

Difficulties have arisen in practice with prosecutions under the existing section, both here and elsewhere. For example, the name used in the invitation to the public may differ from the name registered and, as the person concerned is carrying on business under the name registered, the prosecution has failed because the complainant was unable to show that the name registered was used, or that the name which was in fact used was required to be registered.

One prosecution in this State failed for that reason, even though the name used in the public advertisements was sufficiently similar to the registered name to identify the parties concerned.

Clause 9 (a), therefore, seeks to amend section 26 (1) of the principal Act by adding a new paragraph (c) referring to a name that would, if business were being carried on under it, be required to be registered under the Act to overcome the deficiency to which I have referred.

Clause 9 (b) relaxes the prohibition contained in section 26 (c) in respect to invitations made to persons whose ordinary business it is to lend money. Such persons should, after all, be better capable of protecting their own interests than the less well-informed members of the general public.

In addition, it is proposed to add a new section which would prohibit certain persons from carrying on business under a business name other than their own names, or a name consisting of their own names and the names of the persons in association with whom they carry on business, without the leave of the District Court within five years after their conviction for an offence mentioned in the new section. This refers to convictions on indictment for offences related to the promotion, formation or management of a corporation; convictions for offences involving fraud or dishonesty, punishable with imprisonment for three months or more; and convictions for certain offences specified in the Companies Act.

The Companies Act contains analogous provisions preventing such persons from acting as company directors, after being convicted of similar offences, for five years after conviction, without the leave of the court.

The Bill also seeks to enable the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs to extend the period within which the registration of a business name may be extended; to extend the period in which various statements of change of particulars of registration of a business name are required to be lodged, basically from 14 days to one month; to add a reference to a judge of the District Court sitting in chambers to the list in section 14 (2) of judicial officers who may exercise the power to stay proceedings as the District Court did not exist when the principal Act was originally passed; to empower the Commissioner

for Corporate Affairs to dispose of documents lodged under the principal Act or any corresponding previous enactment where they have been lodged for more than 21 years, even if, by virtue of documents lodged since, registration of the name is still current; to extend the time limit for taking proceedings under the Act to three years, or, with the consent of the Minister to any later time. Similar time limits are contained in other legislation administered by the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs, such as the Companies Act and the new Securities Industry Act; to enable regulations to be made covering the method of applying for the Minister's consent to the registration of certain restricted names, or names containing restricted words, and the fees payable on such applications or consent; and to amend all references in the Act to the registrar by substituting a reference to the commissioner, and to take into account the change in the title of the office from "Registrar of Companies" to "Commissioner for Corporate Affairs".

There are also a number of consequential amendments.

I commend the Bill to members.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. D. K. Dans (Leader of the Opposition).

House adjourned at 5.38 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 31st March, 1976

The SPEAKER (Mr Hutchinson) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

TRAIL BIKES

Noise Nuisance: Petition

MR A. R. TONKIN (Morley) [4.31 p.m.]: I present the following petition from 44 residents of Morley—

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

We, the undersigned residents in the State of Western Australia do hereby pray that Her Majesty's Government will take immediate action to stop the excessive noise and nuisance caused by the riding of trail bikes in the Overseas Telecommunications Commission reserve in Morley, on unmade roads and in nearby bush.

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

The petition conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly and I have certified accordingly.

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

The petition was tabled (see paper No. 114).

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Record Term as Member: Statement

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [4.34 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, I seek leave to make a statement of an historic nature.

The **SPEAKER**: I will ask the House whether it will grant leave, and if the matter is what I suspect it is, I take it that any approval will include the Leader of the Opposition being able to respond, if he so wishes. Is leave granted?

Honourable members: Aye!

Sir CHARLES COURT: I thank members of the House for giving me the opportunity to make this very brief statement. At the outset, I should like to say that in referring to the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon. John Trezise Tonkin today, I do not want to anticipate anything we might say about him on the 15th April because, as we know, on that day he will be stepping down from the leadership of his party and of the Opposition in this House.

My main purpose today on behalf of those who sit with me and, I hope, also on behalf of the whole House is to convey our congratulations to the Leader of the Opposition (John Trezise Tonkin). It will be a long time, if ever, before anyone serves a period of 43 years, less eight days, because it happens to be one day longer than the record in this State Parliament, and I cannot find any record longer in other Australian Parliaments, either in respect of a former member or an active member.

It also is significant that the Leader of the Opposition came into the Parliament during the 15th Parliament—on the 8th April, 1933, to be precise—and that therefore he has participated in the life and the work of no fewer than 14 Parliaments. That is a lot of Parliament!

Having seen the honourable gentleman in action for 23 years, I believe he is one of the few people who has never lost his interest in the institution. I have seen people come and have a great rush for a while; they have had some particular interest and have hit the headlines, but then they sat back for a while and waited for something else; sometimes, that something else never came, and they went their way. But the Leader of the Opposition has always paid the institution of Parliament the respect it deserves. He has set an example to all of us because he has taken his parliamentary duties very seriously—as far as we are concerned, sometimes too seriously!

But whatever the issue, whether one agrees or disagrees violently with him, it matters not; the fact is that he has made

it his business that once he accepted the commitment of a parliamentarian he was going to make it his life and his work and devote himself to it throughout the years.

I have said before and I should like to repeat today that there is one thing on which he has set an example to all of us; in fact, I noticed it when I first came into the Parliament. The Leader of the Opposition spends a very large proportion of his time actually in the House. We have seen members who seem to have ants in their pants the moment prayers are over, but the Leader of the Opposition seems to have the capacity to sit through even some of the most boring of the proceedings. I believe this is one of the prices one pays if one wishes to assimilate something of the establishment and build up a great store of knowledge.

I do not propose to refer to the work of the Leader of the Opposition as a member, a Minister, and a front bench member of the Opposition over a long period of years, and his work as Premier, because I should like the opportunity to do that on a later occasion, which I propose to discuss with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Opposition, if I may, for the 15th April.

Today I wish to pay tribute to the work that has been done and the time served by the Leader of the Opposition over this extraordinary period of 43 years minus eight days. We can be assured that if the Leader of the Opposition says it is minus eight days, it is minus eight days! We also congratulate him on the fact that he has enjoyed extraordinarily good health, especially considering the life we lead here. I do not know how one ever keeps fit, but some people seem to survive.

With those few words, I should like the Leader of the Opposition to accept my congratulations on behalf of those I lead on this side of the House and, I hope, on behalf of the entire House, and wish him a continuation of his good health.

[Applause.]

MR J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Leader of the Opposition) [4.40 p.m.]: It is an occasion like this when one realises that one is really a human being, and experiences emotion which ordinarily one does not. I want to say to the Premier that I am very grateful to him for taking advantage of this opportunity to speak of me so generously, and to convey to me on behalf of members of his own party and other members in the Chamber, congratulations upon the fact that I have become the member who has served the longest period in the Western Australian Parliament.

As a matter of fact, being somewhat of a realist and in anticipation of getting into Parliament—I had made two attempts before I succeeded—I studied accountancy in order to have a second string to my bow

should I be defeated at some subsequent election. However, I have never been called upon to take any advantage of that, so to some extent it was labour lost.

Of the 80 members in the Parliament when I first became a member—there were 50 members in the Assembly and 30 members in the Council—only three of us are alive, and those three have all been Premiers, and furthermore all Labor Premiers!

Mr McIver: Another record.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: The other two surviving members are the Hon. Frank Wise and the Hon. A. R. G. Hawke. Another coincidence is that when we came to office in that year behind the Government, we sat together on the cross-bench opposite. Ever since we have been closely associated.

Forty-three years is a long time, but I want to say that I have enjoyed the comradeship of members on both sides of the House who have always treated me decently, and if I had my time over again I would desire to be a member of Parliament. So, I have not been browned off by the experience of 43 years as a member.

Being a member of Parliament has enabled me to meet men of different types, and we vary very considerably as you, Mr Speaker, would know. However, we play the game according to our lights, and as the Premier has said I have always regarded it as essential that the institution should be treated with respect in order to ensure that it will endure, because this is an institution of a democratic country where there are certain rules, and we have to play the game according to the rules. That is what I have endeavoured to do.

I am most grateful for and appreciative of what the Premier has said this afternoon. I want to thank all present for the consideration which has been shown to me from time to time, sometimes when I was in Government and sometimes when I was in the Opposition. Nevertheless I have been made to feel that I have had a part to play and that generally I have played it to the satisfaction of the majority of, if not all members.

Mr Speaker, as the Premier has indicated that a further opportunity will occur when some speeches will be made I now content myself with what I have said, but I emphasise that it gives me considerable satisfaction to hear the Premier of the State and the leader of the parties opposite refer to me in such generous terms.

[Applause.]

QUESTIONS (82): ON NOTICE

1. SCHOOL CANTEENS

Food: Quality

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

Has the Education Department and/or the Health Department conducted investigations into the

quality of food being supplied in Western Australian school canteens; if so, will the Minister table the findings of the investigations?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

The Education Department has not conducted such an investigation and has had no representations made to it on this subject from the Health Department.

2.

EDUCATION

Isolated Children: Meeting with Teachers

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

What provisions have been made for isolated children and their teachers to meet regularly at central locations as promised by the Premier before the 1974 State election?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

The following provisions have been made—

- (a) An annual camp school is provided for every isolated child at Government expense.
- (b) An itinerant teacher scheme has been reintroduced.
- (c) The Chidley Residential Centre provides remedial and instructional facilities where parents and children can attend.
- (d) Each school of the air has been provided with facilities to allow parents, teachers and children to work together and parents are invited to make use of these.
- (e) Occasional courses are arranged in rural centres where parents and supervisors are brought together with teachers to discuss problems.

3.

HEALTH

Handicapped Children: Permanent Care Facilities

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

- (1) What permanent care facilities are available in Western Australia for profoundly handicapped children?
- (2) What facilities are available in Western Australia for the day-care of profoundly handicapped children at a day centre?
- (3) What financial commitment does the State Government make in respect of—
 - (a) the establishment; and
 - (b) the running costs, of these centres?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Residential care for profoundly intellectually handicapped children is provided at:—

State Government facilities

	Persons
Dorset Hostel, Armadale— caters for	32
Tresillian Hostel, Ned- lands—caters for	21
Scarboro Hostel, Scarbo- rough—caters for	18
Other	
Nulsen Haven Home, Red- cliffe—caters for	42
Princess Margaret Hos- pital (Ward 10) caters for	32
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- (2) None except that a few profoundly handicapped children attend day activity centres.

- (3) (a) Dorset Hostel—Additions and modifications—State share of cost 25 per cent.

Tresillian—State share 100 per cent. capital cost.

Scarboro—State leases the premises.

Nulsen Haven—State costs varied.

Princess Margaret Hospital (Ward 10)—The State contributed substantially towards the capital cost of the new multistorey ward block thus enabling the facilities of Ward 10 to be made available for the care of profoundly handicapped children.

- (b) Dorset Hostel—State pays 100 per cent. of operating costs.

Tresillian Hostel—State pays 100 per cent. of operating costs.

Scarboro Hostel—State pays 100 per cent. of operating costs.

Nulsen Haven—Operated by the Mentally Incurable Children's Association. Operating costs deficit funded annually by the State.

Princess Margaret Hospital (Ward 10)—The State meets 50 per cent. of the net operating costs of Princess Margaret Hospital for Children.

4.

HEALTH

Retarded Children: Day Activity Centres

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

- (1) Will the Minister name the day activity centres available in Western Australia which cater for severely retarded children?
- (2) How many children are catered for at each centre?
- (3) How many more centres of this type are needed to cater for the needs of such children?
- (4) What financial commitment does the State Government make in respect of—
 - (a) the establishment; and
 - (b) the running costs, of these centres?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) State Government facilities

Pyrton Training Centre—caters for 35 persons.

Slow Learning Children's Group facilities

	Persons
Churchlands—caters for	30
Fremantle—caters for	30
Inglewood—caters for	30
Minbalup—caters for	45
Northam—caters for	10
Bunbury—caters for	10
Esperance—caters for	6
Geraldton—caters for	6
Mandurah—caters for	5
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- (2) Answered by (1).

- (3) A further three in the metropolitan area. Country—not known.

- (4) Pyrton—

(a) Capital cost. State 66½ per cent.

(b) Operating cost. Salaries 10 per cent. Incidental 100 per cent.

Slow Learning Children's Group facilities—

(a) State contributions varied.

(b) Deficit funded annually by the State.

5.

EDUCATION

Retarded Children: Training Centres

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

- (1) Will the Minister name the training centres provided for children classified as "moderately retarded" (including pre-school centres)?

- (2) How many children are catered for at each centre?
- (3) How many more centres of this type are required to satisfy the needs of such children?
- (4) What financial commitment does the State Government make in respect of—
 - (a) establishment; and
 - (b) running costs, of these centres?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2)—
 - Balga Special School (including Pre-School)—189.
 - Bayswater Special School—96.
 - Millen Special School—83.
 - South Kensington Special School—117.
 - White Gum Valley Special School—171.
 - Albany Special School—32.
 - Boulder Special School—31.
 - Bunbury Special School—37.
 - Busselton Special School—12.
 - Collie Special School—6.
 - Esperance Special School—9.
 - Geraldton Special School—30.
 - Kellerberrin Special School—27.
 - Manjimup Special School—7.
 - Narrogin Special School—10.
- (3) At present all known children are catered for.
- (4) (a) and (b) All establishment and running costs are met by the State.

6.

EDUCATION

Handicapped Children: Special Classes

Mr BRYCE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:
How many special classes are provided in Western Australian schools for borderline or mildly handicapped children?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:
82 classes.

7.

HEALTH

Retarded Children: Hostel Facilities

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

- (1) In respect of children from country districts who are severely, moderately, or mildly retarded, what, if any, hostel facilities are available at the appropriate centres for their education?
- (2) Has the Government conducted any investigations to assess the need for such hostel accommodation; if so, what have the investigations revealed?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Kellerberrin Hostel—20 persons.
Albany Hostel—24 persons.
A number of country children reside at—
Pelican Hostel;
Nathaniel Harper Homes;
Pyrton Training Centre in the Metropolitan area.
- (2) No.

8.

HEALTH

Handicapped Children: Social Trainers

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

- (1) Is it a fact that social trainers or housekeepers are provided to enable parents to take a greater part in the care and education of their handicapped child in their own home?
- (2) If so, will the Minister provide details of the basis upon which this form of assistance is made available?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Social trainers are employed to assist in the training of intellectually handicapped persons in their own homes. Housekeepers are not provided.
- (2) Recommendations are made by the professional team involved in the care of each intellectually handicapped person when this domiciliary form of training seems appropriate. At present only 14 social trainers are employed in this area, and these are quite inadequate for the need. The more urgent cases are given a high priority for domiciliary care.

9.

SCHOOL CANTEENS

Food: Nutritional Value

Mr BRYCE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:
Is the Minister aware that the nutritional value of food supplied in Western Australian school canteens has deteriorated as the pressure for canteen profits has increased?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

There are two contentions contained in this question, both of which are open to debate.

10.

SCHOOL CANTEENS

Food: Departmental Advice

Mr BRYCE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:
Does the Education Department provide advice in any form to school canteen committees regarding the importance of providing

nutritionally well balanced meals in school canteens; if so, will the Minister provide details of such advice?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

The Education Department has not circularised school canteen committees.

11. SCHOOL CANTEENS

Food: Empty Caloric Value

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

Has the Minister approved of school canteens being operated on a profit basis which involves the sale of a high proportion of empty calorie foods?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

The responsibility for determining the principles governing the operation of school canteens is left to the school and the Parents and Citizens' Association in each case.

12. SCHOOL CANTEENS

Food: Conflict with Health Instruction

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

Has the Minister's attention been drawn to the fact that instruction in schools relating to nutrition and health education is in conflict with the foods being supplied by school canteens?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

School programmes are designed to increase student understanding in these areas and to equip them to make sound choices when purchasing foodstuffs.

13. SCHOOL CANTEENS

Departmental Supervision

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

Have approaches been made to the Education Department by the School Canteen Organisers Association in an attempt to have the department assume control or supervisory responsibility for school canteens; if so—

(a) when were the approaches made;

(b) what were the details of the submissions put to the department by the association;

(c) what was the Education Department's response?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

(a) An approach was made in December, 1974.

(b) The association requested that school canteens be transferred to the control of the department to form part of the education system in a similar manner to cleaning and clerical services in schools.

(c) The association was advised that the Education Department was not receptive to the proposal as it would cause expansion of the central administrative structure and a corresponding weakening of local control and initiative.

14. SCHOOL CANTEENS

Food: Health Department Representations

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

Have representations been made by the Health Department to the Education Department with requests for action to improve the quality of food provided in school canteens; if so—

(a) what was the basis of the Health Department's representation;

(b) what was the response of the Education Department?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

(a) and (b) No representation has been made on this subject.

15. MINING

Referrals to Environmental Protection Authority

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Mines:

(1) How many times has the Minister referred a matter to the Environmental Protection Authority pursuant to section 57 of the Environmental Protection Act?

(2) What was the date of each referral and what was its substance?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

(1) and (2) A register of referrals is not kept and to supply the information would take an unproportionate time by departmental officers.

16. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Prosecutions under Section 80

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

How many persons or corporations have been charged with an offence pursuant to section 80 of the Environmental Protection Act?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

None.

17. ALCOA ALUMINA REFINERY

Red Mud Lakes: Leakage and Monitoring

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Are reports true that state that some or all of the red mud lakes into which Alcoa is depositing or has deposited sediment, are leaking?
- (2) If so, what are the details?
- (3) Is the water or soil surrounding the completed red mud lakes being monitored?
- (4) If so, what method is being used and by whom is the monitoring being done?
- (5) Is it intended that the lakes presently being filled will be monitored after completion of filling and if so, by whom?
- (6) Are lakes currently being filled at present monitored and if so, by whom?
- (7) Will he table the results of monitoring, if any?
- (8) Is he aware of the massive degradation of many wetlands sited near the coast in the Cockburn area? (such as, market garden swamps 1, 2 and 3 or the lake at Watson Foods in Hamilton Road and similar lakes in the same chain.)
- (9) Is this degradation connected in any way with leaking red mud lakes?
- (10) If the answer to (8) is "No" will he make himself familiar with the severe degradation that has occurred, which is worsening daily?
- (11) What measurements and water quality have been taken of these degraded wetlands (such as BOD or any other) which reveals their healthy state or otherwise?
- (12) What is the basis for the reply to (9) above?
- (13) As some or all of the red mud lakes are below the water table, is it a fact that any leaking of noxious effluent will be straight into the water table?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) A minor defect has occurred in the splitter dyke between B and C lakes.
- (2) An area 6-8 hectares fully within the lakes boundary has been contaminated.
- (3) Yes.

- (4) Monitoring bores established about the lakes are being observed by Alcoa and the Public Works Department. Additionally hydrogeological studies by consultants have been undertaken which include aquifer analysis, and means of removal of contaminated groundwater.
- (5) Yes, by Alcoa and the Public Works Department.
- (6) As for (5).
- (7) It is not considered practical to table the numerous results, but I understand that my colleague, the Hon. Minister for Works, is agreeable to have the member examine the results at the Public Works Department.
- (8) to (13) It may assist in answering the member's question if he advises of the source and authority of his claims.

18. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Slag: Filling of Wetlands

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Adverting to question 25 of 27th November, 1974, is the slag referred to in part (2) being used to fill in wetlands and if so, what is the precise address of such wetlands?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is "No" what type of land is being filled by the slag?
- (3) What is the area of land referred to?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Industrial land owned by Australian Iron and Steel Pty. Ltd.
- (3) About 110 hectares.

19. COCKBURN SOUND

Environmental Protection: Cost of Scott Report

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

How much was paid to W. D. Scott for the so-called Scott report into Cockburn Sound, and how much of this sum was paid to Meagher & Le Provost?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

\$30 000 was paid to W. D. Scott as prime contractors. The amount they paid to Meagher and Le Provost was a matter for W. D. Scott alone to decide.

20. COCKBURN SOUND NAVAL BASE

Nuclear Vessels: Radioactive Leakage

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

With respect to the Environmental hazards associated with the use of Cockburn Sound by warships powered by nuclear reactors—

- (1) Is he aware of radioactive leakage associated with the shipping port nuclear reactor in Pennsylvania resulting in abnormal high concentrations of radioactive iodine and radioactive strontium in the soil and in the milk produced by nearby dairies?
- (2) Is he aware of the high ambient levels of beta and gamma radiation in the vicinity of the shipping port reactor?
- (3) Is he aware of the increased foetal, infant and cancer death rates in the surrounding communities corresponding to the increase in radioactive contamination of the region?
- (4) Is he aware that the variations in the amount of strontium 90 in dairy milk corresponded with the plant's monthly electric power generation and that the strontium 90 levels declined to background levels when the plant was shut down for repairs?
- (5) Is he aware of the correlation between plutonium-induced cancer and the activities of the victims as workers with plutonium in nuclear plants?
- (6) Is he aware of the radiation leakage from the nuclear powered ship *Mutsu* allegedly resulting from faulty design of the reactor shields?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (6) It would be quite improper to answer questions dealing in detail with technical and other aspects of nuclear powered naval vessels and equipment, and their use of Western Australian facilities—or for that matter any other important questions related to State and National security.

The Commonwealth and State Governments have given unequivocal assurances to the public that no vessels or equipment will be allowed into Cockburn Sound, or any other port in Western Australia without adequate safeguards.

It is a question which involves the closest possible collaboration between Commonwealth and State Governments and the public is assured that all related matters are being kept under review by responsible State authorities working with their Commonwealth counterparts.

It is unthinkable that certain matters of direct concern to details of defence and defence equipment should be discussed in a public way.

If any member seeks to debate the general question of defence policy, including the all-important question of co-operation with our ally, United States of America, then that member has a number of avenues, other than questions, open to him under Standing Orders.

The Government has no intention of allowing answers to questions to be used as a vehicle for either satisfying the curiosity of a particular member in respect of technical matters; or wittingly, or unwittingly, disclosing publicly information which could be to the detriment of our State and National security.

I would hope that all members would act in the spirit of the foregoing.

21. COCKBURN SOUND NAVAL BASE

Nuclear Vessels: Environmental Hazards

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Is he aware of the capacity of living organisms to concentrate radionuclides within themselves?
- (2) What action will he take in the event of Cockburn Sound being used by nuclear powered warships, to prevent such matter entering the food chain?
- (3) Is he aware that children under two years of age in particular have extreme sensitivity to irradiation of their thyroids by iodine 131?
- (4) Is he aware that radiation exposures do not always show immediate effects and, therefore, may not reveal their mutagenic or carcinogenic properties for several decades?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (4) I refer the member to my response to question 20 on today's notice paper.

22. PORTS

Nuclear Vessels: Commonwealth Inquiry

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Is he aware that an environmental impact enquiry into the environmental hazards of nuclear powered ships entering Australian ports, has been abandoned by the Fraser Government?
- (2) If so, what representations has he made to the Australian Government requesting the study to continue?
- (3) Is he aware that it was not the policy of the McMahon Government for nuclear ships to use Australian facilities?
- (4) Does he agree with the McMahon Government's refusal to allow the use of such facilities by these vessels or is he in agreement with the Fraser Government's attitude?
- (5) Will he support any move for an impact statement to be made available to the public, so that a proper public debate can take place?
- (6) Did he, as a member of the Environment Council, support a statement by Mr J. Berinson, the then Minister for the Environment, that there should be a public enquiry into the use of Cockburn Sound by nuclear-powered vessels before commissioners?
- (7) Is it a fact that the Environment Council unanimously agreed to Mr Berinson's proposal?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) No. On the contrary, at a recent meeting of the Standing Committee of the Australian Environment Council, the Commonwealth representative re-affirmed the intention to continue with the study.
- (2) Further to that meeting, my department has again been in touch with Canberra seeking an early release of the relevant environmental information.
- (3) to (5) I refer the member to my response to question 20 on today's notice paper.
- (6) and (7) No. Mr Berinson made no such statement related to Cockburn Sound at any meeting of the Australian Environment Council.

23. COCKBURN SOUND NAVAL BASE

Nuclear Vessels: Notification on Use

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Would the Government or the Environmental Protection Authority be informed prior to the

event that any foreign warship using *HMAS Stirling*, was nuclear-powered?

- (2) Is he aware that in 1973 the United States Atomic Energy Commission recorded 861 abnormal events at nuclear-powered plants, of which 371 were considered to have a hazardous potential?
- (3) Is he aware that last month, radioactive material was actually being discharged in Long Island Sound from the Millstone Nuclear Reactor at Waterfall, Connecticut?
- (4) Is he aware that the United States Government is taking very seriously, as shown by its investigation of the possibility, a theory that a steam explosion could be triggered in a nuclear reactor, thereby spreading radioactivity and that such an occurrence is possible with any reactor on shore or afloat?
- (5) Is he familiar with the radioactive leakage from warships that has occurred in Sasebo and Yokosuka harbours in Japan?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (5) I refer the member to my response to question 20 on today's notice paper.

24.

MISSILES DEFENCE

Capital Cities

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware of the stated policy of the Queensland Premier, Johannes Bjelke-Petersen, as quoted in the *National Times* of 7th-12th July, 1975 and other newspapers, that Australian capital cities should be defended with missiles?
- (2) Does his department possess any information to the effect that no city in the United States or in Asia is defended by such missiles?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) This is not the sort of information the member could expect me to disclose.

25. COCKBURN SOUND NAVAL BASE

Nuclear Vessels: Thermal Discharge

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Does he have information indicating that in the event of Cockburn Sound being entered by nuclear powered warships the level of permissible and intentional leakage would be that which has been established by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of the United States?

- (2) What thermal discharge is to be expected as a result of the release of liquid from the cooling system of the nuclear reactor?
- (3) What is the maximum temperature elevation allowable so that there will be no significant effect upon biological life depending on the waters of Cockburn Sound?
- (4) Is he aware that such a temperature elevation may destroy life and in other cases may inhibit or prevent breeding and the propagation of certain species?
- (5) Is he aware that siting and licensing procedures normally preclude the construction of nuclear-powered plants near large urban areas and that in effect bringing ships into Cockburn Sound will mean the temporary siting of nuclear reactors near a main centre of population?
- (6) Is he aware that a small amount of radioactive waste in gaseous form is released into the environment from any nuclear reactor?
- (7) Does he have information indicating that in the case of a warship, the usual reactor procedure would be followed of condensing these gaseous wastes and holding the distillate for a period of time sufficient to allow the decay of the radioactive products?
- (8) Would the condensed vapours be then discharged into the atmosphere through filters as is the normal reactor procedure?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (8) I refer the member to my response to question 20 on today's notice paper.

26. COCKBURN SOUND NAVAL BASE

Nuclear Vessels: Safety Precautions

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) Does he aver his earlier reported statement that a letter from the former Prime Minister, Mr. W. McMahon to the then Premier, Hon. J. T. Tonkin in 1971, relating to the use of *HMAS Stirling* by nuclear-powered warships, cannot be found?
- (2) If so, will he table the file to which such a letter would normally be attached?
- (3) Is his denial that such a letter was sent to the then Premier, Hon. J. T. Tonkin in 1971 an assertion that Mr W. McMahon was not prepared to admit to the indisputable fact that radioactive contamination of the waters at Cockburn Sound would occur?

- (4) In the event of nuclear-powered warships using the Cockburn naval facility, what safety precautions will be insisted upon by the government invoking its sovereign power to protect the environment?
- (5) What monitoring will be carried out and by whom, in the event of a nuclear-powered warship entering Cockburn Sound?
- (6) Is it a fact that United States nuclear-powered warships have visited Exmouth Gulf?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes. A further search has been made by senior officers of the Premier's Department.
- (2) No.
- (3) The significance and relevance of the question is not apparent.
- (4) to (6) See answer to question 20.

27. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Sections of Act: Applications

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

Upon what occasions have the following sections of the Environmental Protection Act been invoked, utilised or put into effect—

- 8,
- 30 (4) (b),
- 30 (4) (d),
- 30 (4) (j),
- 30 (4) (k),
- 36,
- 37,
- 39,
- 44?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- 8 —None.
- 30(4) (b)—None.
- 30(4) (d)—None.
- 30(4) (j)—This has been done on numerous occasions.
- 30(4) (k)—I refer to previous answer.
- 36 —None to date.
- 37 —None to date.
- 39 —None to date.
- 44 —None to date.

28. COCKBURN SOUND

Environmental Protection: Tabling of Scott Report

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

Will he table the report prepared by W. D. Scott on Cockburn Sound?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

Yes, the report is hereby tabled. Members will know that it has already been made public.

The report was tabled (see paper No. 115.)

29. TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTRES

Priority of Establishment

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

- (1) Will he advise the present priority listing with respect to establishment dates of the following technical education centres:—

Kalgoorlie/Boulder;
Geraldton;
Karratha;
Kwinana?

- (2) Are funds expected to be allocated during this forthcoming budget to begin establishment of the Kwinana technical education centre?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Kalgoorlie-Boulder—Decision deferred pending consideration of recommendations in the Partridge Report.

Geraldton—Contract has been let for site works and tenders for first stage of building to be called soon. Kwinana and Karratha—Commencement depends upon availability of funds and no firm date can be given.

- (2) Funding will be considered when budget is finalised and the extent of funds for capital works is known.

30. STOCK, ROCKINGHAM AND FORREST-PHOENIX ROADS

Dual Carriageways

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the expected date for the completion of construction of the Stock Road dual-carriageway between—

(a) South Street and Winterfold Road;

(b) Winterfold Road and Forrest Road?

- (2) When is it expected that the dual-carriageway will be constructed between Forrest Road and Phoenix Road?

- (3) What other sections of stock Road/Rockingham Road are intended to be upgraded to dual-carriageway—

(a) during the 1976-77 financial year; and

(b) during the 1977-78 financial year?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) It is expected that the duplication of Stock Road from South Street to Winterfold Road and from Winterfold Road to Forrest Road will be completed by May 31, 1976.

- (2) Another carriageway should be constructed between Forrest Road and Phoenix Road by 31st July, 1976.

- (3) (a) and (b) Subject to funds being available, the section from the Stock Road-Rockingham Road junction to the Cockburn Road junction will be upgraded to dual carriageway standard during the 1976-77 financial year.

31. TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Rockingham-Thomas Roads Intersection

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Transport:

When is it considered likely that automatic traffic signals will be installed at the junction of Rockingham Road and Thomas Road, Kwinana?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

It is unlikely that this location will be considered prior to the 1978-79 programme in view of the many other intersections with higher priority.

32. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City of Stirling: Retaining Wall Dispute

Mr YOUNG, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Will he ascertain and advise the current position in regard to any action that may have been taken by the City of Stirling to resolve the matter of dispute between Messrs. Kensitt and Kent and the City of Stirling in respect of the provision of a retaining wall between the Kensitt and Kent properties in Scarborough?

- (2) Will he give consideration to special legislation if it is necessary to protect Mr Kensitt against the possibility of severe damage to his property?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) The Town Clerk, City of Stirling, has advised:

(a) An informal meeting was held on 17th March in the City of Stirling Council Chamber attended by the Mayor, some councillors and officers, a council solicitor, Mr Kent, Mrs Kent Snr., Mr Kensitt and *Daily News* reporter, Mr Guy Daniel.

(b) At this meeting Mr Kent undertook to let Council have a letter within 14 days; i.e. by 31st March, advising of his intent in regard to completion of the retaining wall. Following this, Mr Kent agreed to

submit engineer's details for completion of the wall and then proceed with construction.

- (c) On 25th March, letters were received by the Mayor from Mr D. O. Kent and Mrs Kent Snr. Mr Kent advised of his endeavours to obtain satisfaction for all concerned and Mrs Kent stated that she proposed to complete the balance of the wall (approximately 20 feet) by either using Humes Crib Walls and concrete reinforcement on top or by the method as per sketch previously submitted.

- (d) A summons had previously been served on Mr D. O. Kent under section 406 of the Local Government Act to obtain eviction from the Kent home but further action will now depend upon the outcome of the undertakings now received.

- (2) The question of the law relating to retaining walls generally has been referred to the Law Reform Commission which is preparing a working paper on the subject.

33. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Responsibility for Administration

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

- (1) To whom is the Mental Health Services directly responsible?
- (2) Does the Government intend to make the Mental Health Services directly responsible to the Commissioner of Public Health?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) The Minister for Health.
- (2) The question has not been considered.

34. TRADE UNIONS

Membership: Sweeney Recommendations

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Does he intend to introduce legislation resulting from the Sweeney recommendations dealing with the problems arising from the Moore v. Doyle case?
- (2) If so, will the legislation be complementary to the amendments made by the Australian Government?
- (3) If so, when will the legislation be introduced?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) to (3) This matter is still under consideration by the States. The Federal Minister for Employment

and Industrial Relations has also indicated that he may be reviewing the situation. The Western Australian Government does not intend to introduce legislation at this time and certainly not until the matter is further considered and clarified by the States and the Commonwealth.

35. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Silica: Machinery and Imports

Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Will he advise who can supply machinery for the crushing of silica?
- (2) How much silica is imported into Australia and at what price?
- (3) Could he supply the names of the firms who are importing silica?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) A number of Western Australian suppliers are listed in the *Western Australian Manufacturers Directory*, 1975 edition, under Mining Plant and Mineral Processing Equipment. I will be happy to hand a copy with my compliments to the member.

Other suppliers can be found in the yellow pages of the telephone book under Mining and Quarrying Machinery and/or Supplies.

- (2) In 1974-1975, 1 121.1 tonnes were imported mainly from Sweden at an average price of \$107 per tonne.
- (3) This information is not available.

36. DRAINAGE.

Lynwood: Filling of Open Drain

Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) In view of the drowning tragedies which have occurred in open drains in the past, will he advise if it is the intention of the Metropolitan Water Board to pipe and fill the open drain that runs along Finchley Street, Ellesmere Road, and part of Owensville Avenue before winter of this year?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) The Water Board advises that one section of the Lynwood drainage system has been piped and that it proposes to proceed with the piping of a further section in the near future. However, since the drain referred to is fenced and is not considered to constitute a hazard, there are no current proposals to pipe this section.

37. **SCHOOL AT KENWICK***Land Acquisition*

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

- (1) Will he advise whether the Education Department purchased land in the Kenwick area for the purpose of erecting a primary school?
- (2) If "Yes" what is the exact location?
- (3) If answers to (1) and (2) are "Yes" when can it be expected the construction of the school will commence?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) to (3) The Education Department has had Reserve 30345 in Kenwick Road for some years. Apart from the existing Primary School in Moore Street, this is the only other site currently owned by the Department in Kenwick. There is no intention to proceed with the erection of a new school at the present time.

38. **LAND VALUATION***Caledonian Hall, Kalgoorlie*

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Would he please advise whether as a result of an appraisal of land (and improvement) evaluations recently carried out by officers of the State Taxation Department the Caledonian Hall in Brookman Street, Kalgoorlie, was valued 700% more than previously, whereas other halls in the district suffered increases in valuation of approximately 100%?
- (2) Is he aware that the Caledonian Hall is the headquarters of two non-profit making organisations, namely, the Caledonian Society of the Goldfields and the local branch of the pensioners' league?
- (3) Why in instances such as this do landholders have to go to tedious lengths to appeal against evaluations imposed by persons obviously unfamiliar with local conditions?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes, so far as the Caledonian Hall and quarters are concerned. As the annual valuations were for local authority purposes, I am not aware of which other halls are referred to in the question.
- (2) No, but this would not affect the assessment of the annual value.
- (3) The appeal procedure is laid down in the Local Government Act. The comment about the officers making the valuations is both unwarranted and unjustified, as the valuers concerned are well experienced in making valuations in the

area, and I am informed the town council is already seeking the assistance of the chief valuer in this matter.

39. **EDUCATION***Isolated Children's Hostel, Kalgoorlie*

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has a decision been made whereby some meaningful State funding can be provided for the Isolated Children's Parents Association Hostel at Kalgoorlie, even if only to acknowledge the initiative of parents to demonstrate a need for such a hostel—when according to established criteria the need could not be met by the establishment of a High Schools Hostels Authority hostel?
- (2) If "Yes" would he please furnish details of assistance to be given?
- (3) If "No" would he please explain the situation?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) \$5 000 for furnishings.
- (3) Not applicable.

40. **KALGOORLIE SCHOOL***Land for Playground Area*

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that approximately two years ago the Education Department agreed to have steps taken to close off a portion of Forrest Street, Kalgoorlie, to allow Kalgoorlie Primary School to incorporate the recovered area to compensate in terms of playground area for the construction of the new open area block?
- (2) When can this work be expected to be undertaken?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The portion of Forrest Street was incorporated in the Kalgoorlie Primary School reserve on 27th June, 1975.

41. **SOUTH KALGOORLIE SCHOOL***Improvements*

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the recommendation of the former Minister for Education the Hon. J. Dolan, that the Education Department should give a high

priority to the replacement of the decrepit building serving as a library at South Kalgoorlie school with a resource centre?

- (2) When is such replacement expected to commence?
- (3) Is he further aware of the recommendations of the former Minister for Education relating to—
 - (a) completion of fencing of the boundaries of South Kalgoorlie school; and
 - (b) sealing off by a suitable wind proof fence of the school incinerator to prevent the dispersement of refuse and ash by wind action causing annoyance to nearby householders?
- (4) When will such work be undertaken as referred to in (3) (a) and (b)?
- (5) What plans does the Education Department have for the old and original brick building at South Kalgoorlie school which is patently in a dangerous condition?
- (6) Is he aware that South Kalgoorlie school does not now possess a cricket pitch (formerly a concrete one) since the erection of the new pre-primary school?
- (7) Is it planned to provide adjacent to South Kalgoorlie school a grassed oval to serve the needs of that school and other Government and non-Government schools in the area?
- (8) If so, when?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The replacement of the library building will be dependent on fund availability and the priority of South Kalgoorlie Primary School in relation to the priorities of other schools throughout the State.
- (3) (a) and (b) Yes.
- (4) (a) Funds are not available for this work at present.
- (b) The Public Works Department has been requested to prepare a cost estimate for a suitable fence around the incinerator area. On receipt of the estimate, the proposed works will be listed for consideration in the 1976-77 grounds improvement programme.
- (5) There are no plans for the replacement of the building at this time.
- (6) Yes. The Public Works Department has been requested to provide a cricket pitch on an alternative site on the cricket oval.

- (7) and (8) The matter of grassed areas for schools in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder area is still under discussion.

42. KALGOORLIE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Additions

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Did the Minister refer to the newly formed Hospitals Development Programme Committee the question of major developments and additions to the Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital?
- (2) Has this committee made a report concerning the said hospital?
- (3) If "Yes" would he advise whether early steps will be taken to commence additional works at Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital?
- (4) If the decision has been made to shelve such additional works how does he reconcile this with the Premier's oft made espousals of his Government's solicitude and hopes for the future of Kalgoorlie and its districts?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) Answered by (2).
- (4) The overall requirements of the region is to be further investigated and reviewed by the committee at their next meeting.

43. FISHERIES

Rock Lobster Advisory Committee

Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

What is the composition of the rock lobster advisory committee?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

The composition of the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee is set out in section 5B of the Fisheries Act. The members are—

- B. K. Bowen, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (Chairman);
- N. E. McLaughlan, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife;
- J. B. Fitzhardinge, rock lobster fisherman;
- G. H. Greentree, rock lobster fisherman;
- D. Morphet, rock lobster fisherman;
- R. D. Harrison, representative of Rock Lobster and Prawnning Association of Australia;
- F. A. C. Connell, representative of Rock Lobster and Prawnning Association of Australia.

44. HEALTH

Meat Carcases: Transport Regulation

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

- (1) When was the regulation promulgated requiring chilled carcases to be hung rather than stacked in transport?
- (2) What were the circumstances surrounding the introduction of this regulation?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) 2nd July, 1969.
- (2) To ensure hygienic transport, and retention of chilling temperature.

45. STATE GOVERNMENT
INSURANCE OFFICE*Contracts: Fire, Marine and General Fund*

Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

- (1) What insurance contracts are arranged through the State Government Fire, Marine and General Fund, administered by the SGIO?
- (2) What was the premium income for contracts arranged through this fund in 1974-75 financial year?
- (3) Is the business arranged through this fund declarable under the Fire Brigades Act?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Most contracts of insurance effected by Government departments and instrumentalities and some contracts in which a department or instrumentality is financially interested.
- (2) \$2 192 606.
- (3) No.

46. AUSTRALIAN LAND AND CATTLE
CO. LTD.*Winding Up*

Mr JAMIESON, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware of the notice for a petition to wind up Australian Land & Cattle Co. Ltd. that appeared on page 894 of the *Government Gazette*, 26th March, 1976?
- (2) What percentage of the cattle throughput of the Broome Meat Works came from the Australian Land & Cattle Co. Ltd. in each of the last three years?
- (3) Has this company approached the Government for financial assistance?
- (4) If so, what are the details of the approach and the resultant Government action?

- (5) Is the impending closure of this company likely to have any great financial repercussions on Broome or any other northern town?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) This information is not available.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The two recent approaches were—
 - (i) For \$4.73 million to guarantee interest repayments in respect to refinancing the company's structure with a merchant banker.
 - (ii) For a guarantee for \$650 000 to enable the company to service creditors (including the petitioner CDFC Australia Limited).

The applications were considered and declined.

- (5) There could be some repercussions should the company be wound up. We are watching the position and are hopeful of some constructive solution being found.

47. BEEF ASSISTANCE SCHEME
Finance and Applications

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

- (1) What are the total amounts of funds made available under the beef assistance scheme from the—
 - (a) State Government;
 - (b) Commonwealth Government?
- (2) What number of applications for assistance under the beef assistance scheme have—
 - (a) been received from producers in Western Australia;
 - (b) been approved;
 - (c) been rejected?
- (3) What amount of finance is still available for allocation under the scheme?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) (a) \$800 000.
(b) \$800 000.
- (2) (a) 337.
(b) 154.
(c) 173.
- (3) \$719 765.

48. RURAL RECONSTRUCTION
SCHEME*Finance and Applications*

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

- (1) What has been the total amount of finance received by this State from the Commonwealth Government for disbursement under the rural reconstruction scheme?

- (2) How many applications have been received by the Rural Reconstruction Authority for assistance for—
- debt reconstruction;
 - farm build up, industry severance loans or grants in each of the years since the Rural Reconstruction Authority commenced operation?
- (3) How much has been disbursed as loans for each of the purposes indicated in (2) in each of the years of operation?
- (4) What amount of finance does the Rural Reconstruction Authority still have available for disbursement, and until what date is this amount required to last?
- (5) Will further funds be available for the Rural Reconstruction Authority after 30th June this year?
- (6) How much per annum is the Western Australian Government required to repay the Commonwealth Government under the rural reconstruction agreement and when does repayment start?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) \$26 991 243.
- (2) (a) 1 657.
- (b) Farm Build-up.
1972—221,
1973—153,
1974—105,
1975—186,
1976—78 (to end of February).
Rehabilitation Loans.
1972—31,
1973—21,
1974—3,
1975—0,
1976—1.
- There is no scheme known as industry severance loans.

(3)—

Debt Reconstruction	Farm Build-up	Rehabilitation
1973 8 652 116	4 807 103	38 000
1974 2 237 104	3 474 255	16 000
1975 1 350 329	2 760 355	3 000
1976 1 681 183	1 915 440	2 000

Up to June 1972, disbursement was not segregated and the total disbursement up to that date was 5 601 724.

- (4) \$3 276 538 to 30th June 1976.
- (5) The current agreement expires on 30th June 1976. Some preliminary talks have taken place in Canberra at which State authorities have put forward views supporting extension of the agreement. No decision yet received from the Department of Primary Industry, Canberra.
- (6) Repayments of principal are made over a term of 17 years at a current interest 6% p.a.

Amount of repayment depends upon receipt of advances from the Commonwealth.

Repayment starts on the 15th day of July of the 4th financial year that wholly occurs after the advance was made by the Commonwealth to the State.

49. ROAD TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Collection Centre: Premises

Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Traffic:

- Will he advise why the Road Traffic Authority's collection centre has been transferred from the Rural and Industries Bank, Barrack Street, to the basement of Boans Limited Murray Street?
- Will he further advise what rent was payable to the Rural and Industries Bank, Barrack Street, per annum and what rent will now be paid to Boans Limited per annum?
- Will he also advise why a collection authority cannot be set up to collect payment of infringement notices at the headquarters of the Road Traffic Authority in Mount Street?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- Rural and Industries Bank requested that the authority vacate their premises.
- No rental at Rural and Industries Bank and no rental to Boans Ltd.
- It has always been considered that, as an enforcement body, the Road Traffic Authority and previously the Police Traffic Branch, should not act as an agent for the collection of fines and penalties. It has always been judicial procedure that this should be done by the Crown Law Department.

50. HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE

Acquisition

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- Is it a fact that the Government is seeking to buy or has bought Her Majesty's Theatre, Perth?
- If "Yes" is it not a fact that it is his intention consistent with the spirit and nature of such a venture to rename the theatre The Peoples' Theatre, The Peoples' State Theatre or The State Theatre?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- The question is a surprising one, as the Government's current negotiations with Sir Norman Rydge have been widely publicised.

- (2) I cannot assess whether the Member's question is to be treated seriously, whether it is an attempt at humour, or whether it reflects the Member's socialist beliefs.

However, whatever the intention of the Member, I can assure him that any attempt to change the name—which has certainly not been contemplated by me—would meet with strong opposition, especially from those who have been so vocal in their demands to preserve the theatre because of the era it represents.

51. HEALTH

Lollies: Similarity to Capsules

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

- (1) Is the Minister aware of concern as to the similarity in appearance of certain lollies to pharmaceutical capsules and the consequent risk of children consuming pharmaceutical capsules in the mistaken belief that they are lollies?
- (2) If "No" will he become aware forthwith and do something about this?
- (3) If "Yes" what has he done about this?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) The Government investigates specific instances which are brought to its notice from time to time, but it is not possible to guarantee that pharmaceutical capsules, in whatever form they are presented, will not be attractive to unsupervised young children. The responsibility of preventing this lies with the parents or other adults in charge of such children.

Labelling requirements for scheduled pharmaceuticals and hazardous substances include the directive "KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN" to alert parents or other responsible persons to the potential dangers of leaving pharmaceuticals or hazardous substances within access of children.

52. COCKBURN SOUND NAVAL BASE

Nuclear Vessels;

Discussions with Commonwealth

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) Have discussions been held with the Australian Government so as to clarify the intent of that Government with respect to a statement by the Minister for Defence,

Hon. J. Killen, MHR, that nuclear-powered ships would be able to use Cockburn Sound naval facility?

- (2) If so, have these discussions attempted to resolve the conflict between the exercise of the Australian Government's defence powers and the sovereign rights of the State to protect the environment of its people?
- (3) If the answer to (2) is "Yes" what have been the results of such discussions?
- (4) What assurances and monitorial proofs concerning radiational hazards will the Government insist upon before such vessels enter the Sound?
- (5) Has he sought from the Minister for Defence the meaning and interpretation of the comment: "No nuclear ship will be allowed to use Cockburn Sound without all the necessary precautions being taken to protect the environment and people living within close proximity"?
- (6) If so, what will the necessary precautions be and what part will the State Government have in seeing that they are implemented?
- (7) Has he sought assurances from the Australian Government that the statement of P. Richardson, MHR, that support facilities "are not geared to accept nuclear-powered vessels" is factually based?
- (8) If so, what assurances have been given that nuclear-powered vessels will not use Cockburn Sound?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

See reply to question 20.

53.

COCKBURN SOUND

Industrial Effluent

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) As stated on opening day, will he inform the public of the details of wastes being discharged daily into Cockburn Sound by—

Cummings Smith British Petroleum;

Australian Iron and Steel;

Broken Hill Proprietary Ltd.;

British Petroleum;

State Electricity Commission;

Cockburn Cement;

Alcoa;

Western Mining Corporation;

Kwinana Nitrogen Company;

Chemical Industries (Kwinana)

Pty. Ltd.;

Commonwealth Industrial Gases?

- (2) If he asserts that no such discharge is taking place as a result of the activities of any of the foregoing, will he name those which are not causing degradation of the sound?
- (3) If he will not disclose such information, how does he justify such an action?
- (4) If in order to prevent the continuing despoliation of the Sound, it could be necessary to renegotiate agreements with various corporations, will he give an undertaking to commence such negotiations forthwith with the intention of re-enacting the appropriate legislative sanctions?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) The Member will be aware that today, in this House, the Minister for Conservation and the Environment tabled the W. D. Scott Report to the Environmental Protection Authority on Cockburn Sound.

This Report was commissioned in order to provide the Environmental Protection Authority with a comprehensive summary of present studies on knowledge of ecological factors in Cockburn Sound.

Subsequent discussions have been held to develop in more detail all ecological management of Cockburn Sound.

Plans are currently being developed by relevant parties and it is not deemed appropriate at this point in time to make further comments until these plans have been finalised.

- (2) to (4) Answered by (1).

54. RAILWAYS

Derailments

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many derailments have occurred during the past 12 months on this State's Government railway lines and what was the cause of each?
- (2) Will he specify the derailments and give the resultant cost involved in each case?
- (3) At the present time, on which lines are reductions in—
 - (a) loads; and
 - (b) speeds operating,
 because of requirements of safety?
- (4) Which additional lines are at present being considered for reductions in either loads or speeds because of safety requirements?

- (5) Where reductions in loads or speeds during the last 12 months have been applied, in what number of instances has action been the result of—

- (a) union representation;
- (b) department initiative?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The information requested by the Member will take some time to collate. I will forward it to him as soon as it is available.

However, I would request that the member confers with me at a later stage about this matter to see whether we can agree on a compromise because I am advised by the department that it will take 120 man hours to obtain this information at a cost of \$800.

55. RAILWAYS

Perth-Albany Service: Replacement

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

In view of the fact that Mr Leon Watt, the Member for Albany, announced in the *Albany Advertiser* that he had assurances from him that the Perth-Albany train will not be replaced by a bus service, and in view of the statement by the Commissioner of Railways, which appeared in the January issue of *Westrail* where he said: "I consider, with the exception of of the *Prospector* and perhaps the *Australind*, bus services should play a major role in providing country passenger service", will he please qualify the position and advise whether it is the intention to replace the Albany train service by a bus service?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

There are no current plans to curtail or suspend the remaining *Albany-Progress* passenger trains. I might add that the member for Albany advised me he had notified *The Albany Advertiser* accordingly and confirmed it in writing at a later stage.

The Commissioner's comments in the January issue of *Westrail* were made in the context of the role which the railway road services may be called to play in the future.

56. DONNYBROOK POLICE STATION

Replacement

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

- (1) Is it correct that the Donnybrook police station has been condemned by the health inspector?

- (2) If "Yes" will he please advise when a new police station and quarters is to be erected at Donnybrook?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Donnybrook is currently listed for a replacement stage 2 police station and quarters for officer-in-charge on the 1976-77 proposed loan works programme with a high priority.

57. ROAD TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Housing for Employees

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

- (1) Will he advise, since the Road Traffic Authority was established, whether the authority has purchased homes for employees, the location and the cost involved in each purchase?
- (2) Will he also advise how many houses have been purchased or erected for the use of police constables for the same period, the location and cost involved?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) The Road Traffic Authority does not provide accommodation for its employees, and accommodation is provided through the the Government Employees' Housing Authority. This question should be addressed to my colleague, the Minister for Housing.

58. HEALTH SURVEY

Stock Slaughtering on Farms

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will the Minister advise whether the Public Health Department conducted a survey in Donnybrook during the months of November/December 1975 to ascertain if any slaughtering of animals was taking place on farming properties?
- (2) If "Yes" will he kindly advise the number of investigations carried out and the results of the investigations?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) One.
- (b) No evidence found of organised illegal commercial slaughtering.

59. ROAD TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Overtime

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

Since the Road Traffic Authority was established, will he advise the amount of overtime worked by patrolmen and others attached to the authority and the cost involved?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Overtime worked by the Road Traffic Authority June 1, 1975, to March 31, 1976—

Hours. Amount.

		\$
Road Patrol	73 795	499 069
Police	19 188	97 385
Public Service	1 730	8 071
	94 713	\$604 525

60. TRANSPORT

Fast Bus Services: Trials

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Transport:

As he made an announcement in *The West Australian* on 25th October, 1975, that he was considering ways of introducing fast bus systems in Perth for a trial period, will he please advise if the trials have been introduced, where they were introduced and the results of the trials conducted?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

No trials as yet have been introduced.

Following recent advice to the Main Roads Department of problem locations in bus access, that department is currently evaluating means of speeding bus services.

61.

POLICE

SP Bookmaking Inquiry

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

As he advised me in the State Parliament on Thursday, 9th October, 1975, that inquiries were being conducted by the police into illegal SP bookmaking operations in Perth following inquiries conducted by racing stewards, will he please advise the conclusions of the inquiry?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Inquiries by Police failed to obtain sufficient evidence to enable any person to be charged with illegal bookmaking in connection with the Connell incident at Kalgoorlie.

62. STATE FINANCE

Mini Budget

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Premier:

Is he aware of any variation in economic circumstances that would deem desirable a "mini" budget or similar package of financial measures prior to the time when the Government would usually introduce its Budget?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

Not at this stage.

63. TRAFFIC

Fatal Accident: Vincent-Charles Streets

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Traffic:

(1) Was there a fatal traffic accident at the corner of Vincent and Charles Streets in North Perth at approximately 7.30 a.m. on 22nd March, 1975?

(2) If so, who was killed?

(3) Was a police inquiry conducted into the accident?

(4) Which officer conducted the inquiry, if any?

(5) What was the result of any such inquiry?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) William Joseph McWilliam.

(3) Yes.

(4) Police Constable R. J. K. Smith, No. 4150 (since resigned).

(5) John Leonard Fox committed for trial Supreme Court on charge of manslaughter. Inquest was held in absence of Fox who could not be located, believed to be in Eastern States. Warrant issued for arrest.

64. CORONER'S INQUIRY

William Joseph McWilliam

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Justice:

(1) Was a coroner's inquiry conducted into the death in a traffic accident of William Joseph McWilliam?

(2) If so, when was any such inquiry held?

(3) What were the coroner's findings/recommendations as a result of any such inquiry?

(4) What action was taken as a result of the coroner's findings/recommendations?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) 9th December, 1975.

(3) (a) William Joseph McWilliam died on the 22nd March, 1975, at Royal Perth Hospital from haemorrhage from liver, spleen and kidney. The deceased suffered the injuries at approximately 7.30 a.m. on the 22nd March, 1975, when as the driver of a Datsun car No. UBQ 647 proceeding east on Vincent Street, North Perth, when, at the intersection with Charles Street, it was struck on the right side by a Toyota station sedan USU 306 being driven north in Charles Street by John Leonard Fox and the Datsun car was pushed by the collision against a Honda car No. XEF 805 also being driven east in Vincent Street by Tarja Urvikko.

(b) I commit John Leonard Fox for trial at the Supreme Court of Western Australia, Perth, at the January sittings, 1976, on the charge of manslaughter.

(4) John Leonard Fox was indicted on a charge of manslaughter and a warrant for his arrest is in force. Accused has not, however, been apprehended as his whereabouts are unknown. He is believed to be out of the State of Western Australia.

65. "NEW PRESS" PUBLICATION

Inquiry into Article

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Premier:

(1) Did he cause any inquiries to be made into an article in a recent issue of *New Press*?

(2) If "Yes" what was the title of the article into which inquiries were made?

(3) Would he please detail the nature of the inquiries including the names of those people questioned and the nature of the questions asked?

(4) What were the reasons for the inquiry?

(5) What action was taken as a result of the inquiry?

(6) If no action was taken, why was no action taken?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) to (6) This is a personal question not relating to public affairs with which I, as Premier, am connected, or to a matter of administration for which I am responsible

66. HOUSING

Koolyanobbing: Dampier Mining Co.

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has the Dampier Mining Company been given authority over the allocation of State Housing Commission homes in Koolyanobbing?
- (2) If "Yes" under what conditions was this authority over allocation ceded to the company?
- (3) What obligation does the company have to provide housing for other than its own employees, e.g., postal commission employees?
- (4) If obligations as referred to in (3) do not exist, will he explain the reasons for the Government's policy in this regard?
- (5) Was one Mr Sethick and his family evicted from a SHC home when he terminated his employment with the Dampier Mining Company?
- (6) Has he caused any inquiries to be made in the incident involving Mr Sethick's eviction?
- (7) If "Yes" what was the outcome of any such inquiry?
- (8) If the answer to (1) is "No" will he outline full details about the authority exercised by the SHC over homes at Koolyanobbing?
- (9) What is SHC policy towards the provision of housing for people who leave the employment of the Dampier Mining Company to pursue another occupation in the town?
- (10) Is he aware that the recently evicted Mrs Sethick was the town's postmistress?
- (11) Is there any evidence to suggest that the eviction of Mr Sethick and his family was connected in any way with Mrs Sethick's employment as postmistress?
- (12) Will he undertake to endeavour to provide housing in Koolyanobbing for Mr and Mrs Sethick and family so that the couple can pursue their activities in the town?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (12) The Broken Hill Proprietary Company's Integrated Steel Works Agreement (validated by Act No. 67 of 1960) contains specific provisions relating to housing for company employees at Koolyanobbing. I refer the member to that agreement and, in particular, to clause 20, subclauses (2) and (3).

In the light of these provisions, no inquiry into the circumstances of an eviction is warranted.

The Housing Commission has no properties in Koolyanobbing other than those subject to the agreement, and currently holds no applications for assistance in that town.

67.

HARDY INLET

Environmental Report

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) With regard to the Hardy Inlet study has the report from the Estuarine and Marine Advisory Committee been received by the Environmental Protection Authority?
- (2) If the report has been received will he indicate the date of receipt and when details will be made public?
- (3) In connection with deferred mining applications in the area concerned, who will make the final decision whether mining will be permitted?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) The Governor in Executive Council following a recommendation by my colleague, the Minister for Mines, after consultation with myself.

68.

KWINANA FREEWAY

Footbridge

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the reason for the delay in completing the new footbridge over the Kwinana Freeway near Hardy Street?
- (2) Will the delay occasion additional costs to the original estimate?
- (3) If so, what is the anticipated completion cost?
- (4) When is it anticipated the footbridge will be accessible to the public?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The construction is approximately eight weeks behind the original programme due to the fact that the difficulties of constructing the tight curves needed to fit this bridge into the environment were under-estimated.
- (2) Yes. Some of the additional costs are due to cost escalation.
- (3) \$235 000.
- (4) In about six weeks' time.

69. TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Perth Girls' School Premises

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

- (1) Is the Government planning to demolish the old Perth Girls' School in James Street which is currently accommodating students attending technical classes?
- (2) If so, what is to be established in place of the school?
- (3) When will demolition commence?
- (4) Where will students currently occupying the school be accommodated?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) It is anticipated that the first stage of a new technical college in the area will be provided.
- (3) January, 1978.
- (4) Students of Perth Technical College will be accommodated in the St. George's Terrace buildings, the remaining buildings in James Street, and such additional accommodation as is required.

70. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Off-peak Concessions

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

When can a decision be expected regarding the possible introduction of off-peak electricity concessions similar to those existing in other States?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

As a result of very comprehensive and elaborate studies of all aspects and having regard to the overall review of the commission's operations, a decision is planned to be arrived at before the end of this financial year.

71. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Revenue Increase

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Based on sales for the 12 months from 1st August, 1974 to 31st July, 1975, what was the increased revenue from electricity charges increased from 1st August, 1974?
- (2) Using the same formula for the same period what did the State Electricity Commission contribute to general revenue resulting from the Government's levy of 3% on the commission's income?

- (3) Based on sales for the 12 months from 13th January, 1975 to 12th January, 1976, what was the increased revenue from electricity charges increased from 13th January, 1975?

- (4) Using the same formula for the same period what did the SEC contribute to general revenue resulting from the Government's levy of 3% on the commission's income?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) to (4) The information requested by the member for Clontarf is being prepared but as it will take a considerable time and expense to do it, I will have to give him the full answer at a later stage.

72.

HEALTH

Psychologists: Registration

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

- (1) Is it the Government's intention to introduce legislation to provide for the registration of psychologists this session of Parliament?
- (2) If so, will it be the autumn or spring session?
- (3) Will interested parties be given the opportunity of expressing an opinion on proposed legislation?
- (4) Who would such "interested parties" be?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) This will depend on drafting and feedback from interested parties.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The Western Australian Branches of the Australian Psychological Society, the Australian Medical Association, the Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, the Australian Association of Social Workers, the Association of Clinical Psychologists in Private Practice, the Church of Scientology and representatives of the four Government departments which comprised the working party to frame the guidelines of the legislation.

73.

ELECTION PROMISES

Nonimplementation

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Premier:

Could he please list the 56 election promises not yet implemented by the Liberal-National Country Party Government, as stated in *The West Australian* of 30th March, 1976?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I have made it clear that by the 30th June, 1976, the Government will publish a comprehensive list of all the Government's 1974 election promises, including those implemented, those in the process of being implemented, those to be implemented during the life of the present Parliament, and those that it will not be practicable to implement (with reasons where applicable).

In the meantime, no good purpose would be served in publishing the list he suggests, and which list is being progressively reduced, as is customary with any Government systematically implementing its election policies.

74. AGED PERSONS' FLATS

Narembeen

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Premier:

- (1) Were any aged persons' flats constructed at Narembeen with State Government funds used to augment finance supplied by the wheat board?
- (2) How are these flats managed?
- (3) Is it competent for the managing authority to determine that the 18-year-old son of a 68-year-old tenant, whose spouse died recently, shall not reside with his father?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (3) I am advised that aged persons' accommodation in Narembeen has been provided by utilising funding from the Grain Pool of Western Australia and a Commonwealth subsidy.

Management is vested in a local committee and the State Government has no management responsibility.

75. MARGINAL DAIRY FARMS ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Finance and Applications

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

- (1) What was the total amount of finance made available to this State under the marginal dairy farms assistance scheme?

- (2) How many applications were approved for loans to be expended on—

- (a) milk vats;
 - (b) structural improvements;
 - (c) property purchase,
- and what was the amount involved in each of these categories?

- (3) What was the number of applicants who were refused loans for—

- (a) milk vats;
- (b) structural improvements?

- (4) Does the Government propose to make concessional loans available to new market-milk quota holders who have been refused finance under the marginal dairy farms adjustment scheme?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) The total amount made available to this State under the Australian dairy adjustment programme, previously the marginal dairy farms adjustment scheme, was \$3 320 300.00.

(a) Milk vats	260	\$1 723 483
(b) Structural Improvements	43	301 098
(c) Property Purchase	18	993 821

Total \$3 020 300

Add funds for factory assistance committed 300 000

\$3 320 300

- (3) (a) 13 (A further 45 applications could not be considered because of lack of funds).
- (b) 17 (A further 24 applications could not be considered because of lack of funds).
- (4) A meeting between the Commonwealth Government and the State Government has been convened to discuss the provision of additional assistance through the Australian dairy adjustment programme.

76.

PRISONS

Inmates: Categories

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister representing the Chief Secretary:

- (1) How many persons were admitted to prisons for the years—1971-72, 1972-73, 1973-1974, 1974-75—under the following headings:

- (a) male;
- (b) female?

- (2) How many male juvenile persons were admitted to Fremantle Prison in the years above?

- (3) How many female juvenile persons were admitted to Fremantle Prison in the years above?

- (4) How many mentally abnormal persons are being accommodated in the hospital within Fremantle Prison?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

(1)	(a) male	(b) female
1971-72	7 393	1 328
1972-73	6 913	1 239
1973-74	5 742	1 052
1974-75	5 531	928

The above figures are for sentenced prisoners. Aggregate figures

are not available for trial and remand prisoners.

- (2) and (3) Statistical data concerning juveniles is not kept separately, the information is being retrieved and the member will be advised as soon as possible.

(4) Six.

77. INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

Statistics

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Has he arranged for Government departments, etc., to complete monthly returns indicating industrial accidents and time lost because of such accidents?
- (2) If so, will he table these statistics for the months of July to December 1975?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Statistics will be compiled and tabled within the next week.

78. WARNBRO SCHOOL

Tenders for Cluster

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

In relation to requests for a new "cluster" to be built at Warnbro Primary School—

- (1) Have tenders been called for the construction of a new cluster?
- (2) When were tenders called?
- (3) When is it expected that tenders will close?
- (4) If tenders have not been called when is it expected that tenders will be called?
- (5) When is it expected that work will begin on the new cluster?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) to (5) Documentation for a six-roomed cluster block and covered assembly is currently in preparation. Tenders will be called when documentation is completed. The building is scheduled for completion for the beginning of the 1977 school year.

79. RECREATION OFFICERS

Applications

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

- (1) Is it a fact that the Community Recreation Council called applications for recreation officers in February this year which closed 12th March of this year?
- (2) Is it a fact that the position of recreation officer has now been filled?

- (3) Is the Minister aware that at least one of the applicants for the position was given no acknowledgment as to receipt of his application and that before any acknowledgment was sent at all, to one or more of the other applicants?

- (4) Will the Minister ensure that the department extends normal courtesy to future applicants?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) No. However, the council received 78 applications for a clerical officer position closing on that date.
- (2) The clerical officer position has been filled.
- (3) Council records show that advice was sent to all applicants.

80. LAND AT DIANELLA

Purchase by M. and R. Kessell

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Housing:

Will he table all material relevant to the purchase of land at Dianella from the State Housing Commission by Drs. M. and R. Kessell?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

No. Dealings between any individual and the State Housing Commission are regarded as confidential. I strongly support the long standing attitude of previous Ministers and of the commission that such matters should not be made public.

81. TOWN PLANNING

Zoning Appeal: M. and R. Kessell

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Housing:

Will he table all documents, correspondence, files, etc., relating to an appeal—by Drs. M. and R. Kessell against the refusal by the Stirling City Council to grant an application for A.A. zoning use within a residential area?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

Matters relating to zoning use and appeals thereto do not come within the jurisdiction of the Minister for Housing, but lie between the appellant, the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning, the local authority and the Town Planning Board.

82. HOUSING

Country Building Contracts

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

- (1) How many country builders were

awarded contracts for the building of State Housing Commission houses in country areas in each of the years 1974 and 1975?

- (2) What was the largest number of houses built for the S.H.C. under contract by a country builder in each of the two years referred to above?
- (3) How many country builders to whom the S.H.C. has awarded contracts, have the capacity to construct more than 20 houses under the one contract?
- (4) How many country builders, to whom the S.H.C. has awarded contracts for the building of houses would be prevented from accepting tenders of more than 30 houses?
- (5) Under the proposed S.H.C. programme, for how many houses is it proposed to call *en bloc* tenders this year, in the following regions—
 - (a) Bunbury;
 - (b) Albany;
 - (c) Geraldton?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Excluding the north-west, 10 in 1974, and 18 in 1975.
- (2) Excluding the north-west, 14 units at Laverton in 1974, and 24 units at Geraldton in 1975.
- (3) and (4) It is not possible to give any useful answer to these questions. The capacity of a particular builder to undertake a particular contract depends on what arrangements he may make with other builders or with suppliers. I understand the hon. member has had a phone discussion with a senior officer of the Housing Commission and obtained information regarding current proposals for the country building programme. It is, therefore, relevant to remark that the answer to these two questions also involves the capacity or preparedness of the builder to employ apprentices directly or through his sub-contractors.
- (5) This information was provided in answer to a question without notice from the hon. member on 30th March 1976.

To that information I would add that the award of a contract will be largely conditional on the contractor being able to satisfy the contract condition requiring employment of apprentices in the ratio of not less than one apprentice for each five units in the contract.

It is relevant to this question to provide the information that since 1st January, 1976, the State Housing Commission has called 20 tenders in country centres. In eight of those, no tenders were received; one tender only was submitted in each of another nine centres; and one of these was subsequently withdrawn; and two tenders only in each of the remaining three centres.

This does not indicate real interest by country builders to tender for Housing Commission construction.

As the hon. member would be aware from his phone conversation, the *en bloc* tenders do not constitute the whole country programme for 1976-77. There will be additional construction under other programmes, and there will be a substantial number of housing units to be upgraded.

QUESTIONS (10): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. URANIUM

Exploration by Overseas Companies

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Mines: In connection with uranium exploration in Western Australia by overseas companies will he advise—

- (a) the names of companies either wholly or jointly holding mining tenements or temporary reserves;
- (b) the areas involved;
- (c) the dates of applications and approvals; and
- (d) the dates of applications still being processed but not yet approved?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question. The reply is as follows—

As uranium is included with other minerals in a very large number of mining tenements and temporary reserves in Western Australia, a very extensive search of the records would be required to obtain the details requested. As such work would delay day to day duties of the department to the detriment of the people it serves, I am not prepared to have it done.

If the honourable member has any specific inquiries he should relate them to me and I will be quite happy to ask for one or two files. However, the compilation of this comprehensive information

would be so costly that it would be irresponsible of me to request the department to obtain it.

2.

HOUSING

Flats: Prohibition on Birds

Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Housing:

Arising out of a question asked by the member for Rockingham regarding the keeping of caged birds in SHC flats—

- (1) Would the Minister be prepared to review the commission's attitude so that caged birds could be kept in such circumstances on the grounds that caged birds are in a completely different category from other animals?
- (2) Will he ensure that until such a review is undertaken no action will be taken against any tenant keeping caged birds in SHC rental accommodation?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

I thank the honourable member for notice of this question. The answer is as follows—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes, unless there are particular circumstances to the contrary. I would like to indicate that although the honourable member suggests this could be done on the grounds that caged birds are in a completely different category from other animals, if he refers to the answer I gave yesterday he will find that this matter is not entirely within the discretion of the commission. The commission must comply with other Acts and by-laws. However, the review he seeks will be undertaken.

3.

IRRIGATION

South-west: Press Report

Mrs CRAIG, to the Minister for Works:

An article published in the *South Western Times* on the 30th March and in the *Daily News* of same date, stated that a multi-million dollar plan which could wipe out irrigation farming in the south-west was being considered by the Public Works Department. Would the Minister indicate to the House if this is so, and further, would he notify the House of the source of this statement?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

I thank the honourable member for giving me some notice of the question. As this is a matter of

such great importance to members of this Chamber and to people in the metropolitan area and in the country, I trust that you, Mr Speaker, will allow me to read a Press release which I have issued through all the media today and which I will supply to all members from the south-west. Before going on to that I must say that I had a conversation this morning with the management of the newspaper concerned, the editor, and the reporter because the report is totally and completely without foundation and no attempt was made, as far as I can ascertain, to check with either myself, as the responsible Minister, with the Under-Secretary for Works, or with the Director of Engineering as to the veracity of the report which, for the benefit of members, says that the Public Works Department is considering such a plan.

Mr Jamieson: You are not going to put meters on wells, too?

Mr O'NEIL: I mentioned that. I quoted that when I was talking to the management of the newspaper. In order to put the matter into perspective I ask you, Mr Speaker, to be tolerant with me and allow me to read the Press release which I have issued. It reads—

The Minister for Works and Water Supplies, Hon. D. H. O'Neil, M.L.A., today categorically denied a report published yesterday that a plan to use irrigation water from the Harvey-Collier area was being considered by the Public Works Department.

Mr. O'Neil stated that, in trying to establish the basis for the rumour, he had discovered that in 1974 a symposium entitled "Water Requirements for Agriculture Industry and Urban Supply for a Metropolis of Two Million in the South West of Western Australia", was organised jointly by the W.A. Branch of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and the Hydrology Branch of the Western Australian Division of the Institution of Engineers Australia. At this symposium options were canvassed that Perth could be supplied with water more cheaply from the existing irrigation dams in the South West than from alternative sources.

Mr O'Neil added that it is significant that other contributors to the symposium foreshadowed

increasingly intense use of the irrigation areas for agriculture in the years to come.

The possibility of diverting South West irrigation water from farmers to the metropolitan area for use of industry and domestic consumers was not being examined and nor is active consideration contemplated.

The Metropolitan Water Board is currently constructing the Wungong Brook Dam and it is also developing underground resources near Perth. For some years to come it will continue to develop near resources and so reduce expenditure on costly trunk mains.

The Government had also granted to the Metropolitan Water Board the right to use the water of the Murray River which could provide additional capacity to meet the future demand of the metropolitan area.

The Minister said that he deplored the irresponsible reporting of a story which was completely unfounded and which had caused needless worry and anxiety to farmers and residents of South West towns.

4. COCKBURN SOUND NAVAL BASE

Nuclear Vessels: Discussions with Commonwealth

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Premier:

My question relates to question 52 on today's notice paper. I wish to preface my remarks by saying that this Parliament is becoming a farce. I believe the Standing Orders allow me to make preliminary comments so that my question will be quite clear. Question 52 on today's notice paper asks whether discussions have been held between the Premier and Mr Killen and whether there has been any resolution of the problem concerning the sovereign rights of the State to worry about the environment and the Australian Government's undoubted right to concern itself with defence. The Premier's reply to what I thought was quite a reasonable question was—

See reply to question 20.

The reply to question 20 insults this House, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member will resume his seat. I have been tolerant of the member so far when he said that this Parliament is a farce, but when he asks a question with or without notice

it must be asked in the proper terms. I ask him to ask his question shorn of all opinions that he might wish to express. These should be held for other times. I call the member for Morley.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I was referring to question 20 and there is no question of my opinion in this matter at all. It was the answer of the Minister for Conservation and the Environment. He said—

The Government has no intention of allowing answers to questions to be used as a vehicle for either satisfying the curiosity of a particular member...

Members of this House have a right to ask whether there was consultation between the Federal Minister for Defence and the Premier. Does the Premier consider that this is a proper reply to a parliamentary question as to whether there was consultation between himself and a Minister of the Australian Government or whether we are to expect further insulting answers of this nature?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I suggest that the member for Morley go quietly away and read all the answers given to him by the Minister when he answered question 20.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: It is not technical.

Sir CHARLES COURT: If the member will listen, I suggest that he read the total answer.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: I have done so.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Read it again because it does not relate only to technical matters. I wish to tell the member and all others in the House that I am not going to be a party to discussing openly matters of defence where we could wittingly or unwittingly be giving information which we should not give.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: But you had discussions with Mr Killen. Is that giving information to an enemy?

Sir CHARLES COURT: I remind the member that Premiers have some special responsibilities in these matters. His own leader would tell him that from time to time Commonwealth Governments of all parties have to talk to Premiers of all parties. Neither a Premier nor his Government should be subjected to questions on some of these matters. If the member wishes to persist in these matters purely to satisfy his technical curiosity he is not going to

waste the time of our senior officers and he is certainly not going to get information on the other parts of the question. Nor will we expose ourselves to the danger of answering questions which could bring answers which wittingly or unwittingly disclose information which should not be disclosed. I have given the necessary instruction and I take full responsibility for it.

5. HOUSING

Country Building Contracts

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

My question arises out of question 82 today and a question without notice yesterday. Is it intended under the proposals of the State Housing Commission that tenders for the construction of new houses in country regions could be and will be called in groups in excess of 40?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

As I indicated yesterday, I am not quite certain, because I do not have the information to hand, whether one or two of the tenders may be in excess of 40. Certainly my recollection, from seeing the estimate and the suggested figure, is that none are in excess of 40. If the honourable member would like to pursue the matter with me I can give him the figures that we are considering at present.

6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City of Stirling: Retaining Wall Dispute

Mr YOUNG, to the Minister for Local Government:

My question concerns the answer the Minister gave me to question 32. In view of the fact that Her Worship, the Mayor of Stirling (Mrs Venville), refused me the right to enter a meeting on the 17th March, which is referred to in the Minister's answer, will he tell me whether he has ascertained from the City of Stirling beyond a reasonable doubt that she subsequently allowed a *Daily News* reporter to attend?

Point of Order

Mr HARMAN: I raise a point of order. The Minister is entitled to answer questions relating only to his own jurisdiction. As I understand it, this question concerns some action taken by the mayor of a local authority.

Government members: He is asking the Minister for Local Government.

The SPEAKER: At this juncture I am unable to make a determination as to whether the point of order raised by the member for Maylands is valid or not. I am prepared to hear what the Minister has to say in reply.

Question Without Notice Resumed

Mr RUSHTON replied:

As indicated in the answer which I gave the member for Scarborough, the information was sought from the City of Stirling. I confirm that a reporter of the *Daily News* was admitted to the meeting. His name is Guy Daniel.

7. EDUCATION

Funds: Allocation, and Assessment of Needs

Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

I gave some notice of my question which is as follows—

Arising from the Premier's statement in *The Record* of the 26th March, 1976, page 8, "no fairminded person who looked objectively at the Western Australian Government's education programme would deny—

The SPEAKER: How long is the quote?

Mr BRYCE: One sentence, which continues—

—that education funds were allotted on a needs basis" . . . "this was strictly in accord with the Government's policy and with the Premier's own beliefs"—

(a) what criteria does the Government employ to assess needs;

(b) is it not a fact that the Western Australian Government financially assists independent schools on a flat rate *per capita* basis, assessed at the rate of 23 per cent of the amount of current expenditure on students in Government schools?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I thank the honourable member for notice of the question. Members will recall that the member for Ascot asked this question yesterday and I requested that it be placed on the notice paper. The reply is as follows—

(a) There are different criteria for differing assistance.

- (b) This is only one form of assistance given.

The SPEAKER: I will take two more questions after the next one.

8. PORTS

Nuclear Vessels: Commonwealth Inquiry

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

My question refers to the answer he gave to portion of question 22 on today's notice paper, in which he stated that Mr Berinson made no such statement relating to Cockburn Sound at any meeting of the Australian Environment Council. I wish to quote from the *Daily News* of the 2nd March and ask him if he denies this report which purports to be a true record of proceedings. The article reads—

The SPEAKER: How long is the quotation?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Very brief. Referring to Mr Berinson, the article reads—

In August he told a Perth meeting of the Environment Council (the State and Federal Ministers for Environment) of his proposal.

He said he intended that after the impact study had been made public there should be a full public inquiry before commissioners.

He proposed that the States should appoint one of the commissioners.

The State ministers unanimously supported in principle Mr Berinson's plan.

I ask the Minister whether, in fact, such a plan had been accepted by the Ministers. The Minister stated that no such statement was made by Mr Berinson. Is that newspaper report incorrect?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

If the honourable member refers to the answer I gave, the meeting of the Australian Environment Council to which he refers and of which I was chairman—and I checked the transcript this morning—Mr Berinson made no such statement related to Cockburn Sound. If in fact he quotes from a Press statement referring to something else, I suggest it is inaccurate, because he did not refer to Cockburn Sound in the terms in which the question was asked today.

9. "NEW PRESS" PUBLICATION

Inquiry into Article

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Premier:

Referring to question 65 on today's notice paper, and while not wishing to pry into the Premier's personal business, I ask does he agree with me that the freedom of the Press is a very valuable freedom; and, secondly, if this is so, is it true that he interviewed at length the President of the Australian Journalists' Association and complained quite bitterly about an article which appeared in a recent edition of *New Press* and to which he took exception?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The first part of the question, relating to the freedom of the Press, does impinge on Government policy and therefore I will answer it. I wholeheartedly subscribe to it even if I do not agree with the Press on many occasions. So far as the second part of the question is concerned, the answer I gave to No. 65 on today's notice paper—and the honourable member was not present when I gave the answer—still stands. If he wants to pursue it any further, let him.

10. TOWN PLANNING

M. and R. Kessell: Zoning Appeal

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

I apologise for the lack of prior notice of the question which is as follows—

Will he table all documents, correspondence, files, etc., relating to an appeal by Drs M. and R. Kessell against the refusal by the Stirling City Council to grant an application for A.A. zoning use within a residential area?

The SPEAKER: Has not this question already been asked?

Mr BARNETT: Yes, but of the wrong Minister.

Mr RUSHTON replied:
No.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Council Personnel

Message from the Council received and read notifying the personnel of sessional committees elected by that House.

BILLS (11): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act Amendment Bill.
2. Metropolitan Region Improvement Tax Act Amendment Bill.
3. Land Tax Bill.
4. Land Tax Assessment Bill.
5. Anzac Day Act Amendment Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by Sir Charles Court (Treasurer), and read a first time.

6. Jetties Act Amendment Bill.
7. Western Australian Marine Act Amendment Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions, by Mr O'Neil (Minister for Works), and read a first time.

8. Employment Agents Bill.
9. Weights and Measures Act Amendment Bill.
10. Industrial Arbitration Act Amendment Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by Mr Grayden (Minister for Labour and Industry), and read a first time.

11. National Parks Authority Bill.
- Bill introduced, on motion by Mr P. V. Jones (Minister for Conservation and the Environment), and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 30th March, on the following motion by Mr Tubby—

That the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech be agreed to—

May it please Your Excellency:

We, the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

MR LAURANCE (Gascoyne) [5.55 p.m.]: I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply and in so doing I wish to congratulate the member for Greenough on the manner in which he moved the motion on the first occasion he has had to speak in this place. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the Leader of the Opposition on his long service in this House. I appreciate the opportunity to be able to speak on the day on which the Leader of the Opposition has created a record for the longest service by any member in this Parliament. He has been an

example to me in the short time I have been here and I certainly hope to experience some of the longevity of his service.

As is the custom when debating the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply, I will bring to the attention of the House a number of specific points in relation to my electorate. Two significant recent developments have occurred in the electorate of Gascoyne. Members will recall that during the Address-in-Reply debate some 12 months ago I urged that the Radio Australia base, which was to be resited away from Darwin, should be located at Carnarvon. At the time I raised this issue in the House a decision had already been made to relocate the base on the existing OTC site at Gnangara, just north of Perth.

Following my address in the House and submissions to various authorities—and having received some assistance from the Premier—the former decision was altered in favour of Carnarvon. That decision was extremely significant to the development of Carnarvon, and the development of the Gascoyne region generally. The tide has turned and the area has recommenced an expansionary phase for the first time since the closure of the space tracking station.

I thank the Premier for his enthusiastic support of the proposal, and I thank also all the technical people who were involved, and who were prepared to investigate the points I raised in favour of Carnarvon. The people of Carnarvon, particularly the local contractors and the members of the Carnarvon Shire Council, are to be congratulated on their efforts to ensure the operation went smoothly.

The first transmission from the new station was on the 20th December. Broadcasts were made to South-East Asia, from Carnarvon, well and truly by Christmas Day, 1975, the first anniversary of cyclone Tracy which destroyed the Radio Australia base at Darwin. I express my appreciation to all those who were responsible for relocating the facility.

The station reached full power transmission on the 7th March, and was opened officially on the 8th March. That was just 10 months after the commencement of the contract. The officials who attended the opening paid tribute to all concerned for their magnificent effort in completing a \$3 million facility in such a short space of time.

The combination of the United States Naval Communications Base at North-West Cape with the OTC earth station at Carnarvon and the new Radio Australia base re-established the Gascoyne region as the foremost communications centre in the country.

Mr Davies: I think you could have acknowledged the efforts of the Whitlam Government in locating the base at Carnarvon.

Mr LAURANCE: The Whitlam Government was in power when the decision was made.

Mr Davies: You have now acknowledged that effort.

Mr LAURANCE: The second most significant development in the region was the recent announcement that BHP intended to buy a controlling interest in Texada Mines. That news was certainly very welcome in Carnarvon. The salt industry has been bedevilled by problems, and Texada has been no exception. As Texada is the largest employer of labour in the Carnarvon area, the problems associated with the salt industry have meant insecurity and anxiety for the people of the district. The involvement of BHP will be welcome, and may assist to rationalise the industry and bring some stability to Carnarvon. I trust also that the problems associated with potash production will eventually be overcome.

In his Speech the Governor mentioned emergency services, among other things, particularly in relation to the wonderful effort by all concerned at Port Hedland following cyclone Joan. But the Gascoyne region has been affected in one way or another by two cyclones this summer; namely, cyclones Vanessa and Wally. Both of them caused some anxiety in my area. Vanessa brought some difficulty to the Carnarvon area, some damage to the banana plantations, anxiety to the townspeople, and damage to the fishing fleet. Cyclone Wally brought anxiety to the people of the township of Denham in Shark Bay. The problem was that the cyclones changed course, and this could not be predicted by the cyclone warning centre.

Representations made to me have led to an investigation of the emergency services and cyclone warning systems, particularly in relation to my area. I have had discussions with the State Emergency Service and the cyclone warning centre in Perth. The findings have been interesting and have raised a number of points relevant to my district.

Cyclones, generally, and the effect of them have become paramount in the minds of the people in recent times, particularly since the experiences at Darwin and Port Hedland. It is not only that people feel anxiety but that cyclone preparations are expensive operations. The Texada salt industry has to expend a considerable sum of money in battenning down for cyclones. Radio Australia, our new facility, has found it must lower the aeriels. The towers are cyclone-proof but the aeriels must be taken down at the time of a cyclone. Someone has to make a calculated guess whether Radio Australia will be affected and whether it will be necessary to take down the aeriels. The fishing fleet also requires accurate information in relation to cyclones. Cyclone Wally did some \$150 000-worth of damage

to the prawning trawlers. So the accurate reporting of cyclones in my area is of vital importance.

Following discussions with the various bodies it seems there are at least two solutions. The first relates to the State Emergency Service. We should perhaps be looking to the establishment of regional offices of the State Emergency Service at Port Hedland and Carnarvon to liaise with the small communities. One of the problems with the proliferation of small communities in the north is that they are not generally mentioned in cyclone reports. Only larger centres are mentioned and it is anticipated that the smaller communities will take all the necessary precautions but I think liaison could be improved by regionalisation of the State Emergency Service.

Secondly, I think it is imperative to establish more warning systems off the west coast of the State in the Gascoyne area. I would like to refer briefly to a letter I have received from Mr Southern, the head of the cyclone warning centre in Perth. He told me—

... experience on the west coast has indicated that significant errors can be made in determining the precise position of a cyclone centre by satellite. This error can be of the order of 100 km depending on the cloud cover and picture distortion.

It seems it is difficult to plot cyclones accurately in this area. Mr Southern goes on to compare the west coast of the State with the north-west coast off Pilbara and the Kimberley. He says—

Observational facilities on the Northwest coast are noticeably superior to those of the west coast. Weather watch radar are located at Hedland and Broome, four automatic weather stations are based off the coast, reports from shipping on the iron-ore routes are much more extensive, generally one or more oil-rigs supply regular reports, and satellite pictures of a cyclone are generally clearer being free from other cloud systems common further south. There are fewer reporting points on the west coast due to greater separation of communities.

The motion of cyclones off the west coast is more difficult to follow and as cyclones move into the region of westerly jet streams they recurve more rapidly and frequently accelerate towards the coast.

So it has been proven that with the information available it is difficult to forecast accurately the movement of cyclones in this area. The cyclone picture at 10.00 p.m. may have a lot of cloud cover, and a variation in the path of the cyclone can go unnoticed by the cyclone warning centre.

I wish to announce that I have been advised by Mr Southern that by 1978 a weather-watch radar should be operating at Learmonth. It will have a range of 250 kilometres. It will not reach to Carnarvon but it will be an improvement. By that time a Japanese geo-stationary satellite should be operating to provide the Bureau of Meteorology with more frequent satellite pictures.

However, that does not seem to be enough. I would like to see either a weather-watch radar at Carnarvon or more automatic weather stations off the west coast. Not only would they be advantageous to my area but they would also improve the accuracy of cyclone tracking. The two cyclones I have mentioned went straight past the Gascoyne area off the coast and affected the southern areas of Geraldton and Perth. So improved facilities will also be advantageous to areas further south.

I now wish to bring to the notice of the House two anomalies in relation to costs affecting residents in my electorate. Both of these anomalies result from recent changes. The first is the inequitable imposition of fire brigade charges levied on insurance premiums, which involves two basic problems.

The first is a general problem that has been with us for a long time and the second relates particularly to my area and other northern areas. Let me deal with the basic problem first; that is, the method of funding of fire brigades in this State. The anomaly is that insurers are asked to carry the burden of financing the cost of fire brigade services. This is an inequitable system as it burdens the prudent who insure their properties.

The matter has been well canvassed in this House previously. The member for Albany has considerable knowledge of it, and I know he has brought the problem to the notice of this Chamber. I am told that only three major countries of the world—that is, Australia, New Zealand, and Greece—use this system of taxing the insurers to pay for fire brigades.

The problem has become more obvious in recent years with the escalation in costs. The cost of maintaining an efficient fire brigade service has doubled in the last three years. In 1973-74 the cost of fire brigade services in Western Australia was \$6 million, and in 1975-76, this service will cost \$12.4 million. Because the tremendous increases forced up premiums so drastically, in 1974 the insurance companies isolated the fire brigade charge from the premium in their renewal notices. So for the first time the public generally became aware of what they were paying for insurance cover and what they were paying to operate the fire brigade system.

A further inequity in our system is that even some sections of the insuring public do not pay this fire brigade charge. Today

I asked a question—question 45 on today's notice paper—about insurance contracts arranged through the State Government Fire, Marine and General Fund, administered by the SGIO. Under this fund all Government buildings and indeed, any private or commercial buildings in which the Government or one of its instrumentalities has an interest—usually a financial interest—can be insured through this fund. In reply to my question I was told that \$2 192 606 was the premium income for the fund. I then asked—

Is the business arranged through this fund declarable under the Fire Brigades Act?

The answer to that was "No". So even though the burden of maintaining the fire brigades in this State is carried by the insurers, there are some insurers who do not carry their part of the burden; that is, when they are able to insure through that particular fund and therefore avoid the fire brigade charge.

The solution is to change the system. The Insurance Council of Australia is working on the problem, and it has provided me with what it considers to be a solution.

Mr Hartrey: Bound to be a good one!

Mr LAURANCE: Two suggestions are put forward. The first one is that the fire brigade services should probably be regarded as the fourth arm of defence and funded federally. The second suggestion is that the State should take urgent steps to reorganise the funding to, say, 12½ per cent Federal Government, 12½ per cent State Government, and 75 per cent local authorities. This would be a rearrangement of the funding, so that the 75 per cent which is currently funded by insurance companies would be taken over by local authorities. At least it would mean that local authorities would have control over their fire brigade services and they would be able to rate for this facility. All properties within the fire brigade district could be rated so that the charge would be equitable for all concerned.

I realise there are many difficulties involved, and I am not able to suggest a perfect solution. The Hon. Bill Whithers, MLC, has proposed a system whereby local government authorities should take over this responsibility, and I support him in that. The present system is quite inequitable, and any improvement would be welcomed.

The situation has become even worse for people in my electorate during the last few months, and I will illustrate the second problem inherent in our present system of funding fire brigades and the diabolical consequences for the people in my electorate and northern residents generally. Due to the experience of insurance companies in recent times with cyclones which caused damage at Darwin and Port Hedland, as well as the recent floods in Queensland,

most companies have decided to levy a storm and tempest loading in northern areas. So people in these places who wish to insure their properties must now pay a loading for that privilege.

Insurance companies levy the fire brigade charge as a percentage of the total premium so now these northern residents are paying much more for this particular charge. In fact, they are paying a percentage for the fire brigade charge on their cyclone loading, and this is most unfair. The insurance companies charge 51 per cent of the premium on domestic properties for fire brigade charges, and 81 per cent on commercial properties. So this means that a disproportionate amount of the cost of the upkeep of fire brigades is falling on the people in cyclone areas.

I would like to give the House some brief examples of the way this is affecting people in the north. I received these figures from a major company with agencies in Perth, Carnarvon, and Port Hedland. The householders' cover for a \$10 000 house in Perth, Carnarvon, or Port Hedland is \$22; that figure does not alter.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr LAURANCE: Before the tea suspension I was about to give examples of the way in which my area is being affected by fire brigade charges levied on insurance premiums. I gave the example of a premium applying to houses insured for \$10 000 and situated in Perth, Carnarvon, and Port Hedland. In each case the premium is \$22. However, as from the beginning of this year most companies have added a storm and tempest levy on top of that. The company I asked to supply these figures is a major one, and I was informed that in Carnarvon the additional premium to cover storm and tempest is \$75, and at Port Hedland \$150. Bear in mind that in each case this is for a \$10 000 insurance contract. The fire brigade charges amount to \$11.22 in Perth, \$51.41 in Carnarvon, and \$86 in Port Hedland. To complete the figures, the total amounts payable, including stamp duty, fire brigade charges, and cyclone levy are \$35 in Perth, \$156 in Carnarvon, and \$270 in Port Hedland.

I will give briefly the rounded-off figures applying to a house worth \$25 000 in each of those centres. In Perth the total premium is \$64, in Carnarvon it is \$365, and in Port Hedland it is \$658. The reason for the tremendous discrepancy in those figures is, firstly, the storm and tempest loading. I realise this has been imposed as a result of the experience of insurance companies in the north of Australia in the last two or three years. However, in addition to that is the fact that fire brigade charges are then levied on the total insurance premium.

Members can see the enormous effect this is having on the residents in my area and in other parts of the north. To add

to this, of course, we cannot forget that building costs are higher in those areas than they are in the metropolitan area; so when one is looking at insuring a house in the north, one is also looking at a larger amount of insurance as a result of the increased building costs, and this adds further to the problem. Therefore, I believe these cyclone levies and fire brigade charges have an enormous, inequitable impact on the people in my area.

I know the Insurance Council of Australia is working on this problem, and I appeal to that council, to the Chief Secretary, and to the Fire Brigades Board urgently to find a solution to this problem.

I mentioned that there are two cost anomalies which have been brought to my notice, and these have arisen only recently. The first is in regard to insurance premiums, with which I have just dealt, and the second concerns the transport of chilled meat. This matter has just come to my notice because transporters in my area have notified their customers that they intend increasing dramatically the charges for transporting chilled carcass meat.

The reason for this increase occurred some years ago. By way of question 44 on today's notice paper I asked the Minister for Health about a particular regulation, and I was told that it came into force in July, 1969. Presumably it has taken some years to be implemented. This regulation makes it essential for transporters of carcass meat to hang the carcasses rather than store them normally inside the chiller trucks. Consequently, each carcass requires a great deal more room in the truck. I give as an example a freezer truck with a capacity of something like 15 tonnes fully loaded. When that truck is fitted with a rail and carcasses are hung, something like only eight tonnes can be carried. Therefore, naturally, the transport companies must charge twice the amount to make up for the lack of weight; in other words, they must charge a great deal more in order to keep the journey viable as far as they are concerned.

So, here again I can see the reason for this regulation; and I presume in the metropolitan area where we have the discontinuance of the use of stockinette casings around carcasses, when carcasses are being loaded into the freezer and people are walking in and out a rather unsavoury situation would exist. Therefore, it is a good idea to have this regulation enforced in the metropolitan area. However, when regulations are made I would ask that their effect on people in remote areas be taken into account, because in this case it means that people in northern areas will pay very dearly for chilled meat.

In many cases the only alternative to chilled meat is frozen meat, because it can be stacked in freezer trucks in larger quantities, whilst chilled meat must hang; and hanging carcasses lowers the overall

weight which can be carried by the truck and, consequently, increases the price of transport dramatically.

Finally, I would like to turn to a situation that is very troubling in my area. It is the matter of the provision of mail services to station properties. We have seen a decline in the service to stations or pastoral areas, generally, in the last few years. The principle that has emanated from Canberra recently—that the user must pay—has fallen very harshly on the people in outback and remote areas. I am hoping we will see a reversal of this policy very shortly.

The contribution to the Australian economy made by the people in the areas of which I am speaking is very great indeed. The proportion they contribute to the taxation collected in this country, and also their contribution by way of valuable export earnings must in my opinion be given great consideration. These people do all this for our economy, and in return they ask for very little in the way of services. When compared with city people, the people in remote areas do not have sewerage or roads such as those found in the metropolitan area. They have no power supply, no water supply, nor do they have a footpath running past their homes, and so on. Naturally they do not expect these things; and, even more naturally, they do not get them.

However, in spite of that they do require other services. They require communications and some regular contact by way of mail services. As I said, this principle that the user must pay has fallen harshly on them. The high cost of telephone installations and telephone charges has hit them hard. A factor which irks them a great deal is that in most cases even ringing up the nearest service centre to order parts or stores means an STD call.

The situation has worsened dramatically within the last few months because a number of these mail runs are now in jeopardy. Either the service has been cut back—perhaps from once a week to once a fortnight—or it has been discontinued altogether. It is this rapid deterioration of the service that concerns me greatly. A number of services in my area are under immediate threat. One service, from Carnarvon to Exmouth, closed down this month; and two more in pastoral areas—one commencing in Mullewa and another commencing in Cue—each of which serves stations in my electorate are threatened with closure at the end of June.

There are many reasons for this situation. First of all there is the tender system. Contractors are required to submit a tender to Australia Post for the carrying of mails, and Australia Post must accept the lowest tender. Some uneconomic tenders have been submitted. Often a viable contractor who is doing a good job decides that he must either maintain his tender at the

previous figure, or even reduce the figure to counteract the danger of someone else taking the contract away from him. He has no security in this respect, so often he cannot put on his tender a figure that is equitable for him.

Secondly, difficulties faced by the pastoral industry have caused a cutback in the amount of business conducted through these mail trucks. The pastoral industry has had to look for ways to cut its costs, and it must employ the cheapest freight possible. Many times, this meant getting a backload for wool rather than the more traditional method adopted whereby the mail contractor would take stores, fuel and other provisions out to the station and bring back wool, thus balancing his loading and enabling him to have a planned operation. However, in these difficult times, pastoralists have tended to look for empty trucks returning to the metropolitan area and in this way reduce their freight costs.

It is also a fact that fewer people today are employed on stations. The economics of the pastoral industry require the owner-operator to be almost the only person on the station. Consequently, these people do not require the same amount of stores and provisions they required previously when larger numbers of people were employed on these properties.

In addition, the lifestyle of many of them is changing. Previously, their only contact with the nearest centre of population was through the mail contractor, but today that situation has changed. For a variety of reasons, these people need to be in their centres of population more often. Therefore more aircraft are being used in the pastoral areas and people make more frequent trips to their closest towns and in some ways they are undermining their own mail service. This is no criticism of the pastoral people; it merely is a reflection of their changing lifestyle and expectations, just as all of us have expectations for a higher standard of living.

Another reason for the difficulties faced by mail contractors is the problems faced by the contractors themselves. They carry out their work over very rough roads, which makes it tremendously taxing on the vehicles and the operators. In recent years, the cost of vehicles has risen enormously, and this has made it difficult for them to be replaced regularly enough for the contractor to provide the right kind of service.

To make sure I was aware of all the problems facing mail contractors, a few months ago I spent three days on a mail truck in my area with a man who is considered to be one of the best mail contractors in this State. In three days we covered 600 miles over extremely rough roads and visited 18 stations. I found it a most gruelling trip both for the contractor and his vehicle. I pay tribute to this person that he is able to continue providing such a service to the pastoralists.

I have enumerated to members the reasons for difficulties currently experienced with mail services. The pastoralists are prepared to forego other services most of us would demand from the community. However, they do demand, and rightly so, good communications at reasonable cost and mail services at satisfactory intervals.

One major difficulty that is concerning me at the moment is the children undergoing correspondence lessons and using the School of the Air for their education. They require a frequent flow of material for their education, both to them and back again to their teacher for marking.

Mr Harman: How many are involved?

Mr LAURANCE: A relatively small number of children; there is a mighty lot of country, but relatively few people. I should like to offer some solutions to this problem. Firstly, I think we must have a complete break with the present system of mail delivery. Secondly, we must look at the problem from the point of view of providing an integrated transport service involving supplies, stores, fuel and mail to go to the stations, and backloading to come from the stations. Rather than looking at the problem of the mail service in isolation, we must look at it as a transport service.

To make a complete break with the system, we must do away with the tender system and replace it with a set figure provided by Australia Post for each mail run. It has been suggested to me that a rate of 18c a mile, which is the Federal Government's current calculation of the running expenses of a light vehicle, would be an appropriate figure if a utility were employed, as it possibly could be on a run involving only mail. A set figure would underpin the whole operation and give the contractor a set amount for providing a mail service to those isolated people.

In addition, if Australia Post does not decide the contractor by tender system, he should be selected by the pastoralists on each mail run. Some difficulties could be experienced in this respect, but in recent times in my area where these mail runs have run into difficulties there have been several meetings of all the pastoralists on that particular route. They have met together to work out some solution to the problem.

Therefore, I believe they could do the same thing in respect of deciding which of the contractors making themselves available should provide the service. The decision would have to be based on the service offered by any prospective contractor, the equipment he intended to use, and the freight rates he intended to charge. These could be negotiated according to the additional amount of freight available, or on a service charge, by which I mean so much each week for each station. In fact, some station owners have

already got together and decided they will pay a set amount each week to keep their mail contractor operational.

The problem is not a new one; it has been going on for a long time. But the fact that many of these contractors are about to cease operating, and the rapidity with which they are falling into difficulties concerns me and the people in my area.

I acknowledge the great amount of work done in relation to this problem by the Premier. He has visited my area, and we have talked to pastoralists. We know the problem and have some suggested solutions. Other members of Parliament representing pastoral areas also have given a great deal of time and thought to this problem.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has four minutes remaining.

Mr LAURANCE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Recently, the new Federal member for Kalgoorlie (Mr Cotter) has been applying himself to the problem and in fact raised the matter in his maiden speech in the Federal House.

To conclude, I believe we must look beyond Australia Post as being the only avenue of providing an answer. Perhaps for this State, the Transport Commission could be involved in ironing out some of the difficulties; perhaps it should be involved with the people on the mail runs, to organise who should get which contract. Perhaps there could be a Transport Commission licence for a person to provide a transport service to those stations, knowing they will get a set amount from Australia Post for providing the mail service which is so necessary. I certainly seek an urgent solution, and trust that these thoughts of mine may be of some assistance.

MR H. D. EVANS (Warren) [7.50 p.m.]: Like the member for Gascoyne, I should like to congratulate the new member for Greenough on the way in which he so capably moved the Address-in-Reply motion.

I also should like to join in the congratulations which were extended to the Leader of the Opposition. I trust that more will be said about this on a more appropriate occasion in the not-too-distant future. He is certainly deserving of the generous attitude which the Premier extended on this occasion.

In regard to the Address-in-Reply there are three matters to which I should like to draw the attention of the House. The first deals with the dairy industry, which is reaching a stage of crisis because the overall reorganisation will eventuate during the course of the coming year. Probably the culmination of the reorganisation will take place in June when the new market-milk quotas are issued. I suspect that

those quotas will probably be the last issue of market-milk quotas for some considerable time.

There has been considerable upheaval in the dairy industry in recent months since the market-milk quotas were issued. This is understandable because the conversion by many farmers takes a deal of effort, a considerable amount of capital and quite a deal of time. The manner in which the reorganisation of the dairy industry has transpired leaves a considerable amount to be desired. It leaves justification for criticism of the Government from the Dairy Industry Authority. At the onset it appeared relatively simple that there should have been an assessment of the numbers of dairy farmers who were interested in taking a quota and had the capacity to serve it. The requirement would then have been to determine the amount of market milk that would have been available and the amount of finance which was available from all sources to provide the capital required for this transition of the industry. Instead of that there has been a piecemeal approach which has been unco-ordinated and disordered.

Probably not the least cause of this would be Government interference with the DIA recommendations early in the piece when so much valuable time was lost and the DIA was not getting on with the job for which it was intended.

I shall refer now to the position which pertains in my own area—the Manjimup area. I can probably highlight most of the difficulties being experienced in the tail of the industry, so to speak, which is the part of the industry which will require the more immediate attention of the industry authority and the services and opportunities for capital that might be available. Time is running out for these people and unless some move is made it will be too late to effect a reasonable change. The Manjimup area extends as far as Northcliffe. It is an impoverished area by industry standards which has been built up from the days of the group settlement scheme. Great amounts of capital were never injected into the area and it has always been a struggling community which has been without the opportunity to expand to a stage where it could reasonably have reached a degree of comfort and have been set upon its own feet.

At the beginning of 1975 there were 76 registered dairy farmers in the Manjimup area. In 1975 seven left. In 1976 four left and 18 obtained quotas. So of that initial 76, 47 farmers remained. Twenty-two have applications in for quotas and by current standards, judging by the percentage of allocations, I do not think that many more than a handful—it is being hopeful to say a dozen—will receive a quota. Of the balance only five will consider staying in the dairy industry without a quota and 17 out of 22 will simply shut down if they

do not receive a market-milk quota. Thirty-four will close in 1977 if they continue manufacturing milk. They will have to do this anyway. Nine are doubtful because of the price involved. A price for market milk has not been set for the coming season and, on indications from the Eastern States, it will be considerably less than it was last season. Four would stay on the production of cream if they had to because they were not able to obtain a quota.

I come now to the situation which will make up the minds of these farmers for them, whether they like it or not. That single fact is that bulk milk pickup will be the only way they can supply the market. To put in a bulk milk tank will cost approximately \$7 000. In addition to this there is the upgrading of the particular dairy which will automatically put the prospect of bulk pickup out of the reach of a manufacturing dairy. There is no way that this can be done on the capital which is required and the return that would be received on present prices which, as I have indicated, look as though they will be less in the forthcoming season. That is the predicament that most of these farmers are up against.

Mr Blaikie: How do you think this Act will apply if the Dairy Industry Authority has control of the inspectorial services and other services in this regard? Do you not think that the Department of Agriculture's influence has caused some problems in the industry?

Mr H. D. EVANS: The member for Vasse is being obtuse. If he were to get down to specifics we could perhaps analyse the problems that may be worrying him.

Mr Blaikie: If only you had listened to the amendments proposed by the Opposition in 1973.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The member for "gas" is interjecting, as is his wont, and I will have to start replying to questions from last night such as those regarding abatements. I was staggered that he should have raised that matter, the track record of the Government being so poor. It is not very much better as far as the dairy industry is concerned, but if he wishes to tell the House about it perhaps he would like to wait until such time as he is on his feet. In the interim I would be obliged if he would allow me to make the points that are of vital concern to the industry and to highlight the problem which remains for those people who are looking at virtually the last chance they will have to remain in the dairy industry.

These dairy farmers have no alternative but to turn to bulk marketing. This has been highlighted in the past two weeks. One of the two companies serving the area indicated at the beginning of this month that there would be no further pickup in the area. To give a month's notice at the

beginning of the season to farmers who have been clients for a great number of years in many cases certainly does not reflect any credit on that company. The remaining company serving that area has stepped into the hiatus and has indicated that it would endeavour, if it is practicable and after discussion with the farmers on an individual basis, to provide a service, making the proviso that bulk pickup would be required as from the middle of next year. The middle of next year means the beginning of next year. The reason is that management programmes have to be implemented at the end of autumn, as from the time of calving. That was the predicament which had been foreseen and which was pointed out in this House. It has arrived as we foresaw.

Farmers who are caught up in it are faced with a lack of funds which cannot be obtained from the normal sources of finance, the interest rates being far too devastating. The funds that were made available under the Australian dairy adjustment programme have been expended at this stage, and in all there are 69 applications currently before the authority which cannot be dealt with, because the finance does not exist. I would take this opportunity to point out the inequitable way these funds have been disbursed.

Of the total amount of \$3.32 million it would appear that in respect of milk vats there were 260 applicants with loans totalling \$1.7 million; in respect of structural improvements there were 43 applicants with loans totalling \$303 000; and in respect of property purchases there were 18 applicants with loans totalling \$993 000. If this is looked at very closely it will be seen that the average loan for milk vats was \$7 000; for structural improvements just below \$7 000; and for property purchases, for which the total loans amounted to \$993 000 granted to 18 applicants, the average loan was \$55 212.

Why should the latter 18 favoured applicants receive seven times the average amount of concessional loan funds which were available? Those 18 applicants have certainly been given a tremendous advantage which you, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Blaikie), would also consider as being inequitable. It is something which should not have occurred, and something for which the present Government has a responsibility to do something about.

Of the funds that were available under the dairy adjustment scheme I would point out that 13 applications for milk vats loans were rejected, and 45 applications were not considered for that purpose. For property improvement 173 applications were rejected, and another 24 applications were not considered. So, we find a total of 30 applications were not considered, and another 69 were not considered at all because of lack of funds.

That is the situation before us. I feel there is now a moral obligation on the part of the State Government, which had the responsibility to disburse these funds and to make them available to those farmers who were desperately in need of capital for conversion, to make funds available at some concessional rate comparable with the rate under the dairy adjustment scheme; otherwise we would have a ludicrous situation of 18 applicants who received on the average in excess of \$55 000 each being neighbours to other applicants who have to convert to milk vats at bank interest rates. The inequity of this cannot be highlighted too much. I trust that the response to my request to the Government will be looked at with sympathetic consideration.

Only one other point emerges from this; and it is one which reflects sorely on the company that is pulling out of an industry of this nature after many years of serving and being served by quotas. The company that has remained in the field appears to have a smaller number of milk quotas supplying it with milk than was previously the case. In other words, the company which has remained and did the right thing in the circumstances has been disadvantaged, because with the total amount of milk quotas now available this company has received a smaller percentage than it did previously.

This is something which should be looked at closely, because the whole tenor of the negotiations with the companies was that no company would receive a smaller percentage of its servicing than it experienced at the time the legislation was passed. Obviously this will not be the case, and there should be an adjustment in some form.

There is the existing method of making adjustments, but that is not adequate. Some entitlement should be given to the company, perhaps in some other area where it can undertake to pick up milk for additional clients to ensure that the company retains its equity in the industry. In all fairness and justice to this company the situation should be looked into. I hope it will be when the next allocation of quotas is made.

The second point I wish to raise has been referred to the Minister for Transport, and he has indicated that he is prepared to take a sympathetic look at the situation which exists in respect of the provision of some transport service in the Denmark-Normalup-Walpole area. On Friday, the 19th of this month, the Minister attended a meeting at Denmark, and the details of the problems experienced in the area served by the existing service were pointed out to him.

It means that if the scheduled changes are made a number of undesirable aspects will eventuate, including a total lack of

service to the small settlements. I refer to the settlements of Kent River, Bow Bridge, Peaceful Bay, and Nornalup.

The difficulty is the lack of a service and the uneconomic nature of that section of Westrail's operations. It would have some very unfortunate consequences for people living in those isolated areas if pure economics alone were the only consideration. For all supplies, including perishables and medical supplies, which have to be conveyed to those areas, they would be dependent upon what are fairly intermittent timber trucks.

This is a hardship which we do not expect to see any area of the State experience in this modern day and age, and, because of their isolation, it is a hardship which is particularly onerous to the people living in the lower south-west corner of the State.

The suggestions that have been put forward to alleviate the situation appear to have a basis of practicality. The proposed link is through Manjimup to Walpole, which is a distance of 83 miles. It is suggested that this service operate once weekly, and be extended to Albany via Nornalup, Peaceful Bay, Bow River, Kent River, Denmark, Young's Siding, and Elleker; in other words, to make this a through run from Manjimup to Albany.

This would need to be a properly scheduled service having definite depots from which it can operate. A comparable set-up exists in Denmark, but there have been problems regarding the depot and the confusion it has caused. If a properly scheduled service could be inaugurated with a lighter type of vehicle, perhaps a 30-cwt Kombi van or Bedford van, with some provision for the carrying of perishables and a limited number of passengers, it would assist those areas.

As it is a 40-inch plus rainfall area it would be appropriate if it were designed to meet the vagaries of winter as indeed much of the goods it transported could suffer damage as a result of the weather. So I am hopeful that the Minister will be able to give this suggestion some favourable consideration.

The area is one which experiences a great influx in population during the tourist period and to have this additional population served only by intermittent timber trucks would be most unsatisfactory indeed.

I would like to say that the Minister's attitude at the present time is appreciated and it is hoped that he is able to produce some compromise which is acceptable to the people of the area.

Mr O'Connor: I am waiting for a submission from the area.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I was under the impression it would have been received.

Mr Stephens: I appreciate the member for Warren's support of my representations on this matter.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Yes, I understand the member for Stirling attended a meeting to which I had to extend an apology. However, the matter has been presented to the Minister and I think that everything that can be done is being done at this moment, but it is hoped the decision will be favourable.

Could I now refer to a matter brought to my notice fairly recently? It has been the subject of a number of questions I asked of the Minister for Housing over the last two days. In conversation this evening he said that he hoped he did not appear to be evasive. On the essential point he seemed to be a master at evasion, but perhaps I should follow that up.

It was drawn to my attention by a shire councillor, a number of builders, and some chance remarks in Northam that the State Housing Commission was approaching a new tender system which involved the letting of block tenders for particular regions. In an answer I received yesterday I was told that in the southern region 55 housing units are to be constructed; in the south-west, 121; in the north central, 77; and in the central region, 107.

I would like to refer to the information provided in the comprehensive answer I received today and in which the Minister indicated that the system would not apply to all tenders let. He referred to some of the difficulties of the SHC, but the adoption of a system of calling for block tenders would have very extensive and damaging consequences in country towns because only the very largest of builders will be able to accept tenders for anything in excess of about 20 houses.

The largest, most capable builder in Manjimup would be unable to accept a tender for more than 20 houses because of time allowed in the tender. We should consider the effect of this system on decentralisation, a word which was strangely absent in the Liberal Party policy speech, but which occupied a most prominent place in the policy of the Country Party. Let us consider how this system fits in to the principles expounded by those policy speeches.

Bearing in mind that the small and medium contractors in country areas would not be able to accept block tenders, it means that there would be a very good likelihood—almost a certainty—that the bulk of the block tenders will go to Perth-based firms—the larger building contractors. They would have half a dozen houses being erected in one town, three or four in another, and a dozen in yet another, and they would set up a run for the sub-contractors. The schedule would provide for the electricians and the plumbers to arrive at each town at the appropriate time. All these subcontractors would be based in Perth and would be purchasing their materials in the metropolitan

area to the considerable detriment of the firms in the country. Most of the small and medium builders in country areas make their purchases from the local firms. They employ local subcontractors and if they are denied the opportunity to tender for SHC homes they will find—

Mr P. V. Jones: That is not right at all. They are not denied the opportunity.

Mr H. D. EVANS: They are denied the opportunity to participate in block tenders. There is no other way of looking at the situation. They must be denied the opportunity because their physical capacity will not allow them to tender.

As the Minister has indicated, not all the tenders will be block tenders, but even if there are some, it is not good enough. While it may appear in the interests of the administration of the SHC to be beneficial—

Mr P. V. Jones: That is not right, either. The administration is carried out in order to get the houses built. Also, in the answer it clearly indicates we are not talking about all the commission's programme. There is still plenty of work for the country builder from the commission apart from the private sector.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The word "plenty" is open to interpretation; but even if there is only a limited number of block tenders—say, half the commission's programme—the situation is still unacceptable.

While on this very point I would like to say that if the commission thinks that once it starts this system of using the metropolitan-based large firms—and I can think of half a dozen which would be interested in taking up, say, 40 as that was the number the Minister used in Northam—

Mr P. V. Jones: When did I say that at Northam?

Mr H. D. EVANS: It was indicated to me that when the Minister was there recently he mentioned the figure of 40 as being a probable number. I received that information from what I consider to be a fairly reliable source. Anyhow, let us just take the figure of 40. If it is 20 or 50, it does not matter, it still involves a block tender and is against the principle enunciated by the Minister's party. If \$1 million is tied up in a tender of this kind, it will be \$1 million spent in the metropolitan area and not in the country areas where it is required in order that it might do the most good.

I would like to indicate what occurred in connection with the building of a school at Denmark. The tender was let to a Perth firm. The principal was not a building contractor. He was more of an entrepreneur and I understand his business was plumbing. However, he was able to accept the contract knowing he would do a certain amount of work. He let out on a subcontract basis the remaining facets of the building.

I know the local builder reasonably well and he showed me his tendering system. He was concerned about the situation and he had pared his tender to an absolute minimum and the only amount he would have stood to profit would have been the 10 per cent withheld on contracts of this kind to cover exigencies and repairs. That was the only amount he said he could count on. He told me he had been to the other contractors in the area, from Mt. Barker through to Albany, and had discussed the situation with them. He had taken the best price he could get and even then he was undercut by a considerable amount.

He pointed out that he would be called in to finish the building because the person who was awarded the contract would not be able to complete the work. He was not equipped to do so because of his method of operation. It would appear that this is not the first instance when this kind of thing has happened. These entrepreneurs endeavour to find someone who is hard-pressed and who will accept a low price and they are thus able to submit the lowest tender.

In the instance to which I am referring the local builder was called in to finish a considerable part of the tender, exactly as he had predicted. This is the danger of metropolitan operators moving into the country in this manner. What I am saying is not just supposition. It actually happened and I can document this case in some detail if required.

That is the sort of situation which could occur, and it will occur to the detriment of every small country builder. No, that is probably a little strong; I should have said it will be to the detriment of a considerable number of small country builders.

Mr P. V. Jones: Do you intend to mention the other information? Out of 20 tenders we got starters for only 17.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I will concede there have been, there are, and no doubt there will be, difficulties facing the administration when it comes to obtaining satisfactory contractors in country areas.

Mr P. V. Jones: Difficulty in getting a starter at all.

Mr H. D. EVANS: In some country areas.

Mr P. V. Jones: Most.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Some.

Mr P. V. Jones: Most.

Mr H. D. EVANS: As you know Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Blaikie) buildings must be constructed to certain standards, and must meet the specified requirements of the supervisors. There are efficient builders in most country areas.

Mr P. V. Jones: Who will still get work.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Those efficient builders would probably do a better job than a Perth-based firm sliding in on a mass construction basis covering the whole area with a milk-run type of operation.

I now draw the attention of the Minister to an interesting document. I have no doubt he has seen it previously. I am referring to the National Alliance policy speech, which is not an impressive document. The policy states—

To encourage decentralisation, The National Alliance proposes the establishment of industries in already existing country towns and the creation of new towns through incentives for the transfer of business enterprises to those areas.

What do we find? Not the transfer of business enterprises from the metropolitan area to the country, but the reverse. The existing business in the country areas will be undermined.

Mr P. V. Jones: Are you saying that the metropolitan builders do not already go to the country areas?

Mr H. D. EVANS: Not only will the builders in the country be affected, but also the subcontractors, the electricians, the plumbers, and those from whom materials are obtained. That will occur.

Mr P. V. Jones: That is conjecture.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Quoting again from the National Alliance policy speech, it states—

These incentives would include the release of cheap crown land, freight, and land tax concessions and consideration of a scale of payroll tax that reduces in proportion to the distance from the city of any new or established industry.

The contrast between the words in the policy speech, and the administrative action of the Minister who is involved, leads one to wonder.

The Liberal Party policy speech makes no direct or specific claim with regard to decentralisation matters but on many occasions we have heard the attitude of Liberal Party members on the other side of the House.

If the State Housing Commission intends to proceed with the proposed new programme it leaves itself wide open to the greatest censure, not only from this side of the House, but from everybody in country areas throughout this State.

Mr Cowan: Do not you want the commission to build any homes at all?

Mr H. D. EVANS: I urge the Government to take notice of the letters it will receive from at least one shire council, and from several individuals I know, and change its policy dramatically.

MR CRANE (Moore) [8.25 p.m.]: I, too, would like to add my support to the previous speakers who have congratulated the member for Greenough on his presentation of the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply while making his maiden

speech in this House. I come from a rural electorate and I can appreciate the problems he faces because they are similar to those I face.

I would add also some comment to what has already been said regarding His Excellency, the Governor. I believe he will fit into the Western Australian community and carry out the functions of his office in a dignified manner. I hope he will avail himself of the opportunity, in the not-too-distant future, to visit my electorate and meet the people there.

His Excellency also referred to Sir David Brand, and I think it is fitting on this occasion to mention the very high mark of respect the Government has shown for Sir David by naming our newest highway after him. The highway passes through part of my electorate, and it is a fine achievement by the Main Roads Department. It was most fitting that it should be named, "Brand Highway".

Electoral boundaries were mentioned early in the speech made by His Excellency. In my own case, I will lose half of my electorate. This, of course, creates many problems because whilst I still have to serve that part of the electorate from which I shall receive no reward—apart from the satisfaction of knowing that I am doing what I am paid to do—I find the additional burden of trying to become known in other areas is a heavy tax on my time.

There seems to have been a polarisation of opinion during the last few years with regard to electoral boundaries, but my attitude is simply that the people of any electorate, whether it is an old electorate or a new one, are people and it is the responsibility of a member of Parliament to serve those people. I derive a great deal of pleasure from serving the people of my electorate.

The Governor's Speech goes on to mention State finances. Of course, this has always been a problem which has been made more difficult with the growth of inflation. Much has been said about inflation over the last few years. I know it is claimed that the cause of inflation is too much money chasing too few goods. However, I wonder how many of us have so much of this "too much money" and just where the goods are which we cannot buy, and which are usually in general demand. I rather question the theory that that is the cause of inflation.

Many propositions have been put forward in an attempt to curb inflation. Those propositions are usually argued against and many of them are never tried to see if they will operate.

We know that during the war consumer discounts were used effectively to curb inflation. It has been suggested that by freezing taxation inflation could be curbed, that sales tax is inflationary, and that if such measures were implemented,

there could be a short-term benefit but it would quickly be eroded because of the demand for higher wages.

I want to make the point that if we could take away some of the drastic effects of inflation it is conceivable that there would not be such a demand for higher wages because the purchasing power of the take home pay would be considerably increased. I make that point in passing. I hope some of the more eminent economists will comment on it. When I say "eminent", I mean those who serve their electorates.

Federal-State relations were mentioned in the Governor's Speech. I understand there has been an improvement in this area. I certainly hope so. It has been said many times that we must improve this relationship and return to the old Federal system of Government. It is as well to remember how we got away from that system and who took us away from it. I trust we have learnt the lessons of experience over the last 20-odd years and that we will do something in this regard. I will be looking very critically at the relationship between the Federal and State Governments in the future.

The rural sector, as usual, gets a mention. It is well known, although not often said, that the rural sector is economically vital to the wellbeing of Western Australia but that it is not politically important. We know this is so because there are very few people living in the rural areas.

Mr Harman: They have plenty of members.

Mr CRANE: However, so long as we remember that the rural sector is economically vital, I am sure we will not be so stupid as to neglect it too much.

Mining is mentioned, of course, and this is another very important industry in Western Australia. Much mention has been made lately of a proposed jumbo steel mill. The arguments for and against it will keep flowing backwards and forwards and they may never be resolved. One point which concerns me is that I understand a jumbo steel mill would consume more water than Western Australia's capital city is at present using. That may not be so, but as water is a vital commodity I wonder whether it would not be preferable to consider establishing a jumbo steel mill in the Pilbara where the iron ore is and where there is considerably more water than in the south-west division.

Mr Jamieson: In the Pilbara?

Mr CRANE: Water can be piped from north of the Pilbara. The Ord River project cost approximately \$50 million and it is not being used to great advantage. Many years ago, when it was found there was tremendous potential in the Coolgardie area, at a time when the main tools and equipment were picks, shovels,

horses, and drays it was feasible and possible to construct what was known as the Kalgoorlie pipeline from Mundaring to Coolgardie, which was later extended to Kalgoorlie. If that project could be undertaken in those days, surely what I suggest would not be an impossible task with the resources and knowhow we have today.

Mr May: Do you know of any jumbo steel mill which has been established in the climatic conditions experienced in the Pilbara?

Mr CRANE: No, I do not, but I believe if industry is established people will go and work in those areas. I am sure with modern refrigeration and building designs—

Mr May: It would be pretty difficult to air-condition a blast furnace.

Mr CRANE: That is true, but when one considers the high temperature of a blast furnace I do not think an extra 20 degrees will make a great deal of difference.

When we come to education, this brings me to a point which has caused me concern for some time. I am concerned not only about the theory of education but also about the way in which it is applied in this State. Much has been said about the deterioration of our education system over the years and about the fact that many students are not learning as it was intended they should learn. This is often mentioned in connection with students taking positions. I can recall one instance of fifth-year students being employed at an engineering works; yet when given the radius of a circle they could not even work out its circumference. I think this is rather sad. It points to the fact that perhaps today there is too much emphasis on education and not enough emphasis on learning.

I have some problems in relation to education in my electorate, not so much from the point of view of learning as from the point of view of the conditions under which the children are expected to learn. Only today representations were made to me from an area which has been trying for many years to have a water cooling system established at the school. I refer to Dandaragan. I wish I could take one of the water coolers from Parliament House and install it up there. I am sure the needs of those children are greater than ours.

Mr Jamieson: Not without Mr Speaker's permission.

Mr CRANE: I think I might even persuade Mr Speaker to give me that.

Mr T. D. Evans: I agree with you as to the need.

Mr CRANE: So much for education. Further on in the Governor's Speech we come to housing. I would like to thank

the Government for providing additional houses at Wongan Hills. I congratulate the Minister on the establishment of the Industrial and Commercial Employees Housing Authority. Some months ago I invited the Minister to Wongan Hills to put forward to him a submission from the business people in that town who were desirous of having houses built there for their employees, the rent to be guaranteed by the employers themselves so that the Housing Commission would receive 52 weeks' rent a year without the worry of collecting it. I understand this system has been introduced. I congratulate the Government on its foresight and on agreeing to a suggestion which was put forward and considerably assisted by the people of Wongan Hills.

Hospitals and health are always a problem, and again I am very thankful that plans have been drawn up for considerable improvements and additional bed space and facilities at the large hospital at Moora. I trust these will be carried out as early as possible. I have been trying to have this work undertaken since I entered Parliament, and I am very thankful that our Government has at last seen fit to recognise this priority.

Transport and traffic can be vexing problems. While I do not intend to cast any aspersions on our Minister for Transport, whose co-operation I am grateful to have at all times, I reiterate what I claimed earlier this year—that we have perhaps overlooked some of our responsibilities by curtailing services to rural people. I made loud noises about this when it was proposed that the Bindi-Miling-Toodyay line would lose two of its three buses a week. I draw the Minister's attention to the fact that when it was proposed that the buses would be taken off this route, thus considerably reducing the services to those areas, the Public Relations Officer of Westrail assured the people of Miling that a cold van would be put on the train once a week. I can assure members that the bus service was certainly curtailed. Two of the services were cancelled, but as yet we have not seen a cold van. I hope it will be there next week.

In speaking further about transport, I believe we should look at the future needs of our State very seriously, and if possible, divorce this from party politics. Over the last few years we have heard a great deal about sinking the railway, then not sinking it, and then sinking it again. At the present time I am not sure where it is!

Mr Harman: The Minister is sunk!

Mr CRANE: I believe there is a great deal of merit in a suggestion often made in this House that parliamentary committees, which move away from party politics, could look into this problem in the future. We must upgrade the rail service and

transport generally in the metropolitan area, which before long will extend from Rockingham to Yanchep. Let us look at countries where the railway systems have been electrified successfully, as we can learn from their experience. The policy here seems to be buses or bust! In my opinion the electric train has a great place in the future and we should look seriously at upgrading the system and providing the service that the city really needs.

Mr Bertram: Hear, hear!

Mr CRANE: Also, we should look into the possibility of using something we have of which we should be very proud, but which we use only on Saturday afternoons and Sundays, and of course I am referring to our glorious Swan River. Surely hydrofoil services could be used on the river. I remind you, Mr Speaker, and members generally, that we do not have to replace the water; it does not wear as bitumen roads and rails do. Other countries use their waterways to advantage, so we should certainly look at the possibility of doing likewise. A committee such as I have suggested, completely devoid of the pettiness of party politics, could come up with some sound proposition which would be of tremendous benefit not only to those of us living here today and tomorrow, but also to those who will be born in the future.

I am concerned about some of the problems which have been caused in my electorate because of the curtailment of road services. The other day I received a letter from a resident of Bolgart which now has one mail service only a week to the metropolitan area, and I remind members that Bolgart is not many miles from Perth. When I first went through Bolgart in 1926 it had three mail services a week. Possibly much of the progress we claim to have made has actually been made in reverse gear! I hope we can upgrade the services because the people living in these areas require these facilities just as much as we in the city do. The additional expense incurred will have to be met, and I believe must be met, by Western Australia as a whole, and not just by the people living in country towns. The idea seems to be that these people are not important enough to be given the added services.

I notice that the Governor referred to public works, and I would like to mention a problem which concerns my electorate. Just today I received a petition which I will forward to the Minister concerned with the utmost despatch. This petition has been brought forward on behalf of the people of Wubin who have repeatedly suffered the inconvenience of water restrictions until they have arrived at the point where they say they have had enough. What do I have to do to impress upon the Government the needs of people living in such areas as Wubin and Buntine? If I have to get down on my knees and beg, I will do so. On behalf of these

people I plead for the consideration to which they are entitled. When we consider the amount of wheat, meat, and wool which comes from this area, we must realise the tremendous wealth it adds to the State. I do not have the figures before me, but I would be quite happy to provide them. Because of this production, surely the people are entitled to a little more consideration than they are receiving at present. With the proposed Federal-State relationship—which will do a lot for us—surely we can make arrangements for the extension to the comprehensive water scheme so that the pipeline may continue from Dalwallinu—where it ceases at the moment—north to Wubin and then on to Buntine.

The Governor referred to deferred legislation, and in my copy of His Excellency's Speech I have underlined the words "mini-bikes, trail bikes and beach buggies". As members know, these vehicles have caused a great deal of concern to the people in my electorate north of Perth. A seminar will be held on Saturday to discuss the proposed legislation and I understand many of the people who have approached me about the problem will attend. While it was my intention to be out in my electorate, I feel I should attend the meeting myself because the matter is of vital concern to the electorate.

The Governor then went on to speak about proposed legislation, and I would remind members that it is unfortunate we need to have as much legislation as we have. Almost every Act of Parliament which is passed takes away a little more of the freedom of the individual. I hope that we may, by our example and encouragement, inspire people to recognise the laws which have been laid down for many hundreds of years. If we all abided by the first 10 laws which were laid down, we could do away with the necessity to make so many more.

I was disturbed to read the crime report in today's Press. Unfortunately crime is part of our modern society, and it is something with which we must come to grips. I notice the increase in the stealing—and I emphasise that word—of motor vehicles. I understand the legal description is unlawful use of a motor vehicle, but Mr Speaker, if I were to possess unlawfully the wallet from your hip pocket, I do not think I would then be charged with its unlawful possession!

Mr Bertram: Different matter altogether!

Mr CRANE: I do not think that is any different from stealing a motor vehicle. We must recognise that when we take or remove something that belongs to someone else it is stealing.

Mr Bertram: You would have to alter the definition in the Criminal Code.

Mr CRANE: We may have to do that. Common sense must be written into our laws and if we are prepared to do that we

will have gone a long way towards abating a great deal of the crime which faces the community today.

Tonight I intend to bring to the notice of the House a problem which has been with our society for some considerable time, and I have been asked to do so by people in my own electorate who have children who suffer from an unfortunate condition.

I refer to the people who call themselves the Cleft Palate and Lip Society. They have considerable problems because the condition of their children is not recognised as a medical disability. The authorities who administer Medibank consider it to be a dental problem. The word "cleft" describes the split or gap which divides the baby's lip or palate into two or more parts. We all know what this condition is, and we have seen it in some unfortunate children.

The society is endeavouring to have certain points recognised. Its members want the problem of these infants recognised as being a medical and orthodontic problem, and not a dental one. Can we agree that this is so? With the introduction of Medibank private patients are not covered for orthodontic treatment and speech therapy. Therefore the parents of these children are confronted with the expensive treatment which is required for them. Country parents in particular have the added expense of travelling to and from the city to keep appointments. The treatment which must be carried out before any cure can be effected is medical treatment and should in my opinion, and in the opinion of the society, be considered as such.

I understand in this State there would be approximately 30 such patients a year. This may not sound very many. The average cost of treating each of these patients is \$1 000. So members can see that if our State Government picked up the tab for \$30 000 a year we could make a tremendous contribution towards alleviating the problem and the suffering of these unfortunate children.

I know it is the responsibility of Medibank to look after us medically, and it has been claimed that it will do this. I hope that we as members of this House will encourage our Federal counterparts to take up the cause of these people. But if we are not successful in doing this, I trust that our own State Government may see the need to provide the amount of money—presently \$30 000 a year—to help these unfortunate children.

It is not my intention to delay the House for very long tonight. In conclusion I would like to refer to the very kindly remarks which have been passed in this House today regarding the Leader of the Opposition. I do have messages for him from people in my electorate who have heard of his intended retirement, and who are grateful for the effort he has put into

government in this State over a long period of time. I would remind the Leader of the Opposition that, of course, most of these messages are from my own valuable supporters; but I am proud to know that they can show appreciation where it is genuinely deserved to be shown. I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his service to this State on behalf of those people in my electorate.

MR. HARMAN (Maylands) [8.54 p.m.]: I would like to join with other speakers tonight in congratulating the member for Greenough on his maiden speech in this House. I hope his stay in this place will be everything he wishes it to be. I also congratulate the Leader of the Opposition on the milestone he has reached on this day.

Tonight I want to refer to the shameful and distorted attack which our Premier launched upon the workers of Western Australia last evening. This was not an isolated attack by the Premier upon the workers of this State; he has been doing this for some considerable time. What he has been doing is blaming the workers of Western Australia for a downturn in productivity.

As we know, our Premier constantly blames other people for his own failings. If you, Sir, think about productivity for a few moments you will realise that if we are to have an increase in productivity we must have an increase in capital investment. So what the Premier is really saying is this: he has failed miserably to improve and increase the flow of investment capital into Western Australia in the two years he has been the Premier. He knows this, but he is blaming the workers for it.

Mr O'Connor: Didn't he blame a few stirrers in the main?

Mr HARMAN: He also blamed the unions, but I will come to that later on. This is his usual approach; and it is significant that where he has failed on a number of other occasions he has blamed someone else. At present the workers of Western Australia are getting the blame for the Premier's lack of initiative and lack of success in attracting investment capital into Western Australia.

There are some other features about productivity which the Premier seems to ignore, is not aware of, or certainly will not discuss in public. Apart from the necessity to have capital investment in order to achieve increased productivity, one must also take into account a world-wide trend which did not commence yesterday, but many, many years ago, and which produced alienation amongst our workers.

One should also take into account the shortage of skilled workers in Western Australia, the shortage of materials in this State, and the lack of consultation

between the Government, employers, and trade unions. This is the real story of what has happened in Western Australia over the past two years. The downturn in productivity that has occurred in this country has not been the fault of the workers; it has been the fault of the present State Government, led by the present Premier. Again last night he tried to denigrate the workers, just as he has tried to do on a number of other occasions in the Press and in public speeches when he has tried to shift the blame to the workers of Western Australia for his own inability to attract investment.

I say that is a most shameful act and I am sure the workers of Western Australia are beginning to realise what sort of treatment they are receiving from their Premier.

Mr Grayden: We have the lowest incidence of industrial strife in Australia. What are you talking about?

Mr HARMAN: Let us look in a little more depth at some of the aspects I have raised. We have seen that the State has not been able to attract any sort of investment capital for factories, mines, and other activities. This is not something I have cooked up by myself, because it is a matter which has been brought to the attention of the Jackson committee—a committee set up by the Whitlam Government to examine manufacturing industry in Australia.

On page 2 of the report, the following point is made—

For ten years the rate of growth in labour productivity of Australian manufacturing has been far below that achieved in Japan, France and Germany, and marginally below Britain and Canada.

On the same page, it is stated that "alienation and frustration are evidenced by unrest, absenteeism, high turnover, and indifferent quality of product".

That is the second point to which I wish to turn. Since the Industrial Revolution, right down to the present day a number of noted historians, economists, and philosophers have referred to the alienation of the worker which occurs because of mass production. I think this problem can be isolated to two aspects. The first is alienation from the product itself. The worker has become a very specialised sort of person nowadays; he is not like the craftsman of old, who was able to build or make some item from go to whoa; now he is part of a mass production system whereby he has a very small identification and relationship with the product.

Secondly, the worker is alienated from the activity around him. He no longer takes part in any sort of decision-making in the factory or enterprise in which he is

employed. To the management he is some sort of a number or resource, not an individual, not one who should be taken into account, and certainly not one who should be consulted.

Mr Grayden: Of course we know that is not so.

Mr HARMAN: It is so.

Mr Grayden: Have you ever been out to Chamberlain's?

Mr HARMAN: I am glad the Minister raised that matter.

Mr Grayden: That company is only one of many.

Mr H. D. Evans: What have you done about the situation at Midland Junction Abattoir?

Mr Grayden: You stick to your cows and potatoes, and leave industrial matters to someone more qualified.

Mr HARMAN: In this State there have been at least three firms which have shown some initiative, one of which is Chamberlain's; members should take the Minister's advice and go out to this company's premises to see what I have been harping on for some time. If we are to have workers satisfied with their jobs, we must involve them in the total process where they work, and this type of employee participation actually is in operation at Chamberlain's.

Mr Sodeman: You must agree that it is a two-way co-operation.

Mr HARMAN: Yes, I do agree with that; but we will achieve that two-way co-operation when we have this sort of involvement by the workers in industry.

The other point to which I should like to refer is the shortage of good management. Again, this is something I have not cooked up; it is referred to in the Jackson committee report. I will not elaborate on this point, because the report is in the library for members to read at their leisure.

I have already referred to the shortage of skilled workers. We know such a shortage exists in this State, and has always existed. In his policy speech, the Premier said he was going to implement a retraining scheme. However, we have never seen or heard of a retraining scheme in the two years he has been the Premier.

Mr Grayden: You have not been looking around, because you obviously do not know the true situation.

Mr HARMAN: The Minister cannot tell me of one retraining scheme of any significance in Western Australia.

Mr Grayden: What about the brick-layers?

Mr HARMAN: What about them? We started that scheme.

Mr Grayden: Cut it out!

Mr Taylor: It is true; the Tonkin Government initiated that scheme.

Mr O'Neil: We cannot believe everything the member for Cockburn says. He is not even in his right place, and he is interjecting again.

Mr Taylor: I know we initiated that project, because I was the Minister at the time.

Mr HARMAN: The bricklaying scheme was initiated by the Tonkin Labor Government when the present member for Cockburn was the Minister for Labour; no-one can doubt that. No attempt has been made by this Government to assist the relocation of displaced workers or to retrain workers back into industry. If the Government did anything at all, it was to initiate some isolated scheme whereby a number of Aborigines were trained to become better qualified to lay bricks.

The second last item to which I refer is the shortage of materials. Again, no-one can deny that there is such a shortage in Western Australia. I acknowledge that some materials are in plentiful supply, but others are not.

Mr O'Neil: Which are the ones in short supply?

Mr HARMAN: I am told at the moment there are quite a number; I exclude bricks from that list. However, in the housing construction industry some items are in short supply.

Mr O'Neil: Which ones?

Mr H. D. Evans: Transformers and copper wire; the SEC cannot get on with the job.

Mr O'Neil: We are talking about housing.

Mr Watt: I dispute those items are in short supply, anyway.

Mr HARMAN: These materials are all associated with housing. We do not build a house just with bricks; we need timber, asbestos, and a host of other materials.

Mr O'Neil: Are they all in short supply? I asked you to name them.

Mr HARMAN: I have already named half a dozen of them.

Mr O'Neil: You mentioned transformers.

Mr HARMAN: If the Minister cares to make inquiries, he will find that there is a shortage of some building materials.

Mr O'Neil: You have not told us of any.

Mr HARMAN: Yes, I have.

Mr O'Neil: What are they?

Mr HARMAN: I have already given the Minister half a dozen items.

Mr Sodeman: The member for Warren helped you with two items. No other materials are in short supply.

Mr HARMAN: Members opposite do not have to believe me, but I am telling them there is a shortage of building materials in Western Australia which is adding to the downturn in productivity.

The last matter relating to this downturn in productivity to which I wish to refer is the lack of consultation between the Government, employers, and unions.

Mr Grayden: Absolute rubbish! There is not a vestige of truth in that statement. Meaningful consultations are held when they are requested.

Mr HARMAN: I am not referring to meaningful discussions relating to industrial disputes; I am talking about consultations between the Government, employers and unions when it comes to investment—building new factories or installing new machines or equipment in factories.

Mr Grayden: We are constantly consulting unions and employers about safety.

Mr HARMAN: I am not talking about safety; I am talking about productivity, getting the economy going again, and getting people back to work.

I should like to quote from a speech made by the Premier about August, 1975; when addressing a "People Productivity Mining" seminar in Perth he had this to say—

I want to tell you that, as Leader of the Government in this State, I stand ready to talk to everybody about the ways of overcoming some of these impasses which exist—provided we can receive the necessary assurances that discussions will not only be meaningful, but will be undertaken in an atmosphere of complete frankness and confidence. In this way one can really expose the true position without the present dangers that political advantage will immediately be taken of any attempt to be efficient, decent and frank.

That was our Premier.

Mr O'Neil: Who said that?

Mr HARMAN: Our Premier. He said—

I stand ready to have consultations. I assume that he meant consultations with employers and unions. To this day the Premier has not sought any consultation with the Trades and Labor Council concerning productivity, capital investment, new factories and new ventures in Western Australia. To this day he has not sought any sort of conversation with the Trades and Labor Council of Western Australia. Yet he said—

I want to tell you that as the leader of the Government in this State I stand ready to talk to everybody.

When it becomes a question of what the Premier said, it really indicates what goes on in this State. I suppose the Premier

has said enough words to fill many volumes on rows and rows of bookshelves in this House. But when it comes to what he has done one would find that his actions would probably fill only one volume. If we are to do something about productivity, about investment and about the alienation of workers the one positive way this can be achieved is by consultation, by getting together with employers and with the Trades and Labor Council and trying through these organisations to develop some sort of confidence and rapport which will mean that productivity in this State can be increased.

Mr Grayden: Are you suggesting that those discussions have not taken place?

Mr HARMAN: I am. I am telling the House.

Mr Grayden: Quite obviously you have not been in touch with the TLC.

Mr HARMAN: I have. I have been assured—the Premier can debate this if he wants to—

Sir Charles Court: Do you mean to say that the Government has not talked to the unions about this?

Mr HARMAN: About what?

Sir Charles Court: About this question of productivity and the question of the future of industry if the present anarchy continues.

Mr HARMAN: I am saying that the Premier of Western Australia seems to want to denigrate the workers all the time and to blame them for the downturn in productivity when he knows that it is his own lack of initiative which has stopped the flow of capital investment into this country.

Sir Charles Court: Do not talk nonsense. How can you negotiate contracts with 23 ships tied up outside Port Hedland?

Mr HARMAN: The Premier blames every other person when he cannot do something himself.

Sir Charles Court: How can you negotiate contracts when you have 23 ships tied up outside Port Hedland for 23 days?

Mr HARMAN: Those matters would have been explained to the Premier and I do not intend to explain them to him again. I am saying that since this Premier has been in office he has not consulted the Trades and Labor Council on this question of productivity and investment.

Sir Charles Court: Why do you think we have the Minister? He has been doing a great job. You talk to some of the people in the TLC.

Mr HARMAN: The Minister has had discussions with the TLC on industrial matters.

Mr Grayden: And productivity.

Mr HARMAN: The Minister may not have had discussions on productivity. I shall make some inquiries about that tomorrow. I am saying that the Premier on this day in August, 1975, said—

I stand ready to talk to everybody.

Sir Charles Court: Of course we are.

Mr HARMAN: If the Premier is so concerned about the downturn in productivity I would have thought that, as he does on so many other occasions, he would make sure that he tried to provide some sort of system whereby there would be regular and meaningful discussions on productivity in Western Australia. He has not approached the Trades and Labor Council himself.

Sir Charles Court: We have a perfectly good Minister who is doing the job well. You talk to your people and you will get a different answer from what you are telling the House.

Mr HARMAN: As the Premier has returned to the Chamber I shall go back over one or two points. He claims often that the only way to improve productivity is for the workers to work harder. He has said that on many occasions. He fails to realise that in the last couple of hundred years there has been a tendency for workers to become alienated from their jobs. So it is not really a case of saying to the worker, "You have to work harder". The Premier should be making sure that he has somebody available to analyse why there is absenteeism, why there are so many strikes and why there are people who are just not interested any longer in working.

I refer the Premier to a report which was prepared last year. I have not been able to obtain a copy of it but I have an extract which appeared in *The Australian* last year. The report, which was prepared for the Federal Department of Labour, showed that 41 per cent of workers aged 55 years and over are apathetic about their jobs. The report indicated that apathy exists in all age groups to a lesser degree and is the cause for persons to remain unemployed and for those who are employed to over-indulge in absenteeism and to become discontented in their work. If the Premier were really concerned about the workers in Western Australia he would have done what the Premier of South Australia has done which was to get together a little research group to look at the whole question of worker participation. We know that ultimately that will happen and we should be starting now to prepare ourselves for it.

Mr Grayden: We have been saying that in the Department of Labour and Industry for the last two years.

Mr HARMAN: I know of three firms in Western Australia which have started the concept of worker participation and I hope that there will be more.

Mr Grayden: Do you think there are only two or three?

Mr Sodeman: There are a lot more than that.

Mr HARMAN: That is all I know of. The Minister may know of some more. One would expect, if the Premier were really concerned about the workers and if he realised that there is this alienation from the product and from the firm, wherever the worker may be, that he would take the initiative to do something about establishing a research group in Western Australia to examine the whole question of worker participation.

Mr Grayden: Do you think that we in the Department of Labour and Industry do not keep in contact with every other State in Australia?

Mr HARMAN: I can do that myself.

Mr Grayden: And throughout the world on worker participation.

Mr HARMAN: I am glad you do.

Mr Bertram: How about doing something about it?

Mr Taylor: Do you know that your predecessor said that was not the function of government when I asked him a question four or five years ago?

Mr Grayden: You do not know what has taken place in the last two years.

Mr HARMAN: The second matter to which I wish to refer is the remark made by the Premier last night, for which we all waited with bated breath, concerning his solution for inflation. He said last night that to overcome inflation we had to—I will use his words—"restore investor confidence".

Sir Charles Court: That is right.

Mr HARMAN: I agree with him. Two years ago he said that strikes caused inflation.

Sir Charles Court: So they do.

Mr HARMAN: Two years ago he said that the shortage of goods forced up prices and caused inflation.

Sir Charles Court: That is correct.

Mr HARMAN: That is right, but there are quite a number of other reasons for inflation which the Premier seems to want to omit whenever he talks about the subject. There seems to be an attitude on the part of the present Government that inflation was started only two or three years ago during the term of the Whitlam Government. Anyone with any common sense and any appreciation of history will know that inflation started a long time before the 1972 Whitlam Government.

Mr Clarko: Not rampant inflation.

Mr HARMAN: I would expect the honourable member to know more about the history of this matter.

Mr Clarko: You are making a totally illogical comparison; you are making a comparison between a sore on your leg and having your leg amputated!

Mr HARMAN: Surely the honourable member will agree that it was inflation at a much higher rate than at any other time!

Mr Clarko: The increases in inflation were greater in Australia than in any other western nation.

Mr HARMAN: What I am getting at is that the honourable member must concede that there has been inflation in other countries of the world at a higher rate than the inflation experienced in Australia at other times.

Mr Clarko: You should look at the OECD countries from 1961 to 1971.

Mr HARMAN: The honourable member should be fair about this.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: You are expecting something if you expect the member for Karrinyup to be fair.

Mr HARMAN: Perhaps I should ignore the member for Karrinyup. Anyone who has an appreciation of the economic history of Australia will know that in a practical sense since the first days of the colony Australia has experienced bouts of inflation. The reasons for the rampant inflation in Australia in the 1974 period are to be found in a number of decisions which were not made by the McMahon Government in 1971-72.

Sir Charles Court: Who told you that? You have been listening to Gough Whitlam!

Mr HARMAN: I am trying to give members opposite a history lesson dealing with the economic situation in the last four or five years.

Sir Charles Court: You have been listening to Gough and you have believed his speeches.

Mr HARMAN: A decision was made in the 1971 Snedden Budget which produced a high bout of unemployment in that period. No-one can deny, and certainly it has been stated by many commentators, that in the period of 1971-72 there was a great flow of capital into Australia. There was a great amount of money coming into Australia from the prices received for our exports, notably beef. Furthermore the banking system released into the community a further supply of money. All this provided the people with a greater amount of money than there were goods in the country. That was the reason the inflation started off in 1972-73; it started off as a result of the great amount of money that flowed into the country.

Everyone knows that when the Whitlam Government came to office it realised there was too much capital flowing in, all of which could not be used. So, the Whitlam Government did something about the

matter, and that was why it brought in the non-interest bearing deposit system. It realised there was so much money floating around and not sufficient goods that it reduced tariffs, so that there would be a flood of imports into Australia.

Mr Grayden: That put thousands of Australians out of work.

Mr HARMAN: If the Whitlam Government had not reduced tariffs at that time we would not have the goods to sell in Australia. Once the prices started to rise dramatically as a result of too much money chasing too few goods, the price of wages started to go up also, and the price of wages exceeded the price of goods. That was the reason there were strikes in 1974, and unions were endeavouring to make sure the wages of their members were not eroded by inflation.

The Whitlam Government tried to argue that Australia should have a wages policy, a prices policy, and a policy on interest rates. It was the only national Government of any account in the world that did not have this power over wages, prices, and interest rates.

Mr Clarko: And the people of Australia rejected the wages and prices policy, as did the unions.

Mr HARMAN: The States of Australia had this power, but they refused to refer it to the Commonwealth Government.

Sir Charles Court: You are not right in saying that. The then Prime Minister refused a package deal from the States which would have brought about nationwide co-operation between the Commonwealth and the States.

Mr HARMAN: I do not know what the package deal was.

Sir Charles Court: It was made public at the time. I spoke about it when I came back from the conference. It is recorded in *Hansard*.

Mr HARMAN: I accept what the Premier has said.

Sir Charles Court: Mr Whitlam did not want co-operation.

Mr HARMAN: The Whitlam Government endeavoured in 1974 to introduce a system of wage indexation, but it was not until 1975 that it was able to achieve that. Wage indexation had the effect of reducing inflation, and the number of strikes and disputes over wage claims.

Mr Grayden: Why did you agree to "sweetheart" agreements?

Mr HARMAN: That is a different matter. "Sweetheart" agreements have always been arrived at by the trade unions through negotiation with the employers. They can negotiate with employers over conditions, long service leave, and anything else. We had to accept, as the union movement accepted, the principle of wage indexation.

Sir Charles Court: Now you are opposing it and wanting to destroy it.

Mr HARMAN: In the last 12 months some sort of sanity on the question of wages has prevailed. We have this history of inflation being always with us in Australia under the present system.

Mr Clarko: The rate of inflation is going up.

Mr HARMAN: I thought the Premier would have been concerned about this matter to the extent that he would be prepared to say that the restoring of confidence is not the only solution to inflation. There is another solution, and that is the establishment of some sort of Australia-wide economic planning system.

Under the present system the States seem to be vying with one another for resources; each State seems to be altering and increasing Government charges, fees, etc.; and each State seems to be attracting investment without much consultation with the other States or with the Australian Government. Over the years that has been the practice.

Mr Sodeman: Like inflation, that has always been with us.

Mr HARMAN: In a country like Australia with 14 million people surely it would be beneficial to the country if we had an economic planning authority.

Sir Charles Court: Here we go; centralist to the core!

Mr HARMAN: If we want to create an economic planning authority the proper way to do it would be to call all the States, the local authorities, the Commonwealth Government, the representatives of the employers, and the representatives of the unions, together regularly to appraise the economic situation. By that means they could make economic decisions which would be uniform throughout Australia, and which I am sure would go a long way towards removing the problems we have of high inflation and high unemployment in Australia.

Some time ago the Premier jibed me. He said to me, "Look what has happened in West Germany." He suggested that West Germany might be a good country to look at in dealing with the question of unemployment and inflation. For that reason I made some inquiries about the situation in West Germany. I find that West Germany does a number of things which are not unlike what I have been suggesting tonight.

Mr Grayden: You are on dangerous ground.

Sir Charles Court: In West Germany you have a work force and a nation that are dead scared of inflation.

Mr HARMAN: We should see what has been happening in West Germany.

Sir Charles Court: You should. The people in that country work.

Mr HARMAN: The Republic of Germany countered inflation by a very strict control over the volume of money in the economy. I shall use the actual words quoted by Dr Herrhausen at a bankers' luncheon in Sydney in November, 1974, to describe the situation there. He said—

No better weapon has been discovered (to combat inflation) than a stern anti-inflationary central bank policy.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr HARMAN: Thank you. Another important aspect of the situation in Germany is that that country has a high degree of co-operation between the Government, employers, and unions. Informal conferences are held regularly under the chairmanship of the Minister for Economics. Also, a programme of worker participation applies in that country. In the newspaper recently we read—

Mr Grayden: It would not have a bar of it.

Mr HARMAN: In West Germany there is a strong central economic planning system which moves quickly to combat inflation. This is an important feature. The tools must be available to enable quick economic decisions to be made. Germany has had this co-operation and consultation between the Government, employers, and trade unions and—

Mr Thompson: What co-operation could you expect from a guy like Cowles?

Mr HARMAN: —there is a great measure of worker participation. On the factory floor and on the managerial boards the workers actually take part in the decision-making procedures.

All I want to say in conclusion is that it is shameful and denigrating to the workers of Western Australia for our Premier to accuse them of being responsible for the downturn in productivity. If he really wants to do anything about economic development in Western Australia he should immediately call for a conference between the employers, the Government, and the trade union movement and ensure that meaningful discussions ensue. Such discussions must be frank and open and those involved must get down to the business of putting Western Australia back on the road to economic recovery.

MR BLAICKIE (Vasse) [9.32 p.m.]: I too wish to support the motion and congratulate the member for Greenough on the contribution he made in his maiden speech in this House. It is rather sad that the member for Greenough has assumed the seat previously held by Sir David Brand, a man who upheld the finest

of parliamentary traditions. He was certainly admired throughout Western Australia because of his respect for the institution of Parliament and for the service he rendered the people of the State.

I would like also to acknowledge the contribution made by the Leader of the Opposition. In the short period I have been in this Parliament I have come to respect him as a man and certainly as a tactician in the art of politics. I can recall that when I was on the other side of the House I asked him rather difficult questions on occasions, but he was always able to use them to his political advantage. I hope the actions of the Leader of the Opposition have taught me a thing or two, but I realise that one can go on learning forever.

I feel it is fitting I should mention that I understand the first excursion into the field of politics made by the Leader of the Opposition was in the electorate of Sussex many years ago. Probably I am rather pleased he was not successful, otherwise I might not be here now.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: So am I.

Mr BLAICKIE: But I do wish him all that one can wish him from this side of the House and hope he continues to enjoy good health.

In some of the speeches made during the debate the subject of electoral boundaries has been raised. The State Government's record in this respect and the boundaries currently under review have been discussed. One would have thought that after the debacle which occurred in the recent Federal election, which was fought on the basis of one-vote-one-value, members opposite would not raise the subject, because if ever the people of a nation indicated what they thought of socialism they did so on that occasion.

It is rather strange also that members opposite can talk of inflation and state that it was not caused by a Government of its political colour, but by a previous Government of a different political colour. I would remind members that we certainly had inflation in 1971, but then it was referred to as creeping inflation. It was not liked, but it was manageable and was increasing at the rate of approximately 4 or 5 per cent per annum.

That situation is far different from the galloping inflation of 15 to 20 per cent experienced during the last few years. In this respect I express my appreciation of the efforts of the Fraser Government which, in the short time it has been in office, has, first of all, restored the super-phosphate bounty; secondly, lifted the meat export levy; and, thirdly, reintroduced investment allowances. These three items in themselves are relatively minor, but they will play a very important role in maintaining the viability of so many people not only in this State, but across the nation.

During this debate one is given an opportunity to speak of things which have occurred and which are necessary to improve the situation in one's electorate. I would like to place on record my appreciation of the Government's recognition of the necessity for hospital services to be provided in my electorate. Recently contracts have been let for an amount in excess of \$3 million for the Busselton hospital and for an amount of \$120 000 for extensions at Margaret River. Both these facilities were long overdue and I can assure the Government they are appreciated by the constituents I have the honour to represent in this Parliament.

I would like also to refer to the dairying industry with which I have been personally associated most of my life. The allocation of further quotas has completely changed the outlook of the people I represent. Some 75 quotas were allocated in Western Australia and 55 of them came to my electorate and this has given a new image and style of life as well as providing new objectives which these farmers previously did not have.

I am quite confident that of the next 75 quotas to be allocated a similar percentage will be allocated to farmers in the Vasse electorate. This is because the dairy farmers there have in fact taken the initiative over many years by upgrading their herds and making many improvements. They have been producing reasonable quantities of manufacturing milk. All they asked was for a chance which has now been granted and they will use it to their advantage and thus make a greater contribution to the industry. The change of attitude in the respective towns in my electorate has also been quite dramatic.

Earlier the member for Warren spoke of loans being made available to the dairying industry by the Commonwealth Government. This scheme was disbanded in August last year. I indicated previously in this House that I thought the scheme was excellent and enabled farmers to purchase bulk-milk vats on a no-interest basis. I believe this scheme should be reintroduced because any producer who desires to remain in the industry must have refrigerated bulk-milk facilities.

Bulk milk must be stored in a refrigerated tank of an approved standard, and it is estimated that such a tank would cost approximately \$8 000. With the addition of the related infrastructure, such as power and roads, the figure would rise to \$10 000 or \$11 000. The farmers have real problems in trying to raise that sort of money and make repayments at commercial rates of interest.

I wrote to the Whitlam Government asking it to continue the scheme, but the indication was that it would not be continued. I have written also to the responsible Minister in the Fraser Government, along the same lines, and as yet

the indications certainly do not appear to be encouraging—mainly because of the critical situation the dairying industry across Australia is currently experiencing. The present situation has been brought about because of the unprecedented quantity of skim milk powder which is available throughout the world. I think stocks are approaching something like 200 000 tonnes which has placed the sale of that commodity in jeopardy, both in Australia and on the export market. As a result, returns to producers have been reduced.

Within the next 12 months there will be moves throughout Australia to reorganise and restructure the dairying industry. I hope that the Western Australian delegates who attend the Australian Dairy Industry Council will make it known to other delegates that Western Australia has basically put its own house in order. As far as is practicable, most producers will have an entitlement on the home market.

At this stage I would point out that Queensland, which was in a parlous state some 10 or 12 years ago, is now relatively healthy in the Australian dairying situation. Some years ago action was taken similar to that taken in Western Australia whereby most of the producers now have a share in the State's liquid-milk market. Certainly Queensland is more healthy to the extent that dairy produce is exported to Western Australia in the form of UHT milk and ice cream. That has some relevance when it is considered that the produce comes from a State some 3 500 miles away.

New South Wales has taken steps to give producers a share of the liquid-milk market. So, we finish up with Tasmania, to a lesser degree, and more importantly Victoria, both of which are facing critical situations. I believe Victoria is in its present situation mainly because of overproduction of manufacturing milk products.

I sincerely hope that our delegates who will vote on this issue will not put Western Australia in jeopardy by voting for a two-price scheme which ultimately will lead to quotas. Strictures of that nature in this State would lead to a ludicrous situation, bearing in mind that this State does not produce its full requirements of dairy produce at this stage. If quotas or restrictions are placed on the manufactured milk which is now available an even bigger burden will be placed on the farmers.

Mr Davies: Is there any UHT milk processed in this State?

Mr BLAIE: There are only two plants in Australia, I believe—in Queensland and in Tasmania.

Mr Davies: There is a market here?

Mr BLAIE: There is a limited market, perhaps in the north-west. I have seen the product in shops at Rockingham,

and I was disturbed. I do not believe our industry has taken enough initiative to counter these imports.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order. Will the member of his feet speak up, and would the member interjecting also speak up? *Hansard* can barely hear what is being said.

Mr BLAIE: The pine planting programme in Western Australia will be of major consequence. It is situated in the Donnybrook sunk lands area, and I commend the Forests Department for the tremendous work its officers have done in this regard. The department has carried out a very detailed and intensive study over the past six or seven years. I congratulate the department on the excellent job it is doing in carrying out various trials, and investigating water catchment, salinity, recreation use, and multi-purpose land use. The details of the project are available for public comment and consideration, and hopefully funds will be available for it to proceed next year.

It is proposed that some 125 000 acres of pines will be planted by the year 2000. If the project were costed at this stage the sum involved would be some \$37 million. The name, "Donnybrook sunk land" is an absolute misnomer because it has nothing to do with the Donnybrook area. The area involved is bounded by Nannup, Busselton, and Margaret River. The development of the industry within the area will have an impact of considerable magnitude on the Vasse electorate and will certainly be of tremendous benefit to this State.

Viticulture has also played a tremendous role in the development of a pioneer project in my area. I want to acknowledge the achievement of Dr Tom Cullity who, on expert advice, planted a trial area of grapes which has proved to be outstandingly successful. Other people have come into the field and by 1980 it is expected there will be an investment of some \$25 million in this industry. That will occur in the space of some 10 short years.

The wines which have been produced have acquitted themselves extremely well throughout Western Australia, and in other parts of Australia, too.

Another industry which has unlimited scope is that connected with tourism. I suppose this applies to any area in Western Australia. Tourism is an industry which should be conducted by private enterprise. I do not believe Governments have any role to play in this industry, apart from encouraging it.

I am concerned that the tourist industry within my electorate—and throughout the rest of Western Australia—will be hard pressed in its attempt to continue to exist. If costs continue to rise, as they have risen over the last three or four years, I venture to say it will be cheaper for a Western Australian to holiday in South-East Asia than the Eastern States. Conversely, it

will be cheaper for a person in the Eastern States to go out of Australia than to come to Western Australia. These are matters of which we should be made aware.

The costs involved in the tourist industry are fairly interesting. I know that in my area the bulk of tourist trade takes place during the weekends. Some figures were made available to me a short time ago and they show that the hourly rate of pay on a public holiday for a dishwasher—who would certainly be the lowest paid person in the industry—is \$6.50. That is the casual rate. I suggest to the House that the tourist industry cannot afford to pay rates of that magnitude and expect to continue in business.

I make a plea to the unions which control the labour force in this State that they recognise the difficulties of the tourist industry and the complexities of industry, generally, particularly in country areas. The tourist industry does have problems. In country areas, the weekend is the time when there is an influx of visitors and additional staff is required. In employing additional staff at the weekends, one has to pay dish washers \$6.50 an hour and more to others further up the scale. Industry cannot keep paying those kinds of rates, and the unions controlling this field must give consideration to this aspect because otherwise they will prevent their own members in kindred unions taking advantage of the many facilities we have around the State.

This is 1976, and I think the worker has excellent conditions today compared with the conditions prevailing in 1971. As far as I am aware, all workers now have four weeks' leave a year with a 17½ per cent holiday loading. What is the point in having all these loadings if people cannot afford to take a holiday in their own State? Unless action is taken few people will be able to take advantage of our tourist industry.

Still on the subject of tourism, there is a need for more and better services and facilities. Perhaps this could be said of other industries, but in order to attract people to an area or region of the State it is important for the tourist industry to provide the facilities. To provide the facilities we require people who have the courage to invest, and if they have that courage they are entitled to expect a return. When they have to pay 11½ per cent interest, or rates of that order, it is a great challenge to invest at all.

I recommend to the Government that it take a very serious look at this matter because the tourist industry is a major growth industry. It will have continuing growth in spite of the hardships I have indicated. Governments have in the past assisted industries such as agriculture by making loans available at relatively low interest, and I believe the tourist industry should be given the same kind of consideration.

I am not talking about loans under Government guarantee, which are so vital and important. If it were not for Government guarantees many developments would not get off the ground at all, but even with a Government guarantee it is still relatively hard to pay back the capital at 11½ per cent interest and show a profit. I make this proposition to the Government and believe it is worthy of consideration.

I would like to refer to one other aspect, which is a dark cloud on the horizon, and I have spoken about it previously. I refer to the 1974-75 report of the Commissioner of Police in relation to the drug problem in Western Australia. My electorate is very attractive to visitors, including young people, and unfortunately this has resulted in an increase in the number of convictions on drug charges. The report of the Commissioner of Police states—

There is no doubt that the activity in drug involvement escalated again during the past twelve months. Cannabis offences continued to be the major type of drug abuse encountered. The first armed hold-ups on pharmacies were encountered.

During the period 697 persons were charged with 810 offences relating to drugs. See Appendix 3. These figures show the increases of persons arrested and charges preferred for the last seven years that the Squad has been in operation.

It is interesting to note that the number of persons arrested for the 18-21 years group show a high increase (129 per cent, for the past year).

There is a steady stream of requests from various organisations for Drug Squad personnel to give lectures. The Squad took part in 26 such lectures but many had to be refused and referred to the Health Education Council.

Penalties for drug abuse have recently been increased to a maximum of \$2 000, but drug abuse has nevertheless continued at an alarming rate. We do not seem to be overcoming the problem. An increasingly large number of people are becoming involved in the drug scene. It is time that society, whom we represent, took a close look at the situation to find out where it has gone wrong and what alternatives are available to discourage people from drug abuse.

The fact that so many 18 to 21-year-olds are involved is a matter of great concern to me. I have been personally involved with the drug squad and have arranged for members of it to give lectures in my area. I do not know whether the answer is to undertake an expanded education programme to make the community,

the parents, and the teenagers more aware of the problems associated with drug abuse, but it is a matter about which we should be concerned. I will be having further discussions on this matter with the Minister for Police and the Minister for Health.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Government on its activities and express my appreciation for the very real co-operation I have received over the past two years in areas relating to welfare and community health. The decisions which have been put into effect by the bodies of the Parliament have given the Vasse electorate the most stimulating boost it has had since the inception of parliamentary government. With those remarks, I support the motion.

MR FLETCHER (Fremantle) [9.59 p.m.]: I will not begin on the note on which the member for Vasse concluded by congratulating the Government, because I cannot find anything for which to congratulate it.

I congratulate the member for Greenough on the speech he made in moving the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech and on his election to this House. He will sometimes find it difficult on the Government side when he does not have the opportunity to speak as often as he would like. I have enjoyed the privilege of being on the Government side for only three years. It silenced me, although members opposite might not think that possible. However, I wish the honourable member well here.

Congratulations, in which I join, have been extended by the Premier to Mr John Tonkin, Leader of the Opposition and member for Melville. My congratulations to that gentleman, too. This House will miss him, and so will the State. However, he does not expect any more comment from me—he knows my attitude to him and to the splendid work he has done over the years.

I would like to turn now to the Governor's Speech. I will leave the subject of electoral boundaries until a later stage. On the subject of State finance, I wish to refer to a few comments which I think are worth mentioning. The Governor said—

The Government is most concerned about the present nation-wide inflation and unemployment.

While the recession and unemployment has been less severe than elsewhere in Australia, Western Australia still suffers an unacceptable level of inflation and unemployment.

The State Government will co-operate with the Commonwealth Government in its efforts to abate and control inflation.

Two years after the Court Government was elected, the promises made on the hustings by the then Leader of the Opposition are still unfulfilled. I remember he said, "Put me in the saddle for six months and I will fix everything".

Sir Charles Court: That was in August, 1972.

Mr Bertram: He sure did!

Mr FLETCHER: He was going to fix everything.

Mr H. D. Evans: Including inflation!

Mr FLETCHER: Then we had the crusade to sack Whitlam.

Mr Bertram: By fair means or foul.

Mr FLETCHER: The Tory Governments throughout Australia, in connivance with the media, achieved that objective with the assistance of another distinguished gentleman, whose name I will not mention but of whom members are all aware. Eventually it was the voters, but not a majority of the voters, who deposed the Whitlam Government. There is a distinction, and I will deal with that later.

On the 12th November, 1975, the day after the dismissal of the Whitlam Government, we saw a headline in the Press, "Whitlam sacking boosts market". Anybody on this side of the House would know why it boosted the market; it was because the vested interests whom the Premier represents would have an open go. The Premier attempted—

Sir Charles Court: You were not going too badly until then.

Mr FLETCHER: —to claim that he inherited the economic situation from the previous Government. I have explained before, and the Premier knows, why interest rates had to be put up.

Sir Charles Court: Gee, you are loyal!

Mr FLETCHER: I know the Premier will not contradict me, because he knows enough about finance to admit the truth of my remarks. In fact, I concede that he knows more than I do about finance. However, interest rates had to be put up because, as previous speakers on this side of the House have pointed out, money was available everywhere. The fires of inflation had to be dampened and he was the brave man to do it. However, Whitlam was sacked, and it was the interests to whom I have referred that deposed him. In the Press of the day following we see the following comment—

The sacking of the Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, acted like an injection of a massive dose of adrenalin on the Australian share markets yesterday.

Of course the share markets moved up, because the vested interests could get their hands onto many of the resources on which we sat on behalf of the people of Australia rather than for the vested

interests of Australia, and even worse, the vested interests on the other side of the world.

Mr Sibson interjected.

Mr FLETCHER: I wish the member for Bunbury would stop interjecting.

Mr Sibson: I am helping you along.

Mr FLETCHER: I wish he would contribute to the debate when he rises to his feet rather than make his contribution by way of interjection when I am speaking; it is rude.

Mr Sodeman: It is also good practice!

Mr FLETCHER: Brokers jumped for joy with arms outstretched, while we, on this side of the House, and I would say the majority of the people of Australia who voted for us, were sad.

Mr Sodeman: The majority?

Mr FLETCHER: Yes, the majority of the people voted for the ALP, and I will explain this to the honourable member in a minute.

Mr Bertram: Just wait a minute and he will tell us.

Mr FLETCHER: Mr Goode, a senior partner in the sharebroking company of A. G. Goode & Co., had this to say—

... the news will of course affect overseas investment very favourably and will open up new areas for consideration.

It would be an indication to overseas investors that Australia was still bound by constitutional restraints.

If there was a change in government—

And they knew very well there would be. To continue—

—the Liberal-National Country Party had indicated that it would abolish the Prices Justification Tribunal, which had proved to be the most restraining factor to profits, though there had been a change of policy recently.

It was also very likely that there would be a re-introduction of investment allowances.

Of course they were delighted—the taxpayers were to pay the investment allowance. The taxpayers would pay for extra inflation because the lid had been lifted. Last year, when I referred to the big interests that would be overjoyed, I quoted that any of the big 10—a group of multinationals—would earn more than any one of 80 nations. I referred to a Press report in the *Daily News* of Tuesday, the 14th August, 1973. Although that was a few years ago, these corporations still exist. The article said—

Ten of the world's largest multinational corporations have annual incomes greater than the gross national product of more than 80 nations, according to a U.N. report.

This was a report of the United Nations, and not a report of Harry Fletcher, the member for Fremantle. The article went on to say how the economic domination of these big firms can control who will be the Government, and this fact has been demonstrated throughout the world. I have many Press cuttings here to confirm what I have just said. Many of these big overseas companies can dictate not only the economic policies of countries in which they invest, but also the foreign and other policies of the countries they invade financially.

Despite the Whitlam sacking, there is still unemployment today. The State Government is still endeavouring to attract industry and capital. The Premier is still trying to drag rabbits out of the hat in an attempt to restore—

Sir Charles Court: Trying to get rid of rabbits!

Mr FLETCHER: —his old prestige and his reputation for being able to attract capital and industry to this State.

I will be more charitable to the Premier than he or his counterparts in other States, or even our Federal opponents were to us, and I will say we are still living in a very unhealthy economic climate which is worldwide. That being so, the Premier is in difficulties, and so is the Prime Minister, despite the fact that he deposed the Labor Government. I still maintain we are now in a much worse economic situation than that inherited by the Court Government.

Mr Sibson: Tell us about it.

Mr FLETCHER: I will tell you now.

Mr May: He wouldn't be able to understand anyway, Harry!

Mr FLETCHER: Another paragraph in the Governor's Speech reads as follows—

The Government welcomes the inclusion of Local Government in the proposals. It is a positive recognition of the increased responsibility accruing to this tier of Government.

The Labor Party acknowledges that under Labor local authorities in the Fremantle area received in excess of \$1 million, and so did other local authorities which were prepared to do their homework and prepare a case. They received money, and so did the various zones. However, as I pointed out last year, this money was not channelled through the Premier's hands, and it was not channelled through the Minister's hands, so the State Government could create goodwill in borderline seats and use this goodwill to capture those seats.

I mentioned that last year, and I mention it again now.

Mr Sibson: I just want to know how the balance—

Mr FLETCHER: I wish the member for Bunbury would learn. Further on in His

Speech, on the subject of industrial and resource development, the Governor went on to say—

The year ahead presents great challenges and opportunities for our industrial growth and resources development.

I hope for the sake of the Premier and for the sake of the State that is right in part. The Speech continues—

Priority is thus accorded to negotiating development of North-West Shelf natural gas. It will serve existing and proposed industry in the Pilbara, and the increasing demand in the metropolitan and other areas in the south of the State.

Let me say in respect of that comment—and I hope the Premier is listening; I notice his deputy is—that the life of the gas and oil reserves on the north-west shelf will be in proportion to the amount that is sold overseas, and the more that is sold overseas the poorer we in this State will be. I emphasise that the length of the life of the reserves which will be available to the community in this State will be in direct proportion to the amount sold overseas. Reserves of this gas in Western Australia are limited, just as the reserves are limited in the Eastern States, in the Persian Gulf, and elsewhere in the world. Members opposite must be as frightened as I am that oil resources not only throughout the world but also throughout this State are running out. So why should we sacrifice our limited resources to appease overseas interests?

Sir Charles Court: We are using none now.

Mr FLETCHER: I know that we have to get overseas capital with which to develop, but we do not have to sacrifice such scarce and valuable resources as oil and gas. This concerns me, even if it does not concern the Premier. I say that the metropolitan area and other areas of the State will have gas for a longer period if we retain our resources for ourselves. That is why Mr Connor got into trouble—because he had his big fat posterior on our reserves, and more credit to him for doing so because he did it out of patriotism. That is why Connor had to go, and that is why the Federal Labor Government had to go—because they were indulging in good house-keeping tactics. That is why we are declared to be socialists—because we wanted to use our resources for our own people rather than for people overseas.

I would rather see that gas used for cooking meals in the kitchens of my constituents and of the constituents of every other member in this House, than the constituents of people in Tokyo or other parts of the world. If we send this gas overseas our reticulation pipes and other equipment will become redundant that much sooner. These have been installed

at our great expense, so why should we not obtain the maximum benefit from them?

The Governor also commented on the rural sector in His Speech. He said—

It is hoped 1976 will bring recovery to those agricultural industries which have suffered economic hardship in recent years.

Unlike the member for Vasse and some other country members opposite who blame the Whitlam Government for the rural economic downturn, I join with the Governor in that sentiment. I do hope there is an economic recovery in the rural areas not only for the benefit of the people concerned and their representatives, but also for the benefit of the economy of this State.

As I said earlier, our oil and gas reserves are finite, but the potential of our agricultural areas is not finite. It can go on into the indefinite future if it is carefully looked after. Just as a farmer farms his land for the best economic return and greater stability of the industry, so we should use the same husbandry in respect of our oil and gas resources and ensure they are used to the best advantage of our people.

With regard to meat, I am sad that the market has collapsed. However, trying to sell meat to America at this particular time reminds me of that trite old saying, "selling coals to Newcastle" because, after all, an election is pending in America and President Ford is so anxious not to displease the meat lobby in that country that he is not likely to buy our meat and thus offend his own meat producers. He will be crawling for every vote he can get in that area and we will suffer as a consequence. So all the efforts of Deputy Prime Minister Anthony overseas will come to nothing. In respect of meat orders the Americans will backhand us to the advantage of their own producers.

Sir Charles Court: The Americans increased the quota yesterday.

Mr FLETCHER: I saw that; I read the paper too. Is the tonnage what the Premier and other members would wish it to be?

Sir Charles Court: It is an increase over last year.

Mr FLETCHER: I am telling you, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Crane), and those who do not want to listen, just why the tonnage is not what members opposite and I would like it to be.

Sir Charles Court: It is bigger than last year.

Mr H. D. Evans: It is 2 000 tonnes down on what was expected.

Sir Charles Court: It is better than last year, and it is better than it was a week ago.

Mr H. D. Evans: It is 2 000 tonnes down.

Mr FLETCHER: Mr Acting Speaker, what about an interjection from the member for Fremantle?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Crane): Order! The member for Fremantle will please resume his seat. There is too much cross chatter in the Chamber and it will be tolerated no longer. Please give the member for Fremantle the same opportunity to be heard as he has afforded other members.

Mr FLETCHER: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker; but as with football I do ask for time on.

In respect of mining, the Governor had this to say—

Value of mineral production for the calendar year 1975 is expected to exceed \$1 000 million. This is despite the difficulty experienced by the mineral industry in faltering world markets and restrictive regulations on development of fuel and energy resources.

Representations by the State Government for Commonwealth financial assistance for the goldmining industry were unsuccessful. The Government regrets that such assistance is not forthcoming.

In those few words the Government has thrown a blanket over a scandal. The Speech continues—

The State Government made generous contributions to try and keep both KLV's Fimiston and Hill 50's Mt. Magnet mine development programmes going. It is still ready and willing to participate further if the companies can arrange the required matching funds.

Many members here will recall it was said that all that was necessary was to oust Whitlam and everything would be all right. "Get rid of the Federal member for Kalgoorlie (Mr Collard) and put in Cotter, and everything would be all right." They would save Kalgoorlie and Mt. Magnet.

I notice in the Press recently that the Premier said exactly what Connor and Crean said. The Premier himself is in print as having said that private enterprise here and overseas could and should have put back some of the profits into the ground to upgrade machinery instead of asking the taxpayer to put his hand in his pocket for this purpose. It is my submission that had the companies acted properly and, as with the illustration I gave in respect of farming, put back money into the industry to maintain it at the highest possible level rather than asking the taxpayer to buy machinery and equipment that should have been purchased out of profits over the years, the enterprises would not have run down to become such uneconomic propositions.

However, Connor and Crean were kicked out for drawing attention to that. Now that the Fraser Government is in office the Premier, unfortunately for Kalgoorlie Lake View, Hill 50, and Mt. Magnet, is in the same position we were in then. Why the dishonesty? I try to play politics fairly, and so do others on this side of the House. However, there was a dirty campaign in respect of this particular issue and members opposite know it. Members opposite ousted Collard and Whitlam, but they are no better off for having done so.

Sir Charles Court: Tell us how you can reinvest in plant with the old fixed price of gold. How do you invest the profits that were made?

Mr Sodeman: Whitlam got rid of Crean and Connor, not the Premier of Western Australia.

Mr FLETCHER: Federal aid has been refused by the alleged saviours of Australia. We are out, and the Premier is in the box seat.

Mr Laurance: What about the other things that have been started in the meantime to replace those?

Mr May: Such as?

Mr Laurance: Yeelirrie.

Mr May: That was in train a long time before you came along.

Mr FLETCHER: I refer members to a cartoon which appeared in *The West Australian* of the 13th February, 1976; I only wish members had binoculars so they could see it. The cartoon is by Mitchell, and shows Fraser on a couch, presumably in the office of a psychiatrist or a head shrinker of some sort. A lie detector is immediately behind Fraser and he is saying, "I get this crazy feeling, doc, that nobody believes a word I say anymore." The Prime Minister has abrogated the promises he made in regard to Kalgoorlie and so many other areas to such an extent that a Press normally hostile to the Labor Party saw fit to publish such a cartoon.

I congratulate Mitchell for the humour he injects into his cartoons; even though he is against us on many occasions, I still like his humour. I suggest to members that our Premier equally could have been depicted reclining on the couch as comfortably—or uncomfortably—as the Prime Minister, and passing an identical comment. We remember that two years ago the Premier said he would do this and that. The other night, the Leader of the Opposition reminded him of how he had fallen down on his promises and the Premier groped around for a figure of 82 per cent of promises honoured. However, he has not done all the things or even a fraction of the things he promised he would do. To be more charitable to the Premier than he is to us, I would say that the prevailing economic climate has prevented him from carrying out all his promises.

Many of his election undertakings are still unfulfilled and they will not be fulfilled within the term of this Parliament. He will not have the economy on an even keel as he promised. I can remember that just before the election the Premier said, "Give me six months in the saddle and I will do all this. I will right unemployment and all the economic evils of this State." As I say, I have been more charitable to the Premier than he would be to me; I wish he and others would be equally charitable to us on this side. I do not want any magnanimity in relation to this matter, either; I merely wish that people would acknowledge that the Whitlam Government inherited many of these problems when it came into office.

Mr Grayden: This is the best administered State in Australia.

Mr FLETCHER: Like others, the Premier is a victim of the capitalist malaise that exists throughout the capitalist world—that is, the western world. As I pointed out last year, more and more people are becoming disenchanted with that way of life and that system. This point creates a division even within the ranks of the Liberal Party itself, where we now find liberals as distinct from conservatives.

Mr Sibson: Can you pick them out?

Mr FLETCHER: Yes; I refer to such fellows as Steele Hall. There are one or two on the other side of the House. Certainly the member for Bunbury is not among them; he is just a "Yes" man.

Mr Harman: A temporary resident.

Mr FLETCHER: That is right. I get on rather well with the member for Bunbury, but I would get on better with a Labor man occupying that seat. Under the heading of "Hospitals and Health" the Governor's Speech had this to say—

Community Health Services now cover most of the State, and mobile medical and nursing teams are practising community preventive medicine.

In some areas the scheme is already resulting in reduced hospital admissions and length of stay in hospitals.

This is an opportune time for me to refer to the scheme proposed by the Whitlam Government to train general practitioners in order to overcome the critical shortage of qualified medical personnel; \$5 million had been earmarked for this purpose to train pregraduate and postgraduate doctors.

Surely country members would welcome such a scheme. It was proposed that training be conducted by specialists and it was hoped that this scheme would overcome the present paucity of doctors in country areas not only in this State but also throughout the rest of Australia. Had this scheme been brought to fruition, residents who now must travel from

country areas to be admitted to metropolitan hospitals, often at the community's expense, in many cases could remain at home under the care of their local GP and/or a qualified nurse. However, the Whitlam Government was thrown out, and this scheme went out with it. The Governor's Speech went on to say—

Major projects have been, or will be commenced during the year at the Perth Medical Centre site, and at Royal Perth, King Edward Memorial and Fremantle Hospitals.

It is about time the Government made a start on the Fremantle Hospital. As members know, I am a member of the hospital board and for years I have seen nothing but plans; there has been nothing in bricks and mortar. It is about time something was done in this direction because there are twice the number of beds per thousand population north of the river as there are south of the river.

Sir Charles Court: Are you supporting the Fremantle Hospital project?

Mr FLETCHER: Yes, unequivocally.

Sir Charles Court: I am glad to hear it.

Mr Moiler: That is the sort of answer we want in this House. The Premier could well take a leaf out of the member for Fremantle's book.

Mr FLETCHER: I have a reputation for honesty and integrity in this House, and in Fremantle, and I am proud of it.

I turn now to the lack of democracy in our State electoral system, and the malapportionment which exists. I represent a total of 16 564 voters in the electorate of Fremantle, yet I can be outvoted in this House by the member for Murchison-Eyre, who has 1 327 males and 891 females, a total of 2 218, registered as voters in his electorate. I have nothing against the member for Murchison-Eyre; he has the reputation of looking after his constituents very well.

Mr Clarko: What about the seat of Geraldton?

Mr FLETCHER: However, that member has only about one-eighth of the registered voters I have in my electorate. I can be out voted by the member for Kimberley who represents 4 352 people and I represent 16 500 people. The member for Morley represents 18 618 people and he can be outvoted by that handful of people. If that is not sufficiently undemocratic let us look at other places. The member for Lower North Province, who represents 6 019 people, can outvote the member for Fremantle and the member for Morley, who represents more people than I do. There is a disparity between 6 019 people in the Lower North Province and the Metropolitan Province in which there are 78 603 people. Such inequality and disparity is ridiculous and undemocratic. We can find even worse figures.

In the South-East Metropolitan Province there are 87 221 people. If that is not a ridiculous scandal I should like to know what is.

Some time ago somebody asked me to demonstrate my argument concerning more people voting for the Labor Party than otherwise. If members who are trying to interject will only give me an opportunity, I shall do so. They do not like the truth. They want to shout me down so that I cannot illustrate my point. I have the figures here in a simple form. I wish I could afford to have them published in *The Western Australian* so that everybody could read them in this simple form, but unfortunately we have not the money that the other side has. The figures show percentages, votes, seats, and votes per seat. They show that at the last election the Australian Labor Party received 3 313 004 votes, which was 42.8 per cent of the total.

Mr Laurance: And they were all in Fremantle.

Mr FLETCHER: Are you trying to drown my argument?

Mr Laurance: You have not got one.

Mr FLETCHER: You do not want to hear it. I have an irrefutable argument and you are deliberately trying to bury me. I shall continue to address *Hansard*. I shall turn by back on the honourable member and I shall address the Speaker. The Australian Labor Party received 3 313 004 votes, which was 42.8 per cent of the total vote, for which we received 36 seats. We received 92 027.88 votes per seat. The Liberal Party received 3 248 136 votes, which was 42 per cent of the total vote. We received .8 per cent more votes than our opponents. Yet how many seats did they receive?

The Liberal Party received nearly twice as many—68 seats. It received 47 766 votes per seat as distinct from our 92 027 per seat. So members should not talk to me of democracy. The National Country Party received 85 300 votes, not three million as we did. It received 11 per cent of the votes, as distinct from our 42 per cent, for which it received 23 seats.

Mr Laurance: Disgraceful! Call an election.

Mr FLETCHER: If it were held in the same undemocratic situation the position would not be altered. I submit that the figures I have cited show conclusively the electoral inequalities that I have mentioned.

Mr Laurance: Rubbish!

Mr FLETCHER: If we took the total votes received by the ALP and divided them by the votes received by the National Country Party we would be entitled to 89 seats. If we use the same method with regard to the Liberal figures the ALP would have received 68 seats. These figures

are absolutely irrefutable. They are even frightening *The West Australian* which can see the inequalities that I have mentioned. They are frightening our newspaper because it knows that the whole structure will start to crumble if this scandal continues.

The member for Morley recently replied to a comment in *The West Australian* which stated, "Libs get record Victorian win". He cited figures to show that with 45.6 of the vote the Liberals received 60 per cent of the seats. We received 43.4 per cent and got 28 seats. There was only a 2 per cent difference in the voting. That is another scandal.

In Queensland the situation is worse. There a pious hypocrite has electoral democracy by the throat with one hand and a Bible in the other.

Mr Laurance: He has been called worse.

Mr FLETCHER: No wonder a comment has been passed by the previous Prime Minister.

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member has five minutes.

Mr FLETCHER: The malapportionment of the percentage of votes to seats is bad enough on a Federal basis, but in this State, in Victoria and in Queensland it is absolutely scandalous. To my mind the situation is either the height of absurdity or the depths of political depravity, or both. That is my submission on that subject.

Even the Press is becoming cynical. A headline in the *Daily News* of the 7th February, 1976 stated: "Cynicism is the order of the day". The article continues—

The Canberra Press gallery is a strange animal. An exclusive little world of men and women of widely differing personalities dedicated to keeping Australia in touch with the events, the plots and the intrigues of the Federal Government.

A hot house of rumour and speculation with one dominating emotion: cynicism.

I hate the word; I hate the attitude. The attitude of our political opponents in relation to the situation I have outlined is absolute cynicism. I do not know how they can sleep comfortably at night with a situation such as this. The article continues—

The guiding rule is: "There are lies, there are damned lies and there are Press statements."

It is the rule of experience, developed over decades of dealing with what is known as "political licence," the political art of saying one thing when you really mean something altogether different.

Take a West Australian example of what I mean—the Kalgoorlie mining industry.

I have illustrated that point. Five days after Sir John Kerr displaced the Whitlam Government and put in a caretaker Government, what did Anthony say? He is quoted as saying that he believed—

... a subsidy would be paid to keep the mines in operation and urged the companies to keep operating until after the election so that the new Coalition Government could look at ways of helping.

I have outlined what they got. They got absolutely nothing. They got a pittance from this Government but nothing from the Federal Government. I think it is dirty, contemptible and cynical politics. Another article in the same newspaper was headed, "Federal aid for KLV is refused". This is an example of dirty and cynical politicking that has been indulged in. The former Minister for Mines will be able to deal with this subject far better than I can but I hope he does not mind my intruding in his territory and in the territory of the member for Kalgoorlie and the member for Boulder-Dundas.

I come back to the previous article which continued—

On December 3, in Kalgoorlie, and 10 days before the election, the Caretaker Treasurer, Mr Lynch, said: "We will set out to inject new life into the mining and energy industries and restore incentives to prospectors."

The coalition Government would give immediate priority to helping the goldmining industry.

I have shown how the present Federal Government has fallen down on its promises and undertakings in respect of Kalgoorlie.

With those remarks I support a very wishy-washy Governor's Speech.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Clarke.

House adjourned at 10.41 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 1st April, 1976

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. A. F. Griffith) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTION WITHOUT NOTICE

ABORIGINES

Hostel: Swan District

The Hon. LYLA ELLIOTT, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

Further to my question of the 11th September, 1975, concerning hostel accommodation for homeless Aboriginal people and the

Minister's reply indicating the appointment of a specialist team of four officers to study the problem and seek a solution, will the Minister advise—

- (1) Whether the team has brought down a report yet;
- (2) If not, when is it anticipated it will do so?

The Hon. N. E. BAXTER replied:

I thank the Hon. Lyla Elliott for providing adequate notice of this question, the answer to which is as follows—

- (1) No.
- (2) There have been difficulties in proceeding with appointments owing to delays brought about in the clearance of funds and because of political changes. At the present time only two of the team have been appointed. Interviews currently are being conducted and it is anticipated further appointments will be made shortly, thereby enabling the team to commence its task. I expect to review progress reports at six monthly intervals. A final report will be submitted to the Minister at the termination of the project in three years' time.

PERTH MEDICAL CENTRE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by the Hon. N. E. Baxter (Minister for Health), and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FOURTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from the 31st March, on the following motion by the Hon. M. McAleer—

That the following address be presented to His Excellency—

May it please Your Excellency:

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

THE PRESIDENT: The question is that the motion be agreed to.

The motion is thus passed.

The Hon. J. C. Tozer: Did you call on me, Mr President?

The PRESIDENT: I did not call the honourable member because he did not stand up. I put the question that was before