy wagon to explain the reason for their application. Perhaps that matter is something we can debate on some future occasion.

Having highlighted those points, there could perhaps be the response from a number of people who would say that I am discussing generally the happenings with Aboriginal people who in the main are illiterate.

Just in case that is the general view held by people, I would like to mention a couple of things I have personally encountered on my road towards this House of Parliament.

It would be a rare occasion if anywhere in Australia people would say that Ernie Bridge is one of those illiterate people. I do not think that is the general view of myself. Certainly the friendship and support I have received from people would discount that view.

About 20 years ago when I first became a member of the Halls Creek Shire Council a comment was made about me, and I wish to mention it because it demonstrates some of the feelings that existed then and still exist today. This comment illustrates the sort of attitudes which prevail. It was said then that the Halls Creek Shire Council had been a very good shire council but it was now going to be bad. The reason given was that there was "a boong" sitting in the chair.

Some time after there was an attempt to try to obtain an extract of my birth certificate because I was a part-Aboriginal—as it was termed. The purpose was to see if, from the extract of my birth certificate, it could be proven in some way that I was ineligible to be president of the shire council.

There was another occasion more recently concerning a very dear friend of mine, the late Mr C. L. McBeath, who was very well known to members of the Government and members of the Opposition—and he was a very close friend of my grandfather, my father, and my immediate family—and who during the course of the last couple of years took it upon himself to assist me

electorally. While he was assisting me he was approached in front of his home and actually told that he ought to remove from his car a sticker displaying a photograph of me and stating that Ernie Bridge was the ALP candidate for Kimberley. This occurred six months after the election. It is ironical because today, six months after the election, I see stickers of a similar nature still attached to cars. Yet, my friend was almost forcibly required to remove the sticker from his car. So it will be seen that during the years I have been in public life, and treading the path towards this House, it has not been an entirely easy process.

When we hear comments such as those we have heard during the last couple of days, about the plight of certain people in our society, it is important to address ourselves to the problems and difficult times faced by those people. I was rather interested in a comment made recently at a Liberal Party conference by Senator Chaney, a Liberal Minister in the Federal Parliament. I quote the comments of Senator Chaney as follows—

Statistics showed that the people most in want were the aborigines.

They had the highest death rate and a much higher infant-mortality rate, their unemployment rate was at least four times that of the general population, they suffered ill health much more and they were the least well housed.

Aboriginal people were the most deprived in Australia.

During the last couple of days I have sat in this place and listened and observed closely the comments of certain members. In the main, I have been quite concerned with what I have heard. Of all the places in our society I believe this is the one place where there should be a degree of honesty and a demonstration of conscience which are so important. We should discharge that responsibility not only to ourselves, but also to the electors who put us here. In that context, I was quite amazed with the comment I heard that the culture of Aboriginal people had been abandoned some 30-odd years ago.

I would like to quote from a report recently handed to me by Dr Kevin O'Dea. The doctor's comments were as follows—

I personally learnt an enormous amount from them concerning their traditional foods and the methods used in their preparation. I found them patient and thorough teachers—delighted to be able to share their knowledge in this way.

And this is a thought which the Minister for Cultural Affairs probably could digest very closely. To continue—

I was surprised at how much many of the young people knew about their traditional culture and lifestyle—and how important they considered it to be. Nevertheless detailed knowledge of traditional life does seem to rest more with the older Aborigines.

Dr Kevin O'Dea went on to say—

In the bush environment all the aborigines appeared relaxed and happy. The demands of hunting and gathering kept them busy and seemed to give them a great deal of satisfaction.

We have heard comments that Aboriginal people, in the main, do a considerable amount of drinking and play a lot of card games, and one could easily get the impression that apart from those exercises they do very little else.

At a time when probably it is more important than it ever was previously for this Parliament to adopt and stick rigidly to the Aboriginal understanding of the "live and let live" concept it is sad to hear some of the comments made in this place. It is not true to say that some of the things that it is alleged have happened have, in fact, happened. It stands to reason that if those events were happening, in the way stated in this House, it is very unlikely that the families concerned would survive, let alone carry on in the way claimed. However, they are surviving effectively and in many instances they are rearing large families.

It is very important—absolutely important—that we stick to reality in the statements we make in this House, and that we be very careful with regard to facts. It does not matter really what we think about certain things; what we actually say has to be understood when it is reported. There is nothing worse than making non-factual statements, and having them reported.

We as members of Parliament, and as leaders in our society, should not make public statements without doing sufficient homework. Through you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I urge members of this Parliament, in the days to come, to give very serious regard to what I have said.

There is much talk about the way Aboriginal people perform, and their inability to accept responsibility, and that kind of thing. A fundamental way of looking at the lifestyle of Aboriginal people is to remember that opportunity brings with it responsibility. At the



moment, the opportunities which the Aboriginal people want are not available.

Unemployment is a problem of enormous magnitude. I appreciate that the problem does not apply only to Aboriginal people, but it is a greater problem in areas where there is a large Aboriginal population, such as in the Kimberley. It is a problem which shire councils and local government, in the past, have faced and have not tried to run away from. They have attempted very seriously to do something about it. Unfortunately, there has not been a great deal of success. I will quote again from the remarks of Dr Kevin O'Dea as follows—

My overall impression was that many of the problems of fringe-dwelling aborigines stem from boredom and lack of a sense of purpose.

The extremely high level of unemployment among young aborigines is a serious problem. Many of the people I was closely associated with expressed a desire to work—but opportunities are almost non-existent. This problem seems to be particularly acute among young women.

If a formula could be devised to describe their present fringe-dwelling situation it would go something like this—

Unemployment = boredom = drinking  
= not enough money to spend on  
nutritious food = malnutrition (in the  
sense of poor diet rather than not  
enough calories) = heightened suscep-  
tibility to infection and a range of other  
diseases.

Quite clearly, we all have a very real responsibility to do something to alleviate the problem which exists not just among the Aboriginal people in the Kimberley but indeed throughout the whole of society.

When we speak about Aborigines and unemployment, I must comment on one matter. There is a tendency for people to say, "Well, they don't want to work anyway, so why worry about creating job opportunities for them?" The point is, that just is not true, and I will illustrate why. From 1973 to 1975 a couple of schemes funded by the Federal Government of the day were operating; namely, the RED scheme and the special work scheme. At that time at Halls Creek alone 92 people were gainfully employed with the shire council and the number unemployed was six. Some time after the schemes were terminated, the position reversed to the point where 170 people were unemployed and 10 were employed. That illustrates that when an opportunity is created

and provided for people to be engaged in meaningful work, it will be accepted.

I will take the matter of the responsibility—or, as some people term it, the irresponsibility—of Aborigines a little further. I believe they have great difficulty in winning, no matter where or under what circumstances. For instance, the Noonkanbah community attempted to do three things: firstly, to get away from the social problems at Fitzroy Crossing; secondly, to re-establish themselves as a base structure and an entity; and, thirdly, to operate the property as a pastoral enterprise. Those were the fundamental and important objectives of that particular community when it set out to go to Noonkanbah.

Let us have a look at what has happened to the community at Noonkanbah. They have been told that they do terrible things, that they breach the law, that they are unreasonable almost to the point of being bizarre, and in effect that unless they change their attitude they face the prospect of being arrested and so on. That is the kind of difficulty confronting those people. Yet, we have always said the very thing they ought to be doing is establishing themselves in such a community. I think society should reflect on its condemnation and attacking of people who are in the fringe-dwelling situation. As I see it, it would not take much more for those people to give up and perhaps go back into town and drink. What are the alternatives for people of that kind when they are faced with those circumstances?

However, amid all those pressures going back as long as about three years ago, in the main they have stood positively and responsibly and have tried to come to grips with the problem and explain what is happening at Noonkanbah. Instead of being ridiculed by a large section of society, as is the case, they should be applauded for the noble way they have been going about trying to get across to the community at large a realisation and understanding that something is very precious and important to them and they are very fearful about the loss of it. All they are saying is, "Please understand us."

I was very interested to hear the proposal put forward by the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (Senator Chaney) for a formula or some kind of mechanism to resolve problems and difficulties such as those which have arisen in the Noonkanbah dispute. Senator Chaney has come under a degree of criticism from certain members of this House, but I want to say I am one who supports his attempts 100 per cent, because he has a positive attitude towards the situation, which is very complex and needs to be looked at

objectively. At the moment, we do not have the mechanism which is required, as has been proved.

Despite the good intentions of legislation such as the Aboriginal Heritage Act, it has not been able to stand up to the complex situation at Noonkanbah. I believe it has been used quite wrongly.

The Minister for Cultural Affairs has spoken about the build-up of pressure in the Northern Territory. I do not dispute that what he has said is true, but I think it stands to reason that, when there emerges an Act of Parliament such as the one applying in the Northern Territory which gives a section of society certain opportunities to achieve success or progress, human nature itself will inevitably ensure there is a reaction, particularly in areas where it is seen by many people as a threat to those who have a vested interest. But I believe it is important that, despite that kind of reaction, we face up to the inevitable changes. I often quote some words from a song I sing occasionally, which I think have a ring of truth; that is, "There are some things a man can't fight." The quicker we acknowledge it and work towards that goal, the quicker we will reach the point where fewer people in our society are threatened with dislocation and so on.

Many people say the Aborigines want land rights and Europeans are thereby threatened. That is true, but if we look at the matter objectively and do not see it as a concession beyond some form of equity, where is the danger in it? The whole purpose of our planning structure should be to give people the opportunity to achieve equity, not to keep some as disadvantaged people. The Aboriginal people in the main have been disadvantaged, and I am sure no member here would dispute that.

As a matter of fact, it is interesting to note that 24 years ago the Minister for Cultural Affairs had to draw attention to the apparently noble proposition that it was possible Aboriginal mothers could show affection for their children. In other words, until then some Aboriginal people were not even considered to be human beings because they were not thought to be capable of showing affection for their children. Those were the words of the Minister for Cultural Affairs about 24 years ago. It is rather a tragedy that people have to be told something like that.

Having made those comments, I will proceed to other matters which affect directly the electorate of Kimberley. I have heard comments about the provision of health services in Western Australia. There are those who say that the provision of health services in Western Australia is fairly

satisfactory and that we ought not to worry greatly about the criticisms being made. I differ from these opinions. There are areas of Western Australia where the health situation is appalling. Although I acknowledge that the Government has faced up to its responsibilities, and indeed, in some instances it has recognised that the health problems are serious, a great deal still remains to be accomplished.

Let us look at some of the statistics. The incidence of diabetes in the Australian population is about 2 to 3 per cent, but it is often 10 times as great amongst the fringe dwellers and the urban Aboriginal communities. Diabetes is associated with a number of other conditions including heart disease, blindness, kidney disease, and poor wound healing.

A survey has been conducted in the Kimberley by Bastion, an organisation with which Dr Kevin O'Dea is associated. This survey revealed that the incidence of diabetes amongst Aborigines over the age of 21 years is between 15 and 20 per cent.

I would like to draw to the attention of members of this House the situation presently existing at the Derby Regional Hospital. The hospital has a modern up-to-date operating theatre, and an outstanding surgeon, but it is rather frightening to go into the general ward of this hospital.

A large percentage of the patients of the Derby Regional Hospital are accommodated in the corridor of the general ward. Certainly such a situation should not be tolerated.

The Cundelee Reserve is an example of another appalling situation. I do not think I would be exaggerating if I were to say that a wild pig would almost suffer a heart attack if it were asked to live at the Cundelee Mission. That analogy will show members how disgraceful conditions are there.

We must consider the overall picture. There is a great need for the establishment of a tropical medicine centre in the Kimberley. Peculiar conditions exist in the tropical parts of Australia, and the needs of the residents could best be served by the location of such a centre there.

I would like to make it clear that I am not, in the main, criticising the work of those involved in the health field in the region. I believe they do a very good job, but the services provided are purely of a palliative nature, and the problems will remain unless they are treated more seriously.

The Kimberley region has faced a terrible battering through constant increases in the cost of living. Fuel prices are increasing with monotonous regularity, and this is having a devastating effect

on local businesses. The price rise in aviation fuel is reflected in high air fares, and we must question how long the light aircraft industry can survive.

It is interesting that as long ago as 1924 the member for Kimberley spoke in this House of the need for cheaper air fares to help overcome the problems of isolation in the Kimberley, and yet here today, in 1980, the problem remains—indeed the problem is largely unchanged.

The Government must consider seriously the possibility of greater help for the pastoral industry. Probably this statement would apply to the State as a whole, but today I will refer to the pastoral industry in the Kimberley area in particular. It is beyond dispute that this is the most important industry in the Kimberley, and it will continue to hold this position despite the comments we hear at regular intervals about the value of mineral exploration, ore discoveries, and the like. The pastoral industry has stood the test of time pretty well, particularly in the light of all the difficulties it has faced. We must pay more attention to this industry for, in my opinion, it will remain the backbone of the Kimberley for a long time to come.

I have been interested in the pastoral industry all my life, and over the last 21 years I have seen many changes unfold. In many cases the man operating a small property as a family unit has been squeezed out of the industry. Over that period some 15 or 20 small properties have been phased out.

The recent rental appraisals were a severe blow to many pastoral people in the north. The rental on some of the properties in North Kimberley was increased by as much as 100 per cent. A new rental structure basis was established by the Government, and it applied to all pastoral properties. This appeared to be a fair decision, but some of the properties in North Kimberley do not enjoy the same proportion of usable land as do other properties. For instance, the properties in North Kimberley do not have as much river frontage and so people operating these properties have more problems. However, they were required to face up to the same rental increase as those operating properties with good river frontages. This is a very unfair situation.

Isolation is still our greatest companion in the Kimberley—a companion that has been with us since the area was first settled. No doubt it will be with us for a long time yet. It is important for any Government to cut down on the degree of isolation.

Members may query my statement when I say to this House that I believe the people of the Kimberley are more isolated today than they were five or 10 years ago. However, I believe this statement to be true.

If anyone were to visit the people in the area to ask them about their ability to travel south and their ability to communicate with other people of the area, he would discover that the people believe they are facing more difficulties now than in the past. I believe that other members representing country electorates will agree with my comments.

We really must face up to this problem. I do not say that I know the answer to it, but at least we must make a positive and direct attack on spiralling costs in remote areas. Certainly the Kimberley has all the wonderful things people talk about, such as the climate, the sun, and the wonderful scenery. However, these things do not mean much when one is faced constantly with cost increases so that it becomes difficult to survive. Incentives play a very important part in attracting people to the north, and when the incentives are eroded, such places become less attractive.

Without a doubt, communication has been one of the great concerns of my electorate in the last few years. I would be absolutely correct in saying it is the greatest ramshackle system imaginable; I do not think I could go much further than that in respect of its description. The delays and difficulties one experiences in communicating with the outside world are well known to most people, but at the same time it is a matter of great concern to the people of the north.

We have other industries that could easily be supported—and I believe should be supported—to enable greater expansion. Tourism is one such industry. Again, for some years now both Labor Governments and Liberal coalition Governments have indicated there is a need for the expansion of tourism in the north, but so far we have not made the progress which I think is available to us. There are some wonderful places in the north that are still untapped in terms of tourism. Mind you, Sir, the Federal Government has not assisted us with its fuel pricing policy, because it has really lessened the ability of caravan tourists to travel to the north.

I enter this House recognising that I have a responsibility to all members of the electorate; in other words, I guess it is fair to say that I enter this House clearly wearing two hats. The Aboriginal people of the Kimberley are looking to me to project into this House an understanding of their problems and an understanding of their

needs; they are looking to me to try to get the House to recognise their problems. However, just as I am committed to doing that, I fully appreciate that the Caucasian people of the Kimberley similarly expect from me that kind of representation.

I make it clear to the House that I will do the best I can in the days to come to satisfy the people who have elected me to this position.

As Parliament commences a new term, I see before us a number of challenging tasks which this Chamber will be required to face up to with great responsibility; but above all, it must be faced up to in a very honest way—that is absolutely essential. The electors of Kimberley are not likely to demand or expect miracles, but they do expect that Parliament will address itself to their concern in what I believe should be a fair-dinkum way.

[Applause.]

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Clarko): The Speaker has requested me to read to the House the following message which he has written—

I understand it is the desire of members that the replies to questions on notice today should be handed in, rather than answered orally.

I shall call upon each Minister in turn to hand in his or her replies. At this time the Minister should indicate whether the postponement of any question is required and also indicate what papers, if any, are being presented for tabling.

**MR E. T. EVANS** (Kalgoorlie) [3.43 p.m.]: As I rise to speak in this debate, if I speak a little loudly it is to speak over the thumping of my heart. I am extremely nervous. Many members on this side of the House have told me that they were nervous when they delivered their maiden speech; in fact, I believe it is a tradition that a member be nervous when delivering his maiden speech, and I would not like to break a tradition.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Speaker, in his absence, on being elected to that high office once again. As other members have said, I have no doubt he will act in an impartial and competent manner.

I would like to pay the highest possible tribute to my predecessor (Mr Tom Evans). He was first elected to this House in 1956 and represented Kalgoorlie with the utmost distinction until retiring of his own accord prior to the 1980 election. Not only was he a popular, well-known, and respected figure in Kalgoorlie and one of the great parliamentarians on this side of the House

since the war, but also he rose to great heights in the Parliament. Many members will well recall that he held the portfolios of Attorney General, Treasurer, and Minister for Education in the Tonkin Government.

**Mr McIver:** Hear, hear!

**Mr E. T. EVANS:** Indeed, he has left me a very hard act to follow. I would like to offer my thanks to the people of Kalgoorlie for giving me the honour of representing them and following in Tom's footsteps. I assure the people of Kalgoorlie that although they have got another Evans—another "Good 'eavens, not another Evans"—they have also got a full-time, conscientious politician available to them at any time.

Along with the previous speaker, I would like to thank the staff of Parliament House. Unless one is a country member, I do not think one can really appreciate just what the staff do. No-one has been lost more times than I have when walking around the corridors; I have said, "Good day" to the same fellow three times after walking in and out of the same door on several occasions! I thank every member of the staff of Parliament House for their assistance.

I would really like now to speak about my electorate. The electorate of Kalgoorlie not only sits on the famous Golden Mile, but also it is the centre of one of the richest mineral provinces in the world.

At the moment in Kalgoorlie there is an air of optimism which is higher than I can remember in my life; and I was born in the area and have lived there since 1939. My grandfather arrived at Kalgoorlie six months after Paddy Hannan, so I feel qualified to talk about Kalgoorlie, its prospects, its potential, its hopes, and some of its problems.

As I said, we have high optimism in Kalgoorlie. We now have a gold price approaching \$600 an ounce. Three or four years ago I would have been laughed out of town had I said in Hannan Street that the price would reach \$500 an ounce. Many people are now saying they knew the price would go that high, but at the time I did not think it would. However, the price is up there, and this has caused the tremendous potential and development in the area.

I would like to take this opportunity to bore you, Mr Deputy Speaker, with a few figures, because they are very important to my electorate. The Golden Mile is in the process of being redeveloped. Kalgoorlie Mining Associates, a consortium consisting of Kalgoorlie Lake View Pty. Ltd., Homestake Gold of America, and

Western Mining Corporation, has commenced development of its south-east leases on the Golden Mile.

Those leases are the old Perseverance, the Lake View and Star, the Associated, and the Oroya leases. The consortium intends to spend \$26 million over the next year on the redevelopment of the leases. The redevelopment will consist of the building of a new crushing plant at the Oroya mill, the construction of a new roasting plant at the same mill to roast refractory ore from the Fimiston leases, the refurbishing of underground equipment and facilities and, of course, development that is so essential to get into full production.

This will result in KMA coming into production about mid-1981, producing about 390 000 tonnes of gold ore per annum, which represents \$58 million-worth of export income to this State each year—and, more importantly, 230 extra jobs.

At the other end of the Golden Mile we have North Kalgurli Mines Ltd., which is well advanced in its development programme. Fortunately, the company kept its two shafts under care and maintenance and is in a slightly better position than KMA in that it will not need to spend an enormous amount of money to get back into production. The company's plant has been operating as a custom mill, and the shafts and winders are in good condition. All that is required is the expenditure of some \$10 million on a new roasting plant and, once again, this money will benefit the Kalgoorlie region. This will enable North Kalgurli Mines to reach production capacity—also by mid-1981—of about 200 000 tonnes of gold ore per annum which at the expected grade of a little over four weights per tonne, or about 2.6 grams per tonne, will represent about \$26 million per annum in export income and, once again more importantly, 170 additional jobs in my area.

At the same time, we have Mt. Charlotte, which is not part of the Golden Mile, but is away to the north. The Mt. Charlotte mine produces low-grade ore; it is a highly capital intensive, high tonnage operation, and currently is operating at full production of 750 000 tonnes of ore each year. Mt. Charlotte has a known life at current ore reserves of 10 years. However, there is every indication the gold-bearing ore will continue at depth, so the mine has untold potential.

Indeed, the potential of the entire Golden Mile is enormous if current gold prices are maintained. As members may imagine, prospecting in the area is at an all-time high. Every State Battery in

Western Australia is operating at full capacity and has a waiting list of at least six months. The North Kalgurli custom mill is receiving 5 000 tonnes of prospectors' ore each month, with a potential to increase capacity to 20 000 tonnes a month.

Other mines which previously were considered to be uneconomic are being reopened. Members probably have read of some of them. I refer to the Hill 50 and Morning Star mines at Mt. Magnet, the Marvel Loch goldmine, and the old Lansfield mine at Laverton; in addition, many other small deposits and small mines are under consideration.

I have given the House these figures this afternoon because they are of vital importance to the goldfields and to my electorate. Yet I was astonished to find that the Speech of the Lieutenant-Governor when opening this Parliament contained no reference to gold. Every person in Western Australia is talking about gold. People who hear I am from Kalgoorlie say, "You must be getting gold." The Speech contains references to iron ore, bauxite, natural gas, and uranium. However, gold does not get a mention.

I said I was astonished, but why should I be? Neither this Government nor its Federal counterpart has ever paid any attention to the goldmining industry. It was in 1976, after many pre-election promises from the then Opposition in Canberra that the famous Golden Mile closed, and Kalgoorlie and Boulder were decimated, with thousands of people being thrown out of work. If one Government, either State or Federal, had had the courage to put up \$3 million or \$4 million to enable these mines to remain open, the situation today would be quite different. Mr Deputy Speaker, with gold at \$600 an ounce, I am sure you would know what continued production would mean to this State.

Had the Governments of the day shown a little courage, we would have now what they are promising us we are going to have; namely, a town of some 40 000 people. As to the promises of such a town, I can say only that I have heard it all before. It might come to fruition if the people elect a Government which is prepared to back the industry and give it support when it is going through rough times.

This situation must never be allowed to happen again. Once these mines reopen and get back onto full production, we must ensure they enjoy the stability they deserve. Every other industry receives Government support, so why should not the goldmining industry be supported? For too long I have seen a situation where people did not know from one year to the next whether they were

to have a job, or whether their houses would be worth anything.

We need in the future a Government that is prepared to adopt a policy such as the one put forward by the Australian Labor Party. We recommend an orderly system of marketing for gold and we believe in having the courage to help the industry when it is in need.

I turn now to other minerals which are found within my electorate. Of course, members have all heard about nickel which, incidentally, also did not get a mention in the Lieutenant-Governor's Speech. At the moment, nickel prices are stable. Kambalda is booming and flourishing. The Windarra nickel mine is about to reopen and Metals Exploration have plans to reopen the Redross and Wannaway nickel projects. In addition, the massive Agnew nickel mine is about to come into production.

Other minerals are found within my electorate. There have been significant finds of cobalt, copper, tin and many other minerals. The most significant of these finds is the huge Teutonic Bore copper project which the Seltrust group expects to bring into production in 1981.

Many informed people—most of them are Government employees in the Department of Industrial Development, the office of the Regional Administrator and so on—are up in my area saying, "We are looking at a population of 40 000 within 10 years."

If that is the case, and many of the things I have outlined today come to fruition and these mines reopen, many problems must be faced. However, for the first time we have prior notice of these problems; in fact, we have at least one year in which to meet and overcome them. We must decide where the industry is going and what it needs.

The first of these problems is that within 12 months, unless some forward planning is done, there will be a shortage of skilled labour in Kalgoorlie. These companies will not be able to pick skilled miners from off the streets. We lost all our skilled miners when the mines closed and massive retrenchments took place at Kambalda, Redross, Scotia, Carr Boyd and other mines. The closure of these mines resulted in miners leaving the district. Miners are a highly skilled group of men, and they go where the mines are. Therefore, we have lost miners to other States.

It is important that the Government, unions and management and all other affected persons—including local government—get together and plan to cater for the projected manpower requirements. We must train locally

available people by putting them through a training school, getting them down the mines, and teaching them the trade. We must attract labour from other areas. However, in doing that we will be creating other problems.

There will be a problem with housing. At the moment in Kalgoorlie there are seven estate agents, but there is not one house for rental. I know that because every day I instruct my secretary to ring around on behalf of constituents trying to find rental accommodation. There is not one house available. There are 67 names on the waiting list of the State Housing Commission. The answer to a question by my colleague in the other place indicated that not one house had been built by the State Housing Commission in Kalgoorlie last year, and there are plans to build two next year. There is need for an urgent building programme by the SHC.

People must be encouraged to have faith in the future. They must be encouraged to build and buy their own homes. The Lands Department must release land at reasonable cost. At the moment, land is being sold at \$9 000 or \$10 000, and yet five years ago people were walking off the land. We cannot have this. Land must be sold at a low cost so people can come into the area and have permanence. In that way, people can be encouraged to go to isolated areas.

We will have problems if we are to have a huge increase in population. What are we going to do about education? The schools in the Kalgoorlie area, apart from the Eastern Goldfields High School, are totally inadequate. The Eastern Goldfields High School was funded by the Whitlam Government, built by the Tonkin Labor Government, and completed by this Government five years late. The other schools are so inadequate that if children in the metropolitan area were asked to go to some of the schools in my electorate, they would look at them in horror. They are overcrowded and inadequate.

How will such schools cater for the increase of something like 18 000 people that various authorities tell us we will have? We must have a programme to increase the facilities at the schools. The school children in our town are just as entitled to improved facilities as the people in other towns and the cities. There must be recreational facilities, libraries and laboratories, and the other facilities that are taken for granted in the city.

A further problem, of course, is health. At the moment in Kalgoorlie we have the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital. It has a capacity of 200 beds. These 200 beds are scattered in a higgledy-

piggledy mess of derelict buildings. The hospital contrasts starkly with the modern hospital complexes at Albany, Geraldton, Bunbury, Northam, Royal Perth, and the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre. Of the 200 available beds at Kalgoorlie, 95 are filled at the moment. Does that mean when the new people come into the area to open up the mines, they will be healthy? None of them will become sick?

The Government has a programme to upgrade the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital in five stages. The first stage is an operating theatre. I would have no quarrel with that; but one cannot put beds into an operating theatre. The second stage provides for reception, catering, and ancillary services—ambulance, casualty, and so on. There would be no beds in that either. It will be some years before the number of beds will be increased.

We did have another hospital in the area—the St. John of God Hospital. The “compassionate” Fraser Government took away its licence to operate as an acute hospital in the middle of last year. The State Government was then called upon by myself, the member for Yilgarn-Dundas, and the members for South-East Province to buy the St. John of God Hospital from the sisters and to make it a permanent care hospital for all permanent care residents in Kalgoorlie. That would have relieved the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital of something like 50 beds. However, the hospital was sold to private enterprise.

If one can afford \$105.50 per fortnight to stay in the Kalgoorlie Nursing Home, as it is now called, one is free to stay there. What happens to the pensioners? I know that question is often asked, but what does happen to them? I wish the Government would tell me. Furthermore, after one stays at the Kalgoorlie Hospital, one is charged the same rate. There is no future for the pensioners. It has become a sin to grow old.

We have done two things wrongly. We are not looking after the old people; and we are not providing beds in the regional hospital. Unless something is done along these lines, we can forget everything else I have said.

We suffer also from a lack of Government services in our area. This Government espouses decentralisation, and yet everything is centralised in Perth. There is not even a branch of the State Electoral Office in Kalgoorlie. Anyone wishing to enrol does so after blundering his way around. People go to the Commonwealth Electoral Office and they say, “Don’t come here, mate. We don’t know anything about you.” If they find enough information, they eventually go to the Mines Department to be placed on the roll. In this day

and age, with computers and everything else, I fail to see why we cannot enrol people on the State and Federal rolls at the same office in isolated areas. It is beyond me. All I can say is that perhaps this Government does not want people to be enrolled. With 65 per cent of the people voting against the Government, perhaps that is the reason.

There has been a lot said in the House so far about high freight costs and high fuel costs affecting the rural sector. I can assure the House the higher costs will certainly affect the mining industry. They will certainly affect the people who are working there. They will certainly affect the people who are building homes in the area; the cost of transport of building materials; and all the other things that will be necessary.

The Government should be considering convincing its Federal counterpart to abolish the fuel policy it has at the moment, in isolated areas at least; and in the interests of decentralisation it should reduce these costs to allow development to proceed. After all, this is the development Government—or so we were led to believe.

I will now deal with the problems of prospectors. I have already mentioned that prospecting in the area is at an all-time high. Even people from the metropolitan area go prospecting.

Firstly, I would like to mention the State Batteries. I would like to say to the Premier, although he is not in the House, that his Government, and particularly the Minister for Mines, must be kidding about the State Batteries. If anyone has ever been to a State Battery and thought it was satisfactory, there must be something wrong with his head.

The State Battery is the only Government instrumentality to my knowledge which goes around to scrap metal dealers to buy up metal with which to keep its machinery operating. I doubt whether this happens anywhere else in the world. It is doing a magnificent job. But is this situation to continue? We have prospectors who are prepared to go into the bush to find precious metals, but we are giving them no support; we are giving them nothing through which to put their dirt. The subject of State Batteries should receive a complete review. They should have money spent on them to renew them. After all, \$3 million is not all that much, as we have already found. We could easily fund this programme from our “windfall profits” from water charges.

The North Kalgurli mine is going into operation in mid-1981. This means there will be no custom mill. The prospectors put through

5 000 tonnes of dirt per month, which is more than any other State Battery in Western Australia can handle, and as I said earlier, we have the capacity to increase this amount to 20 000 tonnes per month. However, unless the Government takes action this facility will not exist.

I have done some figuring, and there is no way a custom mill—which would probably cost in the vicinity of \$4 million or \$5 million to be a viable proposition for private enterprise—could be viable unless the Government is prepared to fund it under the Mines Department. Such a facility should be put into operation as quickly as possible so that the prospectors can make use of it. Even if the Government ordered such a facility now, it would not be ready by the time the one we have will be lost in mid-1981.

The final blow across the prospectors' ears by this Government was its introduction of the obnoxious Mining Bill, which was railroaded through this House last session. There is not one section of the mining industry which wants the new Act. I know by reading the front page of yesterday's issue of the *Kalgoorlie Miner* that the Liberal Party in Kalgoorlie—how they got on the front page I do not know—is to try to convince the Deputy Premier and two Federal Ministers to throw out the new Act. My advice to the Deputy Premier is to take notice of the people in the area who are concerned. The Deputy Premier should do exactly as they ask. He should listen to the people affected by the Act.

The Government should amend the original Act if it thinks it did not measure up to what was required. The Government should allow the prospectors to get on with the job they have been doing for the last 80 years, which was finding minerals in this State. Companies do not find the minerals. All the Mining Act is doing is doing away with prospectors and making them company employees. Company employees have never found one mine of note during our history. Quite often prospectors were diddled out of their dues by the companies.

I thank the House for its indulgence and its patience in listening to my problems. I shall say no more except that I assure members they will be hearing from me many more times about the problems associated with the gold and other mineral industries on the goldfields.

[Applause.]

Debate adjourned until a later stage of the sitting, on motion by Mr Shalders.

(Continued on this page)

## PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

### *Delegation: Presence in Speaker's Gallery*

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Thompson): Before I deal with questions, I draw members' attention to the presence in the Speaker's Gallery of a delegation of people from the People's Republic of China who are in Perth to attend the Australasian Federation of Travel Agents Convention. On behalf of all members of the House, I extend to them a very sincere welcome to our Parliament today.

[Applause.]

## QUESTIONS

### *On Notice: Handing in of Answers*

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Thompson): An announcement has been made with respect to the system which will be employed today for handing in questions on notice. I would like Ministers to point out if there are any questions which are to be postponed and if there are any questions which are accompanied by papers to be tabled. Ministers should indicate specifically which answers are involved.

I shall call each Minister in turn and ask him to present to the attendant the questions, the number of which I shall call for each Minister.

## QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY

### *Motion*

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

**MR SIBSON** (Bunbury) [5.03 p.m.]: I rise to join the debate on the Address-in-Reply. Firstly, I would like to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your reappointment to the Chair. It was rather interesting to see a vote taken on the election of the Speaker, and the outcome proved that over the period you have held office you have done the correct thing. Certainly the vote demonstrated that you have the support of the House in what you are doing.

I would like also to thank the officers and staff of the House for the job they do and for the help they give members. I would like to thank especially the *Hansard* reporters for the fantastic job they do, especially having regard for the background noise in the Chamber and the crossfire that erupts sometimes.



In conjunction with the 150th Anniversary Celebrations last year, the Bunbury Town Council planned a celebration in the town to commemorate its birth as a city. The celebrations commenced in October and went through until March, 1980. It was appropriate for Bunbury to become a city during our 150th anniversary year, and this fact added to the enjoyment of the celebrations.

Almost all organisations and people in the city played some part in the celebrations which were most comprehensive, enjoyable, and memorable.

Initially some very strong debate took place as to the part the Bunbury Town Council should play in the celebrations. Some felt we should have an opening and leave it at that whereas others felt there was a need to do more. As a result of a great deal of debate, some heartburning, and also some conflict of ideas, a budget was decided upon and a committee elected from within the council and the community to organise the celebrations. Originally Mr Brian Laurance was appointed to head the committee. Mr Laurance submitted a very extensive programme, which included some slightly outlandish ideas. Many people felt some of the proposals were beyond the capacity and means of the local community. While debate on the proposal was still taking place, Mr Laurance decided not to proceed with the programme because he felt he was not receiving the response needed to run it. The task of planning the celebrations was then handed over to my predecessor, Mr Morrie Williams, and this gentleman carried on very capably from that period.

The point I want to make is that it is my belief Mr Laurance's ideas were the key to the success of the celebrations. He had sufficient imagination to realise what the City of Bunbury was capable of, and he had the guts and determination to get his proposal off the ground. Even though his programme was brought into being by Mr Williams, I believe we should place on record our thanks to Mr Laurance for the work he carried out and for the imagination and foresight he displayed.

Mr Blaikie: That is a family quality.

Mr SIBSON: I was very much involved in the celebrations and never before in my life have I seen a community of people come together to create something of this magnitude. It would take too long for me to refer to every detail of the programme, but I was very pleased to have been a part of it, and I would like to place on record my thanks to all those organisations, community

groups, and individuals, whose efforts made it a success.

I would like particularly to congratulate the organising committee for the work it did under the chairmanship of Mr Morrie Williams. The many service organisations ably led by Mr Tom O'Connor in Bunbury are to be commended on the way they contributed to the celebrations.

One proposal put forward by Mr Laurance was to transport the Channel 7 tent to Bunbury. This was achieved at a cost of \$13 000 even though many people put forward the view that it was not possible to do it. On the Friday evening before the official opening, some 2 500 people attended a preliminary programme in the tent. On the Saturday night a country-style ball attracted 4 000 people.

Mr Davies: And 10 truckloads of alcohol, I believe.

Mr SIBSON: No. I do not think there is any need to make that sort of snide remark.

Mr Davies: It is not snide. They were proud of what they sold down there. They were boasting about it.

Mr SIBSON: I suppose the Leader of the Opposition was there.

Mr Davies: I was not; I was there the next day.

Mr SIBSON: The celebration on Saturday night was a country ball which attracted between 4 000 and 4 500 people. It was one of the most successful balls ever held outside the City of Perth, and possibly one of the most successful balls ever held in the State.

However, we can claim a record for what occurred on Monday. In the same tent, the Bunbury Town Council—as it then was before the town was declared a city by His Excellency the Governor—held a town council meeting which was attended by all councillors, the Governor, the Premier, almost every Minister of the Cabinet, the Leader of the Opposition, and many members of Parliament; but the most significant factor was that the meeting was attended by 6 000 people. So Bunbury claims to have held the largest local government authority meeting in the world. We will wait and see if anyone challenges our claim.

That was the climax of the celebrations. The events of the weekend combined to produce probably the greatest and most magnificent celebration ever held not only in the south-west, but also in the State of Western Australia.

I would like to move on to another matter which is of considerable concern to me, just as I know it is of concern to many other people on both sides of the House. I refer to the matter of

the 35-hour week claim. Many people in our community feel a 35-hour working week is justified, and I agree that many good arguments are put up in support of it. However, let us go back to when the 40-hour week was introduced some time in the 1950s and reflect on the events of that time.

In January 1950, a direction was given by the Federal court in respect of the implementation of a 40-hour working week. The judge added to his finding a comment that it was hoped the States would adopt the 40-hour week in line with the Commonwealth. Western Australia at that time had an acute shortage of labour—

Mr Skidmore: When the 40-hour week was introduced?

Mr SIBSON: —and the number of jobs coming onto the market was increasing. At that time we had prices control, and almost simultaneously with the announcement of the 40-hour week, prices were increased by 11 per cent to cover increased costs of production. So a reduction of five hours brought about an increase of 11 per cent in the price of goods.

Mr Skidmore: The reduction was four hours.

Mr SIBSON: That makes my argument even more valid in respect of the increase of 11 per cent. We must remember at that time we did not have a large number of unemployed people. We must also take into consideration the fact that at that time extra hours were worked on Saturday mornings and the argument was advanced that the working week would be better if it were reduced to five days. The workers gave an assurance that no production would be lost. However, that was not the case.

While in 1950 there were some factors in support of the reduction of the working week from 44 hours to 40 hours, I do not believe that is the case in the present situation. At the moment unemployment is high throughout Australia. Despite the fact that Western Australia has created more jobs than any other State since the present Government has been in office, we still have a very high rate of unemployment. Claims are made that the reduction of the working week from 40 hours to 35 hours will increase the number of jobs, but that is not true. It was proven in 1950 when the working week was reduced, and it will be proven again now because employers are adamant that they have only so much money to spend on employment and if the cost of employment increases, naturally they must reduce the number of people they employ.

The reduction of the working week from 40 hours to 35 hours at present would mean an

increase of about 12.5 per cent in pay-rolls. When that is taken into consideration, and when we assess all the jobs that would be lost, we find the reduction of working hours would add considerably to the problems we are experiencing at the moment at both the State and Federal level.

Yet we have people who blatantly want to go ahead and introduce a 35-hour week without considering the other aspects involved. It is bad enough that they do not consider those of their colleagues who will be put out of work; but the devastating thing is that we already have so many young people out of work and those who support the 35-hour week admit that those young people will not be able to find jobs. They accept that the reduction of the working week will put some of their colleagues out of work, but are not prepared to accept responsibility for the fact that many young people in our community have no work because jobs are not available, and the reason they are not available is that the cost of labour is too high in comparison with the return from commodities produced.

Mr Skidmore: So now you reduce unemployment benefits; you starve the workers.

Mr SIBSON: I have discussed this matter with young people in recent times, and they accept that the wages paid to young workers are too high.

Mr McIver: What about giving the Port of Bunbury a go, and getting a bit of produce through there?

Mr SIBSON: Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Crane), I have four sons—

Mr Skidmore: Big deal! I have three.

Mr SIBSON: —and I have watched them grow up and find work. I have seen them live through the period of junior wages. I know that if my sons were sitting here with me today, they would agree with what I am saying. They are of the opinion that the wages they received as junior workers were sufficient.

Mr Skidmore: What—a percentage of the basic wage?

Mr SIBSON: If the member for Swan will just wait a moment and let me finish, he will have the opportunity to question what I have said. My sons have been able to pay their board and follow their various sporting or recreational activities. Their wages enabled them to take their girlfriends out and even get married; they have been sufficient to maintain their motor vehicles. With a little initial help from home in managing their money, they have been able to live quite comfortably.

By forcing junior wages to an unreasonable level, we have condemned a large percentage of young people to unemployment benefits for a long time.

Mr Skidmore: How many young people? I am sick and tired of the way you people pluck figures out of the air.

Mr SIBSON: It is of no use the noisy twit on my right interjecting and saying I do not know what I am talking about. We already have the example of the campaign to reduce the working week from 44 hours to 40 hours; we know exactly what happened at that time, and the problems it caused. It is claimed the workers will produce more in a 35-hour week than they are currently producing in a 40-hour week. What a crazy argument! If that were true, the obvious conclusion is that they are producing insufficient commodities during the 40-hour week.

Mr Davies: All these arguments were put forward during the 40-hour week campaign.

Mr SIBSON: These are nothing more than pious promises which cannot and will not be kept.

Another important argument put to me by supporters of the 35-hour week is that the whole thing is inevitable. They say, "You argued against the introduction of the 40-hour week and said it was not justified, and look what happened. We are going to win this one, too, because such a move is justified." Where do we finish up? If that argument has any validity, could we end up not working at all? That is the crazy logic of such an argument.

Mr Skidmore: I do not mind getting paid for not working.

Mr SIBSON: Provided the member for Swan accepted retirement without pay, we would put him on it tomorrow; however, I do not think he would.

Another argument is that in the early days, the capitalists of this country were down on the workers, and made them work for 90 hours a week. I agree that was a reasonable argument at the time; it was reasonable to say there was a need to regulate the working hours of the community. However, it is ridiculous to try to compare working 90 hours a week with the suggestion we should work only 35 hours a week or even less. I am sure everybody would accept that it is a crazy argument.

People may accuse me of hurling abuse only at the trade union movement; that is not true. I am talking to the entire working community. There are many people in our community who, when faced with the 35-hour week campaign, say, "I

suppose we cannot fight it. We will just have to let it happen." What a weak way of handling a problem! The problem confronting us is that we must maintain the economy of this State and of the country as a whole at such a level as will allow us to compete on the world market.

In the old days, the common expression was, "Australia is riding to prosperity on the sheep's back." Every Australian, whether he was a capitalist or a worker, understood that the only reason we survived was that we had an overseas market for our wool. Nothing has changed since those days, except now we sell our products on a much wider spectrum of the world market. We are constantly reminded by overseas buyers, Governments, and business people that if we do not keep our scale of economy within the world range, we will not be able to sell our products.

Some people in our community believe that simply because we have a product, we can demand our own price; that is not true; it never has been and it never will be. Of course, there are isolated instances where we produce a commodity which is not available anywhere else in the world and we can then name our own price; however, these instances form an insignificant part of the total market.

I believe it behoves everyone in our community, at a time of high unemployment and of a shaky economy, and with the threat of losing our world markets, to fight the 35-hour week campaign.

It is possible that at some time in the future, it may be appropriate to agree to reduce the working week to 35 hours. However, I doubt whether there is one person on the Opposition side who could honestly say that the economy of this country could comfortably carry a 35-hour week.

As the member for Kimberley indicated earlier, we in this place have a responsibility to lead the community; we should not embark on a policy which will add to the downward spiral of our economy. We should have regard for the employment of our total population. Most importantly, we should have regard for our young people. It would seem that not too many people give enough thought to the youngsters in our community who, through no fault of their own, cannot obtain work. The reason they cannot find work is that employers are not prepared to pay them high wages, and then train them.

I appeal to all members to support me in opposing the 35-hour week campaign until such time as we are in a situation of full employment; that should be our paramount objective. We should allow the projects which are in the pipeline to proceed. If we agree to reduce the working

week to 35 hours, many of these projects would be destroyed.

Mr Pearce: Which projects would be destroyed by the 35-hour week?

Mr SIBSON: That is an irrelevant question; I am talking about the general situation.

Mr Skidmore: They already have a 35-hour week in the oil and gas industries.

Mr SIBSON: The member for Swan is a problem, is he not? The time is not appropriate to talk about a 35-hour week.

Mr Skidmore: It is never appropriate in your eyes.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Crane): Order! The member for Swan has been interjecting constantly. I ask him to refrain.

Mr SIBSON: The time is not appropriate for such a move. We have a responsibility to the unemployed and to the economy of this State and Australia generally, and we have a responsibility to our overseas markets.

*Leave to Continue Speech*

I move—

That I be given leave to continue my speech at the next sitting of the House.

Motion put and passed.

Debate thus adjourned.

*House adjourned at 5.29 p.m.*

# QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

## EDUCATION: SCHOOL

### *Carlisle*

24. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has departmental approval been given for the erection of a brick screen wall parallel to Orrong Road at the Carlisle School?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of the wall?
- (3) When will work commence on the wall?
- (4) Has a cost/benefit analysis been made with regard to the proposed double glazing and air-conditioning of the classrooms affected?
- (5) How many schools in the Perth metropolitan area have had work of this nature done to reduce the disruption caused by road noise?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) \$13 000.
- (3) The work is anticipated to commence in approximately two months.
- (4) Recent experience has shown that capital costs for double glazing and air-conditioning, per classroom, are higher than the work proposed. When running costs are added, the overall costs are considerably higher.
- (5) Three:—Perth Modern School, Melville Senior High School and Belmont primary school.

## ELECTORAL

### *Districts: Enrolments*

46. Mr SHALDERS, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) What is the total number of electors enrolled for the electoral districts in the metropolitan area?
- (2) What is the total number of electors enrolled for the electoral districts of—
  - (a) Dale;
  - (b) Kalamunda;
  - (c) Mundaring; and
  - (d) Darling Range?
- (3) What is the total number of electors enrolled for the Agricultural electoral districts?

- (4) What is the total number of electors enrolled for the Pastoral electoral districts?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) 486 488.
- (2)
 

(a) Dale	9 304
(b) Kalamunda	10 144
(c) Mundaring	9 313
(d) Darling Range	9 454
	38 215

- (3) I assume the member means the total number of electors enrolled for the Agricultural, Mining and Pastoral Districts. The number in this area is 224 374.
- (4) I assume the member means the total of electors enrolled in the North-West—Murchison-Eyre area. The total is 29 413.

## DRAINAGE RATE

### *Beckenham*

47. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Has any consideration been given by his department or himself to abolish the drainage rate charges in the Beckenham area?
- (2) If not, what justification can he show to continue this impost when residents are already paying sewerage and drainage rates, and in many cases have already had their own storm water drains installed?
- (3) Will he further advise what action does his department take against residents who refuse to pay the drainage rate after paying the rest of their account?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) As indicated in my answer to Part 1 (a) of Question 26 on 6 August 1980, the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board provides Metropolitan Main Drainage. Properties within a Metropolitan Main Drainage District are required to pay the Metropolitan Main Drainage rate.

Subsidiary drainage, such as street drains, as distinct from Metropolitan Main Drainage, is the responsibility of

the local authority and charges for this are included in Local Government rates. Sewerage is a separate service provided by the board and a rate is levied on properties to which that service is available.

- (3) Recovery action is provided for in the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act.

## PORTS

### *Improvement Programmes*

48. Mr PARKER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Relevant to the answer of the Minister for Transport to question 8 of 5 August 1980, referring to port improvement programmes, has the Government abandoned plans to implement the Hughes report on ship repair and drydocking facilities in the Port of Fremantle?
- (2) If not—
- has a decision been made to proceed with the recommendations of the report;
  - will the Government initiate an in-depth study of the proposals as suggested by Mr Hughes;
  - is there any timetable for the implementation of the report?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) No decision has been reached.
- (2) (a) No.  
(b) Report is now under study.  
(c) No.

## EDUCATION: SCHOOLS AND HIGH SCHOOLS

### *Priority Schools Programme*

49. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Education:

How many applications were received from—

- (a) primary schools;  
(b) secondary schools,  
during 1978 and 1979 for inclusion in the priority schools funding programme?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

1978—2 primary

1 secondary

\* 1979—193 primary

53 secondary.

\* A special survey of all schools in the State was undertaken in 1979.

## TRANSPORT: ROAD

### *Chemicals, Gases, and Industrial Liquid Wastes*

50. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is there legislation requiring transport vehicles to denote the type and quantity of chemicals, gases and industrial liquid wastes carried by the vehicle?
- (2) Are transport vehicles required to symbolically denote details of their load which would assist emergency services to deal with an explosion, fire or gaseous leak in the case of a tanker accident?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) No, not at present.
- (2) Draft regulations are being prepared under the Explosives and Dangerous Goods Act that will cover the points raised.

It is anticipated that the regulations will be presented to Executive Council later this year.

## EDUCATION

### *Classrooms: Demountable*

51. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) (a) What funds have been provided in each financial year since 1974-75 for portable demountable classrooms; and  
(b) how many classrooms were involved in each case?
- (2) What is the estimated total number of demountable classrooms in Western Australia at the present time?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

(1) (a) and (b)	\$	Classrooms
1974-75	465 740	62
1975-76	890 669	55
1976-77	812 460	76
1977-78	1 144 450	65
1978-79	869 685	52
1979-80	598 205 (estimate)	33

- (2) 691.

## EDUCATION: TEACHERS

*Registration, and Two-year-trained*

52. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the Government's policy in respect of "teacher registration"?
- (2) What is the estimated number of two-year trained teachers in Western Australian primary and secondary schools?
- (3) Under what circumstances does the Education Department engage experienced teachers who were formerly two-year trained?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) The Government favours not proceeding with "teacher registration" following the report made by the Neal Committee on Teacher Registration in 1978.
  - (2) As at 1 July 1980 there was a total of 1 061 two-year trained teachers employed by the Education Department in primary and secondary schools in the following manner:
- |           | Primary    | Secondary  |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Permanent | 400        | 120        |
| Full-time |            |            |
| temporary | 84         | 103        |
| Part-time |            |            |
| temporary | 255        | 99         |
|           | <u>739</u> | <u>322</u> |
- (3) No distinction is made by the Education Department between experienced two and three year trained teachers who have given satisfactory service.

## EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

*Belmont*

53. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Education:

When is work actually to commence on the rebuilding of the Belmont Senior High School?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

The first replacement building of a long-term scheme to upgrade educational facilities at the Belmont Senior High School will commence this financial year. Tenders are expected to be called late in 1980.

54. *This question was postponed.*

## APPRENTICES

*Number*

55. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) How many indentured apprentices in each trade are unemployed, indicating how many are girls?
- (2) What is the total percentage increase or decrease compared with 1978-79?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) A total of 203 apprentices—including 14 girls—are not employed in their respective trade (see table attached).
- (2) Overall 25 per cent increase. Girls' figure for previous years not available.

Division of Industrial Training  
"Out of Trade Apprentices"

Code	Trade	Out of Trade	Girls	1978/1979
	Metal Trades			
AC	Boilermaking	2	—	—
AD	Sheetmetal	3	—	3
AF	Fitting	—	—	—
AH	Fitting and Turning	4	—	2
AJ	Machining First Class	—	—	—
AL	Welding First Class	2	—	—
AM	Fitting & First Class	—	—	—
	Machining	2	—	—
AO	Motor Mechanics	48	—	22
AP	Motor Cycle Mechanics	—	—	1
AQ	Refrigeration Fitting	2	—	2
AZ	Optical Mechanics	—	—	—
BL	First Class Welding (Boilermaking)	—	—	2
BM	Steel Construction (Boilermaking)	1	—	11
BO	Boilermaking and Steel Construction	—	—	
BP	Boilermaking and First Class Welding	2	—	
	Steel Construction and First Class Welding	3	—	
BQ	First Class Welding	1	—	1
BW	Sub Total—Metal Trades	70	Nil	44
	Electrical Trades			
CA	Electrical Fitting	2	—	1
CB	Electrical Installing	10	—	7
CC	Auto Electrical Fitting	—	—	1
CD	Radio and Television Servicing	3	—	3
	Sub Total—Electrical Trades	15	Nil	12
	Building Trades			
DA	Bricklaying	9	—	19
DC	Carpentry and Joinery	16	—	21
DD	Plumbing	8	—	6
DE	Plastering	3	—	4
DG	Painting	1	—	1
DH	Signwriting	—	—	1
DK	Glazing	—	—	1
DL	Tilelaying	—	—	2
	Sub Total—Building Trades	37	Nil	55

Code	Trade	Out of Trade	Girls	1978/ 1979
EA	Printing Trades			
EC	Composing	1	—	1
	Printing Machining	—	—	—
	(Letterpress)	—	—	—
	Sub Total—Printing Trades	1	Nil	1
	Vehicle Building Trades			
FA	Bodymaking	4	—	—
FB	Trimming	1	—	—
FC	Vehicle Painting	6	—	1
FD	Panelbeating	11	—	5
FI	Bodymaking and First Class			
	Welding	1	—	1
	Sub Total—Vehicle Building Trades	23	Nil	7
	Food Trades			
HA	Butchering	6	—	10
HD	Baking	1	—	1
HF	Cooking	9	—	3
	Sub Total—Food Trades	16	Nil	14
	Other Trades			
JC	Cabinetmaking	13	—	13
JE	Woodmachining	—	—	1
JG	Upholstering	1	—	2
JH	French Polishing	—	—	1
JR	Gents Hairdressing	3	2	2
JS	Ladies Hairdressing	22	12	9
JX	Jewellery	1	—	1
LG	Horticulture	—	—	—
KJ	Shipwrighting	1	—	—
	Sub Total—Other Trades	41	14	29
	Grand Total—All Trades	203	14	162

## EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

### *Transport: Free Travel*

56. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

In the light of the possibly significant increase in the number of Western Australians who have been unemployed for lengthy periods, will he give consideration to the introduction of a system of free travel on public transport for unemployed people?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

There is already a Commonwealth Government scheme whereby people referred for job interviews by the Commonwealth Employment Service are given vouchers entitling them to free return travel.

In view of the very onerous transport costs already faced by the State Government it is not intended to grant any further concessions at the present time.

## HEALTH: LEAD

### *Blood Levels*

57. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What testing is carried out in Perth on blood lead levels in children?
- (2) Which authorities conduct the tests?
- (3) How many children have been tested?
- (4) How many have been found to have blood lead levels equal to, or in excess of, 30 micrograms per 100 millilitres, which is regarded by the National Health and Medical Research Council as a level for concern?
- (5) (a) Have different levels been found in children from different areas;  
(b) if so, what are those differences?
- (6) What criteria are used in assessing the need for such testing?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Clinicians carry out blood lead tests in children from time to time.
- (2) Pathology laboratories including the State Health Laboratories.
- (3) Not known.
- (4) There have been no such reports in recent years.
- (5) Not known.
- (6) At present there is no indication that there is any need to subject Perth children to a mass blood level survey. The method of measuring lead in air in Perth is at present under revision and if future testing indicates levels in air above those recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council, the question of conducting such surveys will be reconsidered.

## PRISONS

### *Hillston Detention Centre*

58. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

Will he table the report of the departmental committee set up to determine ways of reducing the frequency of escapes from the Hillston detention centre at Stoneville?

Mr HASSELL replied:

The report is not yet complete. It is expected around 15 August 1980. When the report is available and I have studied



it, I will give further consideration to the member's request.

## COMMUNITY WELFARE

### *Crisis Service*

59. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Is it a fact that Perth is the only mainland capital that does not provide a 24-hour mobile crisis service?
- (2) Will he assess the crisis care programme provided by the Department of Children's Services in Queensland?
- (3) Will a crisis care programme be implemented in Perth involving a 24-hour mobile crisis service?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) I am not aware of the exact picture in every State but I do know that what constitutes a crisis service varies from State to State. The Community Welfare Department provides some out of normal hours service on the weekends for crisis situations. The Parent Help Centre conducted by the department also provides a 24 hour telephone counselling service.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The provision of a mobile crisis care programme is not proposed this year. It will be considered alongside other priorities in future Budgets.

## HEALTH: DENTAL

### *Orthodontic Service: Kimberley*

60. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

When is it proposed to establish an orthodontic service in the Kimberley?

Mr YOUNG replied:

Mr Brian Sodeman, the Member for Pilbara, and Mr Ian Laurance, the Member for Gascoyne, have made extensive representations to me on this matter.

The Public Service Board has considered conditions proposed by the Department of Health and Medical Services under which the Government can effect the residential placement of an orthodontist in the north-west and provide visiting

services to the Pilbara, Gascoyne, and Kimberley.

The position will be widely advertised shortly, but it must be pointed out that orthodontists are in short supply.

## ABORIGINES

### *Milliya Rumurra Rehabilitation Group*

61. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Has the Community Welfare Department or any other agency or department under his control provided any financial assistance during the past 12 months to the Broome based Milliya Rumurra rehabilitation group?
- (2) If so, how much?

Mr HASSELL replied:

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

## ABORIGINES

### *Milliya Rumurra Rehabilitation Group*

62. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Alcohol and Drug Authority or any other department or agency under his control provided any financial assistance during the past 12 months to the Broome based Milliya Rumurra rehabilitation group?
- (2) If so, how much?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) \$3 900 paid by Alcohol and Drug Authority in the 1979-80 fiscal year for capital works for connecting services to the Morrells Park Centre. In addition, two Aboriginal counsellors' salaries have been paid since 14 January 1980—approximately \$10 300—by Community and Child Health Services and professional back-up resources are provided by the Alcohol and Drug Authority and the Community and Child Health Services.

## EDIBLE OILS

### *Bunbury Refinery: Western Australian Market*

63. Mr DAVIES, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) How long has the Bunbury edible oil refinery been in operation?
- (2) What percentage of the Western Australian market for edible oil does Bunbury Foods Ltd. have?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

- (1) The plant was officially opened in October 1979. Production commenced in January 1980.
- (2) This is information confidential to the company.

## EDIBLE OILS

### *Bunbury Refinery: Capacity*

64. Mr DAVIES, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Industrial Development:

What is the planned capacity of the Bunbury edible oil refinery?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

15 000 tonnes per annum.

## EDIBLE OILS

### *Imports, Production, and Consumption*

65. Mr DAVIES, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) How many companies—
  - (a) produce edible oils;
  - (b) import edible oil to be sold in Western Australia?
- (2) What is the total annual consumption in Western Australia of all types of edible oil and its by-products?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) I am advised that two companies in Western Australia produce edible oils and that only one major company imports edible oil.
- (2) This information is unavailable due to statistical confidentiality.

## EDIBLE OILS

### *Bunbury Refinery: Middle East Market*

66. Mr DAVIES, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce:

- (1) Is he correctly reported as having said that one of the major shareholders in the Bunbury Foods venture has interests in supermarkets in the Middle East?
- (2) If so, who is the shareholder and what are the supermarkets concerned?
- (3) Did they guarantee to take produce from Bunbury worth at least \$1 million per year?
- (4) If so, can he table this guarantee?
- (5) How much are these supermarkets in the Middle East currently taking per annum in dollars?
- (6) How much is this figure in terms of tonnes of refined edible oil and as a percentage of the plants output?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) to (6) See (1).

## EDIBLE OILS

### *Bunbury Refinery: Crude Oil*

67. Mr DAVIES, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce:

- (1) Is edible oil exported from the Port of Bunbury or shipped from Fremantle?
- (2) Where is the crude oil for the project shipped from?
- (3) What is the price of the crude oil?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

- (1) No oil has been exported to date.
- (2) Principally from the U.S.A. although some has been imported from South East Asia.
- (3) The world commodity price at the time of purchase.

## EDIBLE OILS

### *Refinery: Approaches to South Australian and New Zealand Governments*

68. Mr DAVIES, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce:

- (1) Is the Government aware whether similar proposals to those accepted by the Government for an edible oil refinery at Bunbury were made to the South Australian and New Zealand Governments?
- (2) If so, what were the results of the approaches?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) See (1).

### EDIBLE OILS

#### *Bunbury Refinery: Exports*

69. Mr DAVIES, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce:

- (a) How much of the Bunbury edible oil refinery output is currently being sent overseas;
- (b) what amount is used for local processing; and
- (c) to where is the rest shipped?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

- (a) None at present.
- (b) and (c) This information is confidential to the company.

### GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE

#### *Bunbury Edible Oils Refinery*

70. Mr DAVIES, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce:

Will he table the security documents supporting the guarantee between the Western Australian Government and Bunbury Foods Ltd. as well as the side agreement collateral to the security documents?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

Securities in the name of the R & I Bank as guarantors on behalf of the Government are held by the bank. The securities involved are registered mortgages over the company's land at Bunbury and a debenture over the company's assets. Securities may be sighted at the Titles Office and Corporate Affairs Office.

The side agreement is a commercial agreement between Government and the company.

### EDIBLE OILS

#### *Bunbury Refinery: Plant and Machinery*

71. Mr DAVIES, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) From where were the plant and machinery for the Bunbury edible oil refinery supplied?
- (2) Is Mr Shrian Oskar of Grosvenor Street, London, financially involved in the Bunbury oil venture?
- (3) If so, to what extent?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

- (1) West Germany, UK and Western Australia. The building and site works originated in Western Australia. Local materials and services have been supplied from Western Australia.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) I am advised that Dr Oskar is associated with the provision of loans and share capital to the value of \$5.32 million and credit facilities to \$2.16 million.

### EDIBLE OILS

#### *Seed Crushing Plant*

72. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Industrial Development:

Was the Farmers' Union consulted about the viability of an oil seed crushing plant in Western Australia when feasibility studies were undertaken?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

As the viability of the solvent extraction plant proposal was not dependent upon the supply of locally grown seed, consultation was considered not necessary at the time feasibility studies were undertaken.

## EDIBLE OILS

### *Bunbury Refinery: Local Growers*

73. Mr. H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Were local seed producers consulted about the proposed oil refinery at Bunbury before it was approved?
- (2) Why were guarantees of nearly \$4.3 million approved for a refinery extraction plant at Bunbury before the potential producers in the area knew what was involved?
- (3) Was the extraction plant assessed for viability on the basis of no input from local growers?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) No, as the oil refinery project was totally dependent on the supply of imported crude oil.
- (2) See Question 72.
- (3) No.

## EDIBLE OILS

### *Bunbury Refinery: Sunflower Seeds*

74. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce:

What tonnages will be required from a local sunflower industry to supply oil seed to meet the refinery capacity of the Bunbury edible oil plant?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

None.

## SEEDS

### *Sunflower*

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

What was the latest harvest of Western Australian sunflower and other oil seeds in tonnes based on most recent figures?

Mr OLD replied:

My department's estimate of 1979 harvest deliveries is—

Sunflower seed	2 114 tonnes
Rapeseed	2 033 tonnes
Linseed	121 tonnes

## POLICE ACT

### *Section 54B: Discussion with Council for Civil Liberties*

76. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Will he reconsider the request from the civil liberties organisation to meet to discuss section 54B of the Police Act in view of the fact that the organisation has prepared a submission in connection with these provisions?
- (2) If "No," will he please explain the reason why he refuses to meet a deputation from this organisation?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) and (2) In general, it is my policy to be available for people and groups who consider they have a need to put submissions to me. However, there are limits in terms of available time and practicality. I am not generally prepared to deal with people who have displayed a closed mind approach to an issue or are committed to a campaign regardless of contrary argument, as all they seek to do is use up time without being prepared to respond to reasoned argument. Neither am I generally prepared to deal with people who seek to change the law by breaking the law.

However, I will reconsider the request from the Council for Civil Liberties in WA to meet to discuss Section 54B of the Police Act, if that organisation genuinely has a submission which it wishes to make to me. I understand Mr Tennant has made it clear that he and his organisation will not pursue a change in the law by illegal means.

## HEALTH: TOBACCO

### *Advertising: Monitoring Committee*

77. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Health:

What are the names of the representatives of—

- (a) the Public Health Department;
- (b) the Department for Youth, Sport and Recreation;
- (c) the Education Department;
- (d) the Newspaper Proprietors Association;

- (e) the Advertising Federation of Australia;
- (f) the Tobacco Institute of Australia, on the committee to monitor tobacco advertising?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (a) Dr K. J. M. Carruthers, A/Deputy Commissioner of Public Health;  
Dr J. Henzell, A/Director, Community & Child Health Services;  
Mr J. T. Carr, Executive Officer, Health Education Council (now retired);
- (b) Mr J. Sharp, Senior Recreation Officer, Department for Youth, Sport and Recreation;
- (c) Mr L. Pavy, Superintendent, Health and Physical Education Branch, Education Department;
- (d) Mr S. G. Gray, General Advertising Manager, West Australian Newspapers Ltd;
- (e) Mr M. A. Robinson, Managing Director, Ogilvy & Mather (Aust.) Pty. Ltd.;
- (f) Mr B. C. Simpson, Director, Tobacco Institute of Australia Ltd.

#### MINISTERS OF THE CROWN

##### *Personal Gifts: Transport or Accommodation*

78. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it Government policy that Ministers and public servants do not accept personal gifts of transport or accommodation which could prejudice their position in relation to people they are or may be dealing with?
- (2) Was the former Minister for Industrial Development's visit to Helensville on 20 July last year in this category?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

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

#### EDIBLE OILS

##### *Bunbury Refinery: Feasibility Study*

79. Mr DAVIES, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce:

Will he table the feasibility studies of the refinery and extraction plant made

by the Department of Industrial Development?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

Separate feasibility studies of the refinery-solvent extraction plant projects were not done by the Government. The feasibility studies were submitted by Bunbury Foods Pty. Ltd. and were assessed by the Government. In view of the confidential basis in which these studies were submitted to the Government I am not prepared to table them.

#### ABORIGINES

##### *Sacred Sites: Acknowledgment by Government*

80. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Cultural Affairs:

- (1) Is he correctly reported in the *Daily News* of Tuesday 5 August 1980, as stating there were genuine sacred sites in Western Australia which were acknowledged by the Government?
- (2) If so, will he list them?
- (3) Will he also list what he describes as spurious claims of sacred sites?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Under the provisions of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972, special protection may be given to Aboriginal sites of outstanding importance by their declaration, following recommendation by the trustees, as protected areas by the Governor, through an Order in Council, in accordance with Section 19 of the Act.

The Department of Aboriginal Sites at the Western Australian Museum, which has responsibility, under the Registrar of Aboriginal Sites, for recording and assessing sites, has so far registered approximately 5 700 sites within the State. Of those, 30 have already been declared as protected areas under the Act, and a further 55 recommendations are currently being processed.

A tabulation of those already declared as protected areas is attached.

- (3) No list is kept of spurious sacred sites.

Aboriginal Sites Department. W.A. Museum  
Protected area details

PA No.	PA Name	1:250 000 Name	Film No.	Run Frame No.	Sheet No.	6 Fig. Ref.
1	Weebo	Sir Samuel	WA6652	15 5280	SG-51-13	407546
2	Nelson Point	Port Hedland	WA1358	7 5097	SF-50-4	125457
3	Oyster Harbour	Mount Barker	WA1443	17 5631	SI-50-11	595684
4	Depuch Isl	Roebourne	WA1355	6 5143	SF-50-3	597419
5	Kuru Mi	Dukeston	WA663	13 5128	SG-51-14	472561
6	Lake Moore	Ninghan	WA796	11 5059	SH-50-7	563333
7	Lake Hillman	Bencubbin	WA769	7 5334	SH-50-11	524244
8	Battle Hill	Wyloo	WA1248	8 5069	SF-50-10	399197
9	Avon Downs	Pinjarra	WA1435	10 5476	SI-50-2	453976
11	Wiluna	Wiluna	WA264	12 5576	SG-51-9	320967
12	12 Mile Res	Port Hedland	WA1358	8 5086	SF-50-4	135445
13	Wilgie Mia	Belele	WA256	18 5252	SG-50-11	585655
14	Wilgie Hills	Moora	WA1219	6 5051	SH-50-10	483245
15	Bates Cave	Hyden	WA729	6 5261	SI-50-4	189003
16	Mt Gerard	Dukeston	WA6602	3 5131	SG-51-14	605633
17	Walga Rock	Cue	WA781	8 5014	SG-50-15	558599
18	Waru Hill	WaruMarble Bar	WA1252	7 5062	SF-50-8	162325
19	Orch. Shell	Perth	WA1410	12 5077	SH-50-14	373083
20	Yawalyuru	Rawlinson	SVY1569	12 5149	SG-52-2	543038
21	Killagurra	Dummer	WA567	14 5032	SF-51-4	565044
22	Peedamulla	Yarraloola	WA1255	14 5225	SF-50-6	363279
23	Ganya	Yarraloola	WA1255	9 5171	SF-50-6	469312
24	Trotman's C.	Patterson's Ra.	SVY1534	13 5106	SF-51-6	526266
25	Sih. West Cr.	Port Hedland	WA1358	7 5095	SF-50-4	115459
27	Nyuru R.H.	Patterson Ra.			SF-51-6	513305
28	Wardagga H.	Ninghan	WA795	7 5229	SH-50-7	559358
33	Abydos Woodst.	Marble Bar	—	—	SF-50-8	—
34	Devils Lair	Augusta	WA1311	3 5211	SI-50-9	305783
35	Morung	Cambridge Gulf	CAF4087	6 0285	SD-52-14	136017
36	Pildirl	Throssel	CAF21	9 5045	SG-51-15	—

ROAD: BEECHBORO-GOSNELLS FREEWAY  
*Details*

81. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the northernmost extent of the Beechboro/Gosnells Freeway envisaged in the latest Main Roads Department concept plan?
- (2) What is the northernmost extent of the road reserve already definitely stipulated for the freeway?
- (3) What area of road reserve for the proposed freeway in the section north of the river is currently owned by the Main Roads Department?
- (4) What proportion of the total road reserve for the freeway in the section north of the river is owned by the Main Roads Department?
- (5) What proposals are there for further purchases in this section in the coming year?
- (6) (a) What proportion of the proposed road reserve for the freeway between Leach Highway and the river is owned by the Main Roads Department; and  
(b) what proposals are there for any further necessary land purchases in the coming year?
- (7) What further extensions to the freeway are proposed for the coming year?

(8) Does the Main Roads Department's costing for the freeway involve a variation in costs between the sections north and south of the river?

(9) If "Yes" to (8), what is the basis for this variation in costing?

(10) Is the Main Roads Department giving a higher priority to the Burswood Bridge than to the Beechboro/Gosnells Freeway bridge?

(11) If "Yes" to (10), what is the basis for this priority listing and does it have the Government's approval?

(12) Will he supply a copy of the current Main Roads Department concept plan for the freeway north of the river?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) It is envisaged that further northward extensions of the Beechboro-Gosnells controlled access highway could be made but the extent has not yet been determined.
- (2) North perimeter highway.
- (3) Approximately 98 ha is owned by the MRD and MRPA.
- (4) Approximately 95 per cent is owned by the MRD and MRPA.
- (5) Nil, other than purchases that are normally carried out through the provisions of the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act at the initiation of the owner of the reserved land.
- (6) (a) Approximately 12 per cent is owned by the MRD and MRPA.  
(b) Same as (5).
- (7) The completion of the Forrestfield to Gosnells section is proposed in 1980-81.
- (8) Costs for different sections of freeways vary according to the need for bridges and major earthworks on each section.
- (9) Answered by (8).
- (10) The Government has made no decision regarding the construction timetable for either bridge.
- (11) Answered by (10).
- (12) The Main Roads Department has produced only working drawings to date and, as such, no concept plan is available for release. The Metropolitan Region Scheme currently defines the route and reservation for this road.

### MINING: MINERAL CLAIMS

*Nos. 70/18705 and 70/19184: Objections*

82. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Can he say when it is likely that objections number 201H/80 and number 202H/80 affecting mineral claims 70/18705 and 70/19184 are likely to be heard in the warden's court?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) The applications and objections are being listed for hearing in the warden's court, Perth, on 12 November 1980.
- (2) Answered by (1) above.

### INSURANCE COMPANIES

*Failure: Government Action*

83. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Is the Government aware of the concern felt by small business operators about the possibly ruinous implications for them of the failure of insurance companies such as occurred in January this year in the case of Palmdale Insurance Ltd.?
- (2) Is the Government aware of the particular concern on the part of small businessmen about their workers' compensation claims not being covered by insurance in such cases?
- (3) In view of the announced intention of the Government to take unilateral action in respect of legislation to cover insurance brokers, what recent approaches have been made to the Commonwealth regarding the need for changes to the Insurance Act to cover small business proprietors and others affected by the collapse of insurance companies such as Palmdale?
- (4) What has been the result of any such approaches?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The Government is aware of the effect on policy holders when an insurance company fails.
- (2) Yes.

- (3) and (4) The Commonwealth has not been approached; however, consideration is being given to action to protect workers' compensation policy holders and the interests of claimants.

### HEALTH

*Speech Therapy Services*

84. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact that—
  - (a) Princess Margaret Hospital has a waiting list of 11 months for speech therapy treatment and six months for urgent cases;
  - (b) no speech therapy child service in the Medical Department has a waiting list under five months;
  - (c) there are a number of centres without a service where a need has been demonstrated, such as Narrogin, Kalamunda, Northam, Kwinana/Rockingham, Wanneroo, Manjimup, Derby and Carnarvon;
  - (d) children are not being referred because there is no service to give them;
  - (e) while 17 students will qualify from the speech and hearing programme at WAIT at the end of this year after four years specialised training, there are at present, no prospects of employment for any of them?
- (2) What action does the Government propose to rectify the current inadequacies in speech therapy services?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) (a) For treatment—yes, but the majority of cases are assessed within one month of referral;
- (b) yes;
- (c) various centres have asked for the service and need is currently being assessed at others. There is a speech therapy service being provided at the Kwinana Community Health Centre;
- (d) not known;
- (e) the only departmental vacancy is at Port Hedland.

- (2) Currently a report is being prepared and nearing completion which will identify current facilities available, will identify areas of need and will make recommendations regarding current services and future requirements.

In the last 4 years, an additional 16 positions have been created, bringing the present total staff to 55.

85. *This question was postponed.*

## EDUCATION: SCHOOLS

### Telephones

86. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What stage has been reached in the review of the policy for telephones in schools?
- (2) In view of the problems being encountered particularly in class 1A primary schools by the restricted number of telephones available under the current policy, can he say when the review is due to be completed and when some improvement may be expected?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) The review of telephone policy has commenced and it is anticipated that changes will be available for the 1981 academic year.

## CYCLES

### Footpaths: Access

87. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) How long has the dual access legislation for footpaths been before the Government?
- (2) What reports have been submitted and what advice has been gathered on this proposed legislation?
- (3) What has been the tenor of the reports and advice received and when can a decision be expected from the Government on this matter?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) A recommendation for an amendment to the Road Traffic Code to permit cyclists on designated footpaths was approved by Cabinet in January this year.

- (2) The proposal to amend the code was submitted by the advisory committee on bicycle policy in the form of an interim recommendation prior to the presentation of a detailed report.

- (3) Answered in part by (1) and (2). There have been some difficulties in preparing the appropriate amendment to the code. However, I now anticipate that this amendment will be promulgated in the near future.

## EDUCATION: TERTIARY

### Students: Assistance

88. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Government concerned about shortcomings in the present level of assistance available to tertiary students?
- (2) If "Yes", what representations have been made to the Commonwealth Government in this regard?
- (3) Does the Government support any of the proposals in the Williams Committee Report on Education including the reintroduction of tertiary fees, a loans scheme or a "former student tax"?
- (4) Has there been any approach by the State Government to the Commonwealth on the proposals referred to in (3)?
- (5) If "Yes" to (4), what has been the form and content of such approaches?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes. The State Government, through the Australian Education Council, has endorsed the need for a regular monitoring of the level of assistance.
- (2) See answer to part (1).
- (3) The area of tertiary fees, etc., is the province of the Federal Government which has, on a number of occasions, stated its intentions not to introduce such fees.
- (4) No. This is a Federal Government matter as outlined in the answer to part (3).
- (5) Not applicable.

## RAILWAYS

### Tonnages Hauled

89. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) In the five financial years to 30 June, 1980, what are the annual tonnages hauled by Westrail of—



- (a) bauxite;
- (b) alumina;
- (c) woodchips;
- (d) gypsum;
- (e) salt;
- (f) iron ore;
- (g) mineral sands;
- (h) grain;
- (i) blue metal?

- (2) What are the average haulage distances of each of the above commodities?
- (3) What is the annual revenue received by Westrail for each of these commodities in each of the last five financial years to 1980?
- (4) How many Westrail customers are required to make capital contributions to Westrail?
- (5) (a) What is the value of those contributions by each of the customer companies; and  
(b) when were they made?
- (6) (a) What amount of the contributions has been repaid by Westrail; and  
(b) in what year?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Westrail advises me that the answers to the questions are as follows:

		1975/76 \$000's	1976/77 \$000's	1977/78 \$000's	1978/79 \$000's
(1)	(a) Bauxite	4 296	4 464	4 426	5 420
	(b) Alumina	1 418	2 101	2 264	2 296
	(c) Woodchips	101	424	520	585
	(d) Gypsum	45	78	76	74
	(e) Salt	135	196	235	93
	(f) Iron Ore	2 214	1 883	1 225	1 234
	(g) Mineral Sands	616	923	1 046	1 065
	(h) Grain	3 874	3 455	3 382	3 109
	(i) Blue Metal	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*N/A Not Available  
Information for 1979/80 not yet available.

		1978/79 kms
(2)	(a) Bauxite	50 kms
	(b) Alumina	87 kms
	(c) Woodchips	157 kms
	(d) Gypsum	360 kms
	(e) Salt	373 kms
	(f) Iron Ore	495 kms
	(g) Mineral Sands	150 kms
	(h) Grain	302 kms
	(i) Blue Metal	N/A

		1975/76 \$000's	1976/77 \$000's	1977/78 \$000's	1978/79 \$000's
(3)	(a) Bauxite	3 010	3 559	3 688	4 459
	(b) Alumina	2 106	3 939	4 622	4 941
	(c) Woodchips	385	1 727	2 255	2 698
	(d) Gypsum	643	728	820	899
	(e) Salt	622	673	812	466
	(f) Iron Ore	11 731	11 371	8 723	9 315
	(g) Mineral Sands	2 145	3 173	4 231	4 400
	(h) Grain	30 660	26 394	31 384	34 096
	(i) Blue Metal	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\*N/A Not Available  
Information for 1979/80 not yet available.

- (4) (5) and (6) These questions relate to special agreements made with clients and in accordance with normal business ethics their confidentiality must be preserved.

## TRAFFIC: MOTOR VEHICLES

### *Licence Fees: Heavy Vehicles*

- 90. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Transport:

What is the estimated increase in revenue to the Government from the 25 per cent increase in heavy vehicle licence fees?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

\$1.147 million.

## RAILWAYS

### *Freight Rates: Blue Metal and Grain*

- 91. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the price per tonne offered by Westrail to haul blue metal to the major towns of the

- (a) Bruce Rock;
- (b) Corrigin;
- (c) Kellerberrin;
- (d) Kondinin;
- (e) Narembeen;
- (f) Nungarin;
- (g) Merredin;
- (h) Mukinbudin;
- (i) Westonia and
- (j) Yilgarn Shires?

- (2) Was a minimum load specified in the offer to the shire councils?
- (3) Does the offer include trans-shipment of blue metal from Westrail wagons into shire vehicles?
- (4) What was the freight rate for grain transported by Westrail to ports from Co-operative Bulk Handling bins in the same towns

- (a) before 1 July, 1980;
- (b) after 1 July, 1980?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Prices have been offered to some Shires for haulage of blue metal during "off peak" period 1 July to 14 November. The rates and conditions of carriage are subject to contract and in line with normal business practice are confidential.
- (2) Yes, 20 tonnes.
- (3) Yes, where suitable pelican grab equipment is available.

		Before	Proposed
		1 July 1980	1 July 1980
		\$	\$
(a)	Bruce Rock	11.60	13.50
(b)	Corrigin	12.60	15.00
(c)	Kellerberrin	10.60	11.90
(d)	Kondinin	13.70	16.30
(e)	Narembeen	13.20	15.70
(f)	Nungarin	12.10	14.30
(g)	Merredin	11.60	13.50
(h)	Mukinbudin	13.00	15.50
(i)	Bodallin	12.80	15.30
(j)	Southern Cross	13.70	16.30

The rates proposed for 1 July 1980 for grain in storage have been withheld until 1 November 1980.

## TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

### *Review Group*

92. Mr BRYCE, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce:

Will he list the guidelines being prepared for an expert technology review group to advise it on technological developments?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

A technology review group is in the course of being formed.

Guidelines for the group are in the course of preparation.

## TOURISM

### *AFTA Conference*

93. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) How many delegates are in Perth attending the AFTA conference:

- (2) Can he advise and list the number of countries, organisations and companies, etc., that are attending?
- (3) Would he list any functions arranged by his department to extend hospitality to these VIP visitors?
- (4) (a) Does his department believe Western Australia will receive any future benefit as a result of this conference and  
(b) if so, would he indicate?

Mr LAURANCE replied:

- (1) 1180.
- (2) 24 countries (including China—represented for the first time). Approximately 600 organisations and companies.
- (3) The Department of Tourism has had a near total involvement in the overall arrangements for the whole convention and the final official function. Senior officers have represented the department on the organising committee and departmental staff have assisted with the meet and greet programme together with arrangements for the "York Day" visit.
- (4) (a) Yes.

An analysis conducted by the American Society of Travel Agents indicates that an increase of up to 25 per cent in visitor traffic can be expected as a result of such conferences.

AFTA has clarified the above figure as a fairly accurate estimate.

Tasmanian visitor growth has been quite incredible following the AFTA Convention in 1977.

It is now well established that resulting benefits are very significant and a marked improvement in visitor traffic can be expected following the AFTA Convention in Perth this year.

- (b) The AFTA Perth Convention has established a new attendance record for an Australian based convention.

Also significant is the high calibre of delegates attending this particular conference.

Already the delegates' reactions to Perth and Western Australia are very pleasing and most encouraging

for the future of tourism in Western Australia.

### WATER RESOURCES

#### *Salinity: Whittington Interceptor Banks*

94. Mr McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Has the Public Works Department continued a monitoring programme on the quality of water running into the Batalling Creek from the interceptor banks on the properties of Mr M. Ewen and Mr L. Craig?
- (2) If "Yes", has there been a noticeable reduction in the salinity level of the water?
- (3) Will he make the figures available?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) No. However, flow measurements and water quality samples are taken for the whole of the catchment at the gauging station on Batalling Creek. After processing this information is freely available from the Public Works Department.
- (2) and (3) Answered by (1).

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### *Home Occupation Permits*

95. Mr SHALDERS, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

Further to his answer to part (4) of question 29 of 6 August 1980 can she advise what action is available to a person who is advised by a local government authority that they require a home occupation permit and which in that person's opinion is not required?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

They could obtain legal advice or consult the Town Planning Department. It should be noted, however, that non-compliance with a Town Planning Scheme is an offence under the Act.

### EDIBLE OILS

#### *Seeds from North of State*

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

Is oil produced from seeds grown in the north of the State of sufficient quality to use in an edible oil industry?

Mr OLD replied:

Yes.

### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

#### NOONKANBAH STATION

##### *Drilling Rig: Transport*

30. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Government meeting any part of the costs of transporting a drilling rig from Eneabba to Noonkanbah Station?
- (2) If "Yes", will he advise the House how much the exercise is costing the taxpayers and what proportion of the total costs this figure represents?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) The costs have not yet been calculated.

#### NOONKANBAH STATION

##### *Drilling Rig: Transport*

31. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Did the Government or any of its agencies engage the services of a person from outside the Government to plan the movement of a drilling rig from Eneabba to Noonkanbah Station?
- (2) If the answer is "Yes", who was engaged, what were the terms of employment and how much was the person paid?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) I did not do so. The Commissioner of Transport has been involved.
- (2) I am not involved in the situation about which the member asked the question.

Mr B. T. Burke: Who is responsible for it then?

Mr H. D. Evans: Who runs the show?

**NOONKANBAH STATION**

*Drilling Rig: Transport*

32. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) How many police have been assigned to accompany the drilling rig convoy travelling from Eneabba to Noonkanbah?
- (2) What will the costs of this be and will Amax make any contribution to it?
- (3) Have police officers been brought to Perth from the north for the exercise?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (1) If I knew the number of police involved, I would not disclose it in this House—

Mr Davies: Shame!

Mr HASSELL—any more than I would disclose any details in regard to any normal police operation.

Mr B. T. Burke: You don't know, so get on with the second part of the question.

Mr HASSELL: To continue—

- (2) The costs are not known to me, and as far as I know, such a normal police operation will be paid for in the normal way as are all police operations. The police are paid by the State when they carry out operations on behalf of trade unions and other groups which require their services, and the same situation will apply in this case.

Mr B. T. Burke: By arresting them!

Mr HASSELL: Sometimes the police are involved in assisting with trade union marches and rallies.

Mr B. T. Burke: That is how you regard this, is it?

Mr HASSELL: I take it the member is not suggesting that trade unions should be charged a fee on those occasions.

Mr McIver: What would you do without the words "trade union"?

Mr Davies: We are not asking for police protection, but they did.

Mr HASSELL: In the normal course of the law, outside parties are not usually subject to making contributions when police assistance is provided. I do not understand that any request has been made to Amax for a contribution to the cost of what is occurring at the moment in terms of ensuring that the law is carried out in the normal way.

- (3) As has been stated many times previously, the Government does not involve itself in the normal day-to-day operations of the police and I am, therefore, not aware of the details and I am unlikely to inquire as to the details.

Mr Davies: You are abrogating your authority! Dereliction of duty!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

**NOONKANBAH STATION**

*Drilling Rig: Transport*

33. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) Have fuel and other supply dumps been established between Eneabba and Noonkanbah Station for the use of the convoy transporting the drilling rig?
- (2) Was any Government agency, including the State Emergency Service, involved in establishing the supply dumps and, if so, which ones?
- (3) Who has met the costs of establishing and supplying the dumps?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (3) As the Government said on 10 July last, and as the Minister for Transport has indicated already, we publicly stated that, if in fact the private transport companies did not accept the responsibility of transporting the drilling rig which had been hired to undertake the contractual drilling at Eneabba, and if the Government received a request to assist in co-ordinating the transport, it would do so. It has done just that, as has been indicated by the Minister for Transport already.

Mr Davies: Answer his question!

Mr P. V. JONES: As the Minister for Transport has indicated already and as was made public by the Government on 10 July last, the Transport Commission—the Commissioner of Transport and his various officers—has in fact carried out that task. I cannot be precise about the exact services and facilities that are available to assist in the process; but as the person who has co-ordinated the matter from the Government's point of view, the

Commissioner of Transport has reported that the assistance the Government undertook to provide has been made available.

Mr Pearce: Who is signing the cheques for all this?

Mr P. V. JONES: I ask the member to allow me to finish. We will be able to discharge the request which we received. In discharging that request, we have utilised private owner-drivers—people who are willing to come along and discharge their obligations by performing the work, instead of bowing down to the industrial thuggery that has occurred.

Mr B. T. Burke: Don't be stupid!

Mr P. V. JONES: We have utilised the services of private people in the community who are willing to do this. In this situation, it is obvious the provision of fuel and other items has been considered as being part of the operation, so it would certainly be made available.

#### NOONKANBAH STATION

##### *Drilling Rig: Transport*

34. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Resources Development:

- (1) I should like to ask the Minister whether he believes it is any of his business, having issued an instruction, as to how that instruction is carried out and by whom it is carried out?
- (2) If it is his business to determine how instructions are carried out, could the Minister tell the House whether the organisation known as "Assistance and Security" or officers of that organisation have been involved in this operation?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes, certainly; but I am not going to get involved—and neither would any other Minister get involved—in the precise detail of the matter. If I were to do so, why should I ask someone else to carry out the instruction for me?

Mr B. T. Burke: This is a general question about an organisation.

Mr P. V. Jones: To continue—

- (2) No.

#### EDIBLE OILS

##### *Bunbury Refinery: Siting*

35. Mr BLAICKIE, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Industrial Development and Commerce:

Although the Press and some people are critical of the siting of the Bunbury Foods Pty. Ltd. edible oil plant, is he aware that criticism arose over the siting of the Bulmer Australia Ltd. apple juicing plant at Capel and have those criticisms since been proved groundless?

Mr MacKINNON replied:

I am aware there was some criticism of the establishment of the Bulmer Australia Ltd. factory in Capel for similar reasons to those advanced in the criticism currently being levelled at the establishment of the Bunbury Foods Pty. Ltd. operation at Bunbury. As I understand it, Bulmer Australia Ltd. established its food operation in Capel for very much the same reasons as Bunbury Foods Pty. Ltd. established its operation at Bunbury; that is, to have access to the port facilities, an adequate supply of labour, and because it was seen as a strategic location in relation to the supply of materials and proximity to markets.

Bulmer Australia Ltd. location was so successful that we have recently received approaches from that company with a view to expanding its plant at Capel. We would expect the establishment of the Bunbury Foods Pty. Ltd. plant to follow the same course and to proceed with expansion plans according to its agreement with the Government.

#### ABORIGINES

##### *Remote Areas: Drinking and Gambling*

36. Mr HARMAN to the Minister for Cultural Affairs:

- (1) Did the Minister hear the member for Murchison-Eyre last evening describe his claims about the behaviour of Aborigines at Warburton as "bloody nonsense"?

- (2) Further, is he aware that the member for Murchison-Eyre is reported as saying in the media today that his comments are unsubstantiated and that the Minister's last visit to the area was eight years ago, not four years ago as he told this House?
- (3) Is he further aware that the member for Murchison-Eyre says he went on the same trip and saw no alcohol?
- (4) In view of the fact that it is obvious the Minister has misled the House, when will he submit his second resignation to the Premier?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) to (4) In reply to the member for Maylands may I say I greatly regret that for his own purpose the member for Murchison-Eyre has chosen to deny the existence of this incontrovertible fact. I cannot understand why he has done it but I have seen the *Daily News*. The member said that my comments were unsubstantiated.

I refer the member for Maylands to page 3 of the same *Daily News* in which he will find fact after fact substantiated. The member for Murchison-Eyre went on to say in the *Daily News* that he had interjected with "bloody nonsense" when Mr Grayden said that truckloads of alcohol were taken to Warburton from the Northern Territory. When I rang the Laverton police station—and it was confirmed today—the police told me they were concerned about reports of vehicles bringing in loads of liquor from the Northern Territory. In the newspaper report the member for Murchison-Eyre went on to say, "There is absolutely no alcohol at the outpost in the area".

There is evidence to substantiate this and I can give one instance which applies. Last March a truck had taken liquor out to Warburton. An argument developed with Aborigines who wanted the alcohol, but it was refused. As a consequence of the argument they left, and returned with a rifle. Several shots were fired and the owner of the alcohol departed very soon—

Mr Harman: From the police today?

Mr GRAYDEN: —leaving several cartons of alcohol. The report received by the police indicated the alcohol was stolen

by other inhabitants of Warburton. The police went on to say no complaint of a theft was received by them. The reason being: had the person who had the alcohol reported it, he would have been charged for having sold it. The person who discharged the firearm was subsequently dealt with by the courts.

Mr Davies: They had to get someone.

Several members interjected.

Mr GRAYDEN: Yesterday when I made some reference to Warburton Range the member for Maylands said that I had not been there for 30 years.

Mr Harman: No. I said Docker River.

Mr GRAYDEN: It was the same trip. It was when I went to Warburton. I went at my own expense to Ayers Rock with the member for Murchison-Eyre and my two sons. I paid the \$200 for each of them to help the member for Murchison-Eyre.

May I say this: the member for Maylands interjected and said that I had not been in the area for 30 years. I said I was out there and I did use the words "four years". If it was eight years ago, so be it. I do not think it is of any consequence. I did not say I saw any grog on that occasion. I am not basing my complaints now on that visit, I am simply saying the card-playing was taking place at that particular time. I am basing my comments on the report that I received yesterday from the Laverton police. They were confirmed today by the Laverton police and the Kalgoorlie police. My concern is that Aborigines in these areas buy the alcohol at \$50 and \$60 a flagon when it can be purchased for \$3 to \$6 a flagon. In other words, 1 000 per cent to 2 000 per cent is being ripped off those Aborigines.

The first requirement is that we should recognise that this sort of thing is happening in order that we can devise a solution and implement it. I have not cast any aspersions on the police. I admire what they are doing. Up to a point they are powerless when intercepting anyone carrying alcohol because these people can say the alcohol is for their own purposes. It is not a reflection on the people on the reservation—

*Point of Order*

Mr BERTRAM: I observe the Minister has great difficulty in getting to the point of the answer. I wonder whether it would facilitate his answering the question if we move in some way to give him an extension of time.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. I would however request Ministers to keep their answers fairly brief.

*Questions (without notice) Resumed***GRAIN: WHEAT***Compulsory Levies: Taxation*

37. Mr McPHARLIN, to the Premier: It has been reported in the Press that the Australian Taxation Office in Western Australia made a unilateral decision to disallow wheat growers' compulsory levies as tax deductions—

- (1) Will the Premier ascertain from the Federal Treasurer whether the Western Australian deputy commissioner has the authority to make a decision of this nature without consulting the Treasurer?
- (2) Will an assurance be obtained that decisions of this nature will not be made without Federal Cabinet approval

Mr O'Connor (for Sir CHARLES COURT) replied:

- (1) and (2) I understand the local decision to which the honourable member refers has been reversed.

I should, however, remind the honourable member that the administration of the Commonwealth income laws must, of necessity, be by the commissioner and his senior officers and staff. There is proper machinery to challenge any disputed decisions.

The Commissioner of Taxation is appointed by Federal Parliament and is directly responsible to Parliament. In turn, he is represented by deputy commissioners in each State.

The deputy commissioners have the authority to make decisions without consulting the Treasurer.

It would be completely impracticable—and in many ways both undesirable and dangerous—if Federal

Cabinet had to be consulted on matters of day-to-day interpretation.

**HERBICIDE: 2,4-D***Mt. Brown*

38. MR BARNETT to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Agriculture Protection Board at the insistence of the York Shire Council wants to spray a 6¼ acre block in the vicinity of Mt. Brown with 2,4-D for the purpose of eradicating Paterson's curse?
- (2) Is it a fact that the Agriculture Department has put out a pamphlet to say that Paterson's curse cannot be eradicated?
- (3) Is it a fact that the owner or resident of the block in question is Linda Taman who is five months pregnant and does not want her block sprayed with any chemicals during her pregnancy, particularly 2,4-D?
- (4) Will the Minister take action to cancel, or at least postpone the spraying?

MR OLD replied:

- (1) No. The owner has been directed by the board to control Paterson's curse by cultivation or spraying in accord with the policy of the York weeds committee.
- (2) No. There can be difficulty in eradicating extensive infestations but small stands can be readily eradicated.
- (3) I am informed by my colleague, the Minister for Health, that the use of 2,4-D poses no hazard in pregnancy.
- (4) Such action is not considered necessary.

**NOONKANBAH STATION***Drilling Rig: Transport*

39. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

Who were the registered owners of each of the following vehicles as at 1 July 1980, and who were the registered owners of each of the same vehicles on 8 August 1980? The vehicle registration numbers run consecutively from 6GE 321 to 6GE 350.

Mr HASSELL replied:

The member for Swan gave me some notice of the question but I am not prepared to release the information which he seeks, notwithstanding that notice.

Mr Davies: Secret Government, again.

Mr HASSELL: The matter was the subject of a statement released by me this morning as a result of an article in today's *The West Australian* concerning the use of a series of number plates in connection with an operation to the north-west of the State. The use of those number plates was considered desirable, and rendered necessary, because of union threats of black bans and other industrial actions in an attempt to stop or prevent people from going about their lawful business. They were threatened with retaliatory action.

Mr Davies: You said you knew nothing.

Mr HASSELL: Those threats have been made public and, as a result, it was deemed appropriate that the Government should assist the people involved by providing them with number plates, at the normal cost, if they desired to take advantage of them and if they requested them. That has been done.

It is a sad day for Australia that it is necessary for this sort of thing to be done to allow people to go about their lawful business and overcome, in some small way, this union thuggery which goes on all the time.

Mr B. T. Burke: Why is there a need to be secretive?

Mr Davies: The Minister said he knew nothing about it. He tricked himself.

Mr HASSELL: I did not say that at all.

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

## COMMUNITY WELFARE

### *Single Parents and Prisoners' Wives*

40. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

Is it a fact that consideration has been given by the Government to terminating monetary assistance paid by the Department for Community Welfare to—

- (a) deserted mothers;
- (b) one-parent families;
- (c) separated mothers;
- (d) unmarried mothers, and
- (e) wives of prisoners?

Mr HASSELL replied:

- (a) to (e) In order to provide a complete answer to the member, it would be necessary for him to put the question on the notice paper. However, I will answer to the extent I can.

There are certain financial arrangements existing between the Commonwealth and the States in relation to the categories of people to whom he referred. The State Government has found itself in the position of being at a severe financial disadvantage as a result of continuing with those arrangements. The State of Victoria unilaterally withdrew from the arrangement as from 1 January this year, and South Australia has given notice of its withdrawal which I think came into effect on 1 July of this year.

The amount of money involved amounts to some millions of dollars per annum. As a result of that, we have necessarily looked at our own position and we have indicated to the Commonwealth that we will discontinue our arrangement.

We have been very careful to ensure that administration arrangements have been made with the Commonwealth Department of Social Security, which are not yet finalised. However, the action has not yet come into effect so the beneficiaries of that kind of welfare will not be put to any disadvantage or put under any strain.

Our financial contribution will continue as a topping-up arrangement to the payments which in future will be made by the Department of Social Security.

In addition, the Department for Community Welfare will provide initial assistance to cover the period between an application being made and the Commonwealth payment coming into effect. So there will be no problems in that regard.

On the administration side, arrangements have been made for the Department of Social Security to handle applications direct, or to receive referrals from the Department for



Community Welfare in Perth and other centres where adequate facilities are available. In outlying areas of this State where the Department for Community Welfare does operate and social security facilities do not exist, arrangements are being completed for community welfare to act as agent for the Department of Social Security so that there will be no problems.

We have sought two objectives: Firstly, to ensure the protection of our own revenue and to ensure that the recipients of this kind of benefit are not disadvantaged or do not lose it; and, secondly, to ensure a continuity of arrangements and level of benefits.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

### *Electoral Provisions*

41. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the statement that the Government is committed to the introduction of a Bill to amend the electoral provisions of the Local Government Act.

I also draw the attention of the Minister to the Speech of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator in which there was no reference to the Bill.

I ask the Minister is the Government still committed to the introduction of the Bill during this session?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

The member for Geraldton did misquote me to some extent. I did say that the Government would endeavour to bring the legislation before this House during this session, and that still is our wish.

As a result of the consultation which has occurred with local government, it is necessary for some changes to be made to reflect the opinions received. That is under way at present. It is hoped the legislation will be introduced during this session, but I requested that it not be included in the Speech in case it was not finalised.

## HOSPITAL

### *Busselton*

42. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Health:

I am concerned that some patients in the Busselton Hospital are being put to bed during the mid-afternoon. Would the Minister have the matter investigated and if my concern is proven ensure that the practice ceases?

Mr YOUNG replied:

I have to apologise to the member for Vasse for the fact that I have not been able to give him an answer to this matter which he raised with me yesterday.

I have commenced an investigation into the allegation in respect of the situation at the Busselton Hospital. If, indeed, it is true I will be very perturbed. I will reply to the member as soon as possible.

## RAILWAYS: MERREDIN

### *Transportable Residence*

43. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of a petition presented by my esteemed colleague in another place (the Hon. James McMillan Brown)?
- (2) If "Yes", when will he make a determination on the request contained in the petition?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) Firstly, I seek the indulgence of the House not to break any convention. The member from another place mentioned this matter to me in the corridor. I have not yet received the petition, but I will give it consideration when I do.

## ABORIGINES

### *Remote Areas: Drinking and Gambling*

44. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Deputy Premier:

Putting aside all those details into which the Minister for Cultural Affairs went, it does seem as though the member for Murchison-Eyre has branded the Minister a liar with respect to the time that has passed since the Minister visited the area referred to.

The Minister said last night, in this House, it was four years ago that he visited the area. The member for Murchison-Eyre has said it was eight years ago.

Will the Deputy Premier investigate the truth of each of the claims and inform the House whether the Minister actually visited the area four years ago or eight years ago?

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask the member to resume his seat. I heard the question asked earlier along the same lines, and I heard the reply from the Minister.

It does nothing for the prestige and dignity of this House for the member to pursue this question which implies that the Minister has misled the House. The Minister did, to my satisfaction anyway, explain the discrepancy between the four years and the eight years. I rule the question is out of order.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT

### *Annual Report*

45. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Local Government:

I refer to the annual report of the Department of Local Government for the year ended 30 June, 1978, which was tabled this week. I ask the Minister whether she can explain the reason it took so long for the report to be made available, and I also ask whether she will take steps for the 1979 and 1980 reports to be made available more expeditiously?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

There has been for some few years a difficulty in having the report compiled in sufficient time. Action has been taken to ensure it is speeded up, but I would not like that reply to be construed as meaning we will catch up rapidly. We will endeavour to ensure a shorter time lag but I think it will be about three years before we can prepare them within a more acceptable time.

## COMMUNITY WELFARE

### *Single Parents and Prisoners' Wives*

46. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

Following my earlier questions about community welfare policies, will the Department for Community Welfare continue to offer the other services which it is at present offering to supporting and unmarried mothers, etc., helping those people with key money, food coupons, emergency housing, and so on; will all those functions be handed over to the Social Security Department or be retained and implemented by the Department for Community Welfare?

Mr HASSELL replied:

It is my understanding that the Department for Community Welfare will continue all the services which it at present gives to those people and will not withdraw from any of them. If the honourable member is referring to any particular one, I suggest he identify it and I will check it out specifically. In general, we are simply aiming to protect our financial position in our arrangements with the Commonwealth, without in any way cutting back on what the clients of welfare receive.

## ABORIGINES

### *Remote Areas: Drinking and Gambling*

47. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Cultural Affairs:

I have not given up on this subject, even though some members may think I have. In view of the discrepancies in the information which is being provided not only to this House but to Western Australians, generally, concerning the situation at Warburton Range—coming on one hand from the Minister and on the other from the Government member for Murchison-Eyre—would he be kind enough and good enough, in order to protect the position of the Aborigines in that area, to recheck his information and confer with the member for Murchison-Eyre, so that he can tell Western Australians what is the exact position at Warburton Range, without reflecting in a disparaging manner upon the people in

the area and those who are helping to run the situation at Warburton Range?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

May I say it is not a question of checking the information. The information I have given is factual. It has come from the superintendent in charge of the Kalgoorlie Police Station, the sergeant in charge at the Laverton Police Station, and other impeccable sources which I would be pleased to supply to the honourable member. Anyone who wants to pursue the matter further can make inquiries of the person who is in gaol at the moment for having discharged the firearm on the occasion when many flagons of wine were stolen from someone who had taken the alcohol out to the Warburton Mission last March. It is merely a question of members of the Opposition following up the leads I have given them. If they want any information in respect of aircraft flying alcohol into remote missions, I suggest they contact Mr Withers in another place, who will be pleased to supply the information.

Mr B. T. Burke: You made the statements; he did not.

Mr GRAYDEN: If anyone wants me to check any aspect, I shall be happy to do it on television, in the Press, or in debate in this House.

Mr B. T. Burke: Tell us now.

Mr GRAYDEN: Furthermore—I do not know whether this is legal—if anyone wants to put up some money to be donated to charity by the loser, I shall be pleased to do that.

Mr B. T. Burke: Are you turning the Parliament into a common gaming house?

### ABORIGINES

#### *Remote Areas: Drinking and Gambling*

48. Mr DAVIES, to the Deputy Premier:

In view of the startling announcements and information which have been given to the House by the Minister for Cultural Affairs, most of which detail illegal trading in alcohol and illegal gambling, can he give us an assurance that steps will be taken to eliminate the

illegal trading and gambling, not only at Warburton Range but also at Oombulgurri and the area north of the city known as Northbridge?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I think the Leader of the Opposition is aware of the difficulties of ascertaining these details from remote areas. I am sure he knows the police are there and trying to do their best. I will obtain the answer and forward it to him.

### HERBICIDE: 2,4-D

*Mt. Brown*

49. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Further to my previous question in relation to 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D, is he aware that the lady to whom I referred has received advice from her doctor that she should not submit her block or herself to any chemical spraying; and if he is not, will he have investigations made with a view to changing his mind?

Mr OLD replied:

I am not aware of that but I suggest the Minister for Health might like to answer the question.

### LOWE, MRS LYNN

*Case: Media Publicity*

50. Mr BERTRAM, to the Deputy Premier:

Has his Government given any consideration to taking action against those elements of the media which have been giving publicity to the Lowe case while it was pending before a court; and if so, with what result?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I do not know of any action that has been taken at this stage, but if the honourable member cares to place the question on the notice paper I will follow it up with the Attorney General and obtain the appropriate reply.

**HERBICIDE: 2,4-D**

*Mt. Brown*

**51. Mr BARNETT, to the Deputy Premier:**

In view of the urgency of the two questions I have asked this evening, relating to the probability that spraying will take place next Tuesday or earlier, could he advise what liaison takes place before decisions of this nature are made?

**Mr O'CONNOR** replied:

I could not answer off hand but had the honourable member cared to ask the question of the Minister for Health he might have received the appropriate reply.

**The SPEAKER:** I invite the Minister for Health to reply to the second question asked by the member for Rockingham.

**Mr YOUNG** replied:

Firstly, I advise the member for Rockingham that I am answering the question because the medical aspects would have been more appropriately asked of me than of the Minister for Agriculture. I am not in any way trying to pre-empt his situation.

Unfortunately, it has become rather fashionable nowadays to blame any substance that starts with "2,4" for the ill health of many people who have problems which cannot readily be explained.

**Mr Davies:** You can understand the woman's concern.

**Mr YOUNG:** If any substance with a name commencing with "2, 4" is sprayed, there is always someone mischievous enough to suggest it will cause problems to people in general, and to pregnant women in particular.

**Mr Barnett:** Can I just say that my main concern is about written advice from her doctor. I would not say he is being mischievous.

**Mr YOUNG:** I have said in this House that there is absolutely no evidence submitted by any medical authority in the world to indicate that 2, 4, 5-T or 2,

4-D represents any threat to human health. No medical body in the world has suggested that.

**Mr Skidmore:** Yes they have.

**Mr YOUNG:** I am sorry; I should have said "proven". If the doctor to whom the member for Rockingham referred is concerned genuinely about the health of this woman, all he has to do is to write to the Public Health Department. I will give an absolute guarantee that everything that can be done to relieve that doctor's worries will be done.

**Mr Barnett:** But the spraying will go on anyway.

**Mr YOUNG:** There is no reason whatsoever to stop the spraying. I have said before that there is no evidence to indicate it should not, and I say it again.

**Mr Davies:** Will you accept responsibility?

**Mr YOUNG:** Yes.

**HEALTH: DRUGS**

*Heroin: Terminal Patients*

**52. Mr BERTRAM to the Minister for Health:**

(1) Has he announced that heroin may be used in this State for the purpose of ameliorating the suffering of patients with terminal conditions?

(2) If "Yes" to (1), has the medical profession taken advantage of this policy, and if not, why not?

**Mr YOUNG** replied:

(1) and (2) The national meeting of Ministers for Health agreed in principle only last month that heroin ought to be re-introduced under very stringent conditions for use with terminal patients who are suffering great pain. The conditions as to how the substance will be used, distributed, protected against the possibility of theft, and the like, have not been decided upon, but arising from the conference of health Ministers, a committee has been set up to work out the details. I hope that after proper consultation with the police and drug authorities, we will be able to reintroduce the use of this drug in the very near future.