

# Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 17th October, 1974

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

## QUESTIONS (20): ON NOTICE

### 1. HOUSING

#### Group Development: Policy

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) This financial year will all State Housing Commission construction continue to be as new estates or extensions of present estates, or is there any move to establish a "mix" of private and Government housing, as in the district of Orella?
- (2) If the answer is the former, why is not the Government continuing in this otherwise admirable experiment?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) During 1974-75 the construction programme of the State Housing Commission is intended to follow the same broad lines as in recent years. Part of the programme will be in commission developed estates in which private sector housing will be mixed, and part will be, to the maximum extent possible, in other than Commission developed estates. The extent to which a desirable public/

private mix can be achieved is of course dependent on the co-operation of the private sector in building within commission estates, and in making sites available in privately developed estates. It is hoped that in 1974-75 some public housing will be constructed to private sector design and specification on non-commission land.

(2) Answered by (1).

### 2. HOUSING

#### Programme, and Outstanding Applications

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many accommodation units of each category are expected to be constructed by the State Housing Commission in this financial year?
- (2) In what areas are such units to be constructed?
- (3) What are the present numbers of—
  - (a) purchase; and
  - (b) rental,
 applications still outstanding in each area, and from what dates of application?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) In addition to the 415 units presently in the course of construction or for which contracts are let, mainly in the Koondoola and Hamilton Hill and Karawa localities, it is planned to also commence the following units in the 1974-75 financial year—

#### 1974-75 Metropolitan

	Single detached houses	Duplex units	Town houses	Pensioner apartments	Total
Armada	....	2	....	12	14
Bassendean	....	....	....	16	16
Forrestfield	4	....	....	....	4
Girrawheen	68	....	....	....	68
Koondoola	343	36	....	....	379
Langford	6	....	....	20	26
Rockingham	....	....	....	16	16
Hamilton Hill	45	4	66	38	153
Victoria Park	....	....	....	3	3
Wilson	....	....	....	32	32
Other suburbs	....	....	....	17	17
	466	42	66	154	728

## (3) (a) and (b)

The outstanding applications are as follows and these are presented in accordance with the manner in which they are recorded at the commission.

	Rental	Purchase	Dual	Net
Perth—North .....	3 090	2 313	922	4 461
Perth—South .....	2 078	1 406	561	2 923
Fremantle .....	940	1 090	282	1 748
Kwinana .....	131	273	50	354
Armadale .....	64	22	11	75
Hedland .....	77	10	7	80
	<u>6 380</u>	<u>5 114</u>	<u>1 833</u>	<u>9 661</u>

It is also relevant to mention that a wastage of applications on recent experience is estimated at not less than 25% and the turnover of tenancies for the above areas in 1973-74 amounted to 2 597.

## 3. SCHOOLS

*Library-resource Centres*

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

- (1) How many primary school library/resource centres specifically designed and constructed as such were built in Western Australia prior to December 1972?
- (2) Prior to 1973 how were such library/resource centres financed?
- (3) How are library/resource centres currently financed?
- (4) How many library/resource centres will have been built in Western Australian primary schools during 1973 and 1974?
- (5) How many library/resource centres built in Western Australian primary schools during 1973 and 1974 have been financed by Australian Government funds?
- (6) How many library/resource centres will be provided for Western Australian primary schools in 1975?
- (7) On what basis will schools be selected to receive the library/resource centres?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) 4.
- (2) General Loan Funds.
- (3) (a) General Loan Funds.  
(b) States Grants (Schools) Act 1972.  
(c) States Grants (Schools) Act 1973.
- (4) 55.
- (5) 41.
- (6) The number has not yet been determined.
- (7) Those schools with the largest enrolments and those with the least facilities will be considered first.

## 4.

## TRAFFIC

*Revenue from Fines*

Mr HARMAN, to the Treasurer:

Further to my question 17 dated 9th October, 1974, can he advise the monthly amounts received to revenue for October 1973 to September 1974 as a result of—

- (a) traffic fines paid as a result of infringement notices; and
- (b) all fines imposed by courts?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

Fines received:

	Traffic fines \$
(a) 1973	
October .....	64 238
November .....	66 953
December .....	57 959
1974	
January .....	112 473
February .....	78 399
March .....	56 906
April .....	67 074
May .....	117 301
June .....	126 848
July .....	138 433
August .....	134 560
September .....	123 726
Total .....	<u>\$1 144 870</u>

	All fines \$
(b) 1973	
October .....	203 122
November .....	197 374
December .....	141 792
1974	
January .....	193 255
February .....	186 826
March .....	188 163
April .....	192 833
May .....	213 175
June .....	205 190
July .....	241 590
August .....	231 578
September .....	227 215
Total .....	<u>\$2 422 113</u>

5. ROAD TRANSPORT

*Perth-Geraldton: Tenders for Service*

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Transport:

Further to his announcement that the WAGR road transport service between Perth and Geraldton was to close, and that tenders would be called for a private service to replace it—

- (a) have such tenders been called;
- (b) is he in a position to make an announcement in connection with the service?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

No tenders have been called. It has been decided to continue the WAGR road service but this will operate from points other than the present Newcastle Street, Perth and Durlacher Street, Geraldton sites.

6. HOUSING

*Geraldton: Pensioner Flats*

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Housing:

When is it anticipated that the block of six pensioner flats being built in Pelsart Street, Geraldton, will be ready for occupation?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

On current construction progress it is anticipated the units will not be ready for occupation before the New Year 1975.

7. HOUSING

*Geraldton: Pensioner Flats*

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Have tenders been called for construction of the block of 20 pensioner flats in Fitzgerald Street, Geraldton?

- (2) If "No" when is it expected that they will be called?

- (3) When is it anticipated that the flats will be ready for occupation?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) to (3) The Housing Commission proposes to submit preliminary plans for this development to the local authority for its consideration, during November 1974. If the council approves the project tenders will be invited soon after with a view to having the units ready for occupation in the last quarter of 1975 calendar year.

8. GERALDTON HIGH SCHOOL

*Hall-gymnasium*

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

- (1) Have tenders been called for the proposed hall-gymnasium at Geraldton Senior High School?

- (2) If "No" when is it expected that they will be called?

- (3) When is it anticipated that the hall-gymnasium will be available for use?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) No.

- (2) Probably early in 1975.

- (3) Depending upon the results of tenders received, the building should be available in third term 1975.

9.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

*Year 1975*

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

What will be proclaimed public holidays in 1975 in this State?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

The ten standard public and bank holidays granted under the Public and Bank Holidays Act for which no proclamation is required and for which industrial awards and agreements provide as paid holidays in 1975 are:

- 1st January—New Years Day,
- 27th January—Australia Day,
- 3rd March—Labour Day,
- 28th March—Good Friday,
- 31st March—Easter Monday,
- 25th April—Anzac Day,
- 2nd June—Foundation Day,
- 13th October—Queen's Birthday,
- 25th December—Christmas Day,
- 26th December—Boxing Day.

Any additional holidays for the private sector and banks have to be proclaimed under Section 7 of the Public and Bank Holidays Act.

None have so far been determined and proclaimed for 1975. The only traditional additional holiday has been given to banks in the metropolitan area on Perth Royal Show Day or a substitute day in country areas for the local agricultural show or equivalent gala day in the year.

Employers of their own volition have voluntarily granted an additional paid half day holiday in shops and commerce in the metropolitan area on Perth Royal Show Day. Public Service officers have traditionally received additional holidays each year.

10. ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

*Preservation*

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

- (1) Has he or his department had under consideration the future of

the Anglican church (St Bartholomew's) located in the East Perth cemetery?

- (2) If so, is he able to advise what action is being taken to preserve this building?

Mr Mensaros (for Mr RUSHTON) replied:

- (1) Yes.  
(2) In association with the Department of Lands and Surveys endeavours are being made to find a suitable organisation willing to accept the vesting of the church.

11. *This question was postponed.*

## 12. HOUSING

### *Kwinana: Vacant Units*

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Regarding his answer to part (e) of question 9 of Wednesday, 16th October, are the 13 houses and five "town houses" in the Kwinana area vacant because of lack of acceptors or because of some other reason?  
(2) If the latter, will he elaborate?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) There are no houses or town houses currently vacant in Kwinana because of lack of acceptors.  
(2) Of the 13 houses vacant, 5 are under offer, with the remainder receiving essential maintenance before re-letting. Of the 5 town houses vacant, two are under offer, with the remainder receiving essential maintenance before re-letting.

## 13. HOUSING

### *Total Available Funds*

Mr P. V. JONES, to the Minister for Housing:

For 1974-75 what is the total of funds available from all sources for—

- (a) Aboriginal housing;  
(b) non-Aboriginal housing?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (a) \$5 206 000.  
(b) \$25 230 000 for the Housing Commission, and \$16 870 000 for the home builders' account.

14. *This question was postponed.*

## 15. HEALTH

### *Arteriosclerosis: Treatment*

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

Further to my question 29 of 10th September, 1974, regarding the Dr Moeller treatment for arterio-

sclerosis, can he advise the progress now being made in this direction?

Mr RIDGE replied:

Progress in the developmental work necessary to establish the levels of performance and safety in use of the machine acquired by the Government from Dr. Moeller is continuing. Lists are also being prepared of patients who may be suitable for inclusion in the controlled clinical trial which will be undertaken at the conclusion of the developmental work.

## 16. POLICE

### *Training School*

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) When is the present school for police due to graduate?  
(2) When will the next school commence?  
(3) When is it anticipated future schools will commence between now and the end of 1975?  
(4) What numbers will be taken into each school?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) There is no school at present in training.  
(2) to (4) This has not yet been determined.

17 and 18. *These questions were postponed.*

## 19. STATE FORESTS

### *Jarrah and Karri: Use and Replenishment*

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

- (1) What is the total amount of—  
(a) jarrah;  
(b) karri,  
being used on an annual basis by sawmills in the south-west of Western Australia?  
(2) What is the annual increment of increase through natural growth in the—  
(a) jarrah;  
(b) karri,  
forests of Western Australia?  
(3) Is there any disparity between the present level of cutting and the rate of natural increment, and if so, what is the amount?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) (a) Jarrah from  
Crown lands ..... 657 400 m<sup>3</sup>  
Jarrah from Pri-  
vate land .. ..... 49 400 m<sup>3</sup>  
Total ..... 706 800 m<sup>3</sup>

(b) Karri	from	
Crown lands	....	273 700 m <sup>3</sup>
Karri from Private land	....	27 000 m <sup>3</sup>
Total	....	300 700 m <sup>3</sup>

- (2) On present estimates annual increment of timber through natural growth in State Forests only (including sawlog and regrowth sizes):

(a) Jarrah	....	355 000 m <sup>3</sup>
(b) Karri	....	207 000 m <sup>3</sup>

- (3) Yes. In respect of State Forests the disparity is:

(a) Jarrah	....	302 400 m <sup>3</sup>
(b) Karri	....	66 700 m <sup>3</sup>

This level of overcutting is necessary to support the established industry. The future needs of the State will depend to an increasing extent on exotic softwood plantations.

20. *This question was postponed.*

#### QUESTIONS (4): WITHOUT NOTICE

##### 1. MUJA POWER STATION

###### *Extensions*

Mr MAY, to the Premier:

In view of the Government's intention to defer development of the Muja power station, and having regard for Western Australia's special energy requirements, has a written submission been made to the Australian Government for financial assistance for this particular project?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

No.

##### 2. POLICE

###### *Wedge Island Homes: Breaking and Entering*

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is he aware that a number of homes at Wedge Island were broken into prior to last weekend?
- (2) Is he aware that an undertaking was given for a detective to go there on the Saturday before those homes were reoccupied, so that the detective could investigate the breaking and entering offences?
- (3) Is he aware that no detective turned up?
- (4) Can the Minister indicate when a detective is likely to be sent there?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) Yes.
- (4) No.

If the honourable member wishes any further information I would ask him to place the question on the notice paper. I am prepared to have an investigation made into what happened.

#### HOUSING

##### *Williams: Vacant Units*

Mr P. V. JONES, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has a Housing Commission dwelling in Williams formerly occupied by a police officer, become vacant?
- (2) Is it a fact that this house has been made available for rental by an Aboriginal family?
- (3) How many SHC dwellings are vacant in Williams?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) One State Housing Commission dwelling is vacant in Williams.

##### 4. LANDALL HOLDINGS

###### *Approach to Government*

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Premier:

I do not think the Premier would require notice of this question. It has been reported in the Press that Landalls has made an approach to the Commonwealth Government for assistance in the difficulty it is experiencing in respect of liquidity. Has any approach been made by Landalls to the State Government for a similar purpose; if so, has any undertaking been given?

Mr Old: Could I request that the honourable member speak in a louder voice, as it is almost impossible for us in this part of the Chamber to hear?

The SPEAKER: I do wish all members would try to ensure that their voices are heard by all. Sometimes it is difficult, because a member may have a sore throat and is not well, but it is desirable that a member on his feet should speak up so that all in the Chamber are able to hear him. This does not apply to only one side of the House, but to all members.

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

To the best of my knowledge, no representations have been made to the Western Australian Government for financial assistance by the company concerned; certainly not to me, or the Treasury.

**BILLS (3): THIRD READING****1. Alumina Refinery Agreement Act Amendment Bill.**

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Mensaros (Minister for Industrial Development), and transmitted to the Council.

**2. Convicted Inebriates' Rehabilitation Act Amendment Bill.**

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Ridge (Minister for Lands), and transmitted to the Council.

**3. Agricultural Products Act Amendment Bill.**

Bill read a third time, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Premier), and transmitted to the Council.

**ART GALLERY ACT AMENDMENT BILL***Further Report*

Further report of Committee adopted.

**ALCOHOL AND DRUG AUTHORITY BILL***Report*

Report of Committee adopted.

**FORESTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL***Second Reading*

**MR RIDGE** (Kimberley—Minister for Forests) [2.39 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Bill is to amend the Forests Act, 1918-1972, to provide powers to enable areas of State forests to be quarantined, and to permit regulations for the control procedures necessary to achieve effective quarantine.

This is an important amendment, and is proposed following a thorough examination of the disease situation currently faced in the State forests. It is apparent a serious threat exists, not only to forest productivity but also to flora reserves such as national parks, to the survival of many plant species, and to the future quality of the water supplies in the south-west of the State.

The cause of this threat is jarrah die-back, a disease associated with the fungal pathogen, *phytophthora cinnamomi*, which attacks the root system of a wide range of trees and plants leading, in many cases, to the death of those trees and plants.

The disease is worldwide and shows its greatest impact on poorer soil types. Research indicates that it was introduced to this State about the turn of the century. Its severity in Western Australia is considered to be due to the combination of several factors favouring the pathogen. There are many susceptible species. A high proportion of the south-west is

covered by old infertile soils, and the marked seasonal rainfall distribution leads to waterlogging of low-lying sites in winter and spring, and a high moisture stress in summer.

The end result is that not only individual species but whole plant communities are being destroyed. This is particularly evident in the jarrah forest where not only the dominant tree species, but understorey species and numerous shrubs and herbs, are affected.

The disease causes a serious loss of forest productivity but its potential to bring about a major alteration to the hydrological regime could prove an even greater problem. Should this occur, the effect on water supplies of the south-west would vary according to the presence of salt within the landscape.

The loss of plant cover following extensive attack by this disease results in a major decrease of evapotranspiration and a marked increase in the throughput of water in the deep soil profiles of the Darling Range. Studies show salt is concentrated in the subsoil of the more easterly areas of the State forests and there is good reason to believe that the expected increase in water yield would be associated with greatly increased salinity in water supplies and soils.

The reversal of the cycle through re-establishment of cover would in many cases be difficult due to infertility of soils.

The causative pathogen is a microscopic fungus and detection of infection through visual observation of symptoms has limitations in that detection invariably lags behind infection by months, or even years.

By far the most common and serious means of disease spread is through the establishment of new infections through the transport of soil containing the pathogen by vehicles and heavy machinery.

Seasonal conditions influence the dispersal of the fungus. When soil is wet it adheres readily to machinery and vehicles and even though the fungus may be inactive due to low temperature, it persists in soil clods dropped by machinery until conditions become more favourable for its growth.

The lag between infection and display of visible symptoms means that in forest operations, even though hygiene measures are conscientiously applied, there is no certainty that areas apparently uninfected are, in fact, free of the pathogen.

To overcome this problem it is necessary to quarantine apparently uninfected areas from sources of infection for sufficient time to allow development of visible symptoms of disease. It will then be possible to identify diseased localities and the boundaries of infection, and to control the artificial spread by appropriate hygiene techniques.

Many forms of control are under study throughout the world but as yet no means of eradicating the disease from infected areas has been discovered. Direct elimination of the fungus is handicapped by its occurrence in the soil which reduces the effectiveness of any surface control treatment.

Under field conditions the elimination of an established infection is unlikely. Whilst it is possible to eliminate the fungus from parcels of soil by steam sterilisation of the soil, or by chemical sterilisation with such agents as Formalin, application of these techniques in the field is unlikely to be either effective or practical.

The disease is primarily an ecological problem in that the susceptibility of almost any species is influenced by environmental conditions. Jarrah, for example, is far less susceptible on well drained, fertile soils than on waterlogged, infertile sites. Unfortunately, as I have explained, environmental conditions in the higher rainfall areas of the south-west of Western Australia generally favour the fungus.

There has been an alarming rate of spread of dieback in the south-west during the last 20 years, probably associated with extensive use of heavy machinery in this period, and its frequent movement from place to place. This has given cause for serious concern about the future of the jarrah forest and associated plant communities and about the related risk to south-west water supplies if spread of the disease is not restricted.

It is believed the key to control of artificial spread is application of hygiene measures following accurate mapping of infection boundaries. This can be achieved only by effective quarantine of those areas which are at present apparently uninfected for long enough to allow expression of the visual symptoms. On present evidence this should be three years. Considering the ultimate consequences of failure to control this disease, it would be most unwise to shorten the quarantine period. Following this, only proven diseased areas need to be quarantined so that vehicular movement between infected and healthy forest is controlled and subjected to hygiene measures.

A recent review of the overall position, with relation to this disease, undertaken by the Forests Department has been examined by the Environmental Protection Authority. The authority supports the proposed quarantine measure as a basis for future hygiene controls and is unable to suggest any alternative course of action, but has stressed the need for a substantial research effort into methods of controlling or arresting the spread of the disease.

From the foregoing, members will see the seriousness of this matter. The Bill provides for restriction of access to quarantined areas by vehicles, plant, and equipment. The restriction will not apply

to main roads nor to people walking in the forest. Access will be provided for essential services such as the State Electricity Commission, to private property, and for controlled entry by other forest users, where this is not incompatible with the objectives of quarantine. The proposal is of major importance and I urge members to give it their full consideration and support.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Bryce.

## **APPROPRIATION BILL (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND)**

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from the 16th October.

**MR NANOVIČ** (Toodyay) [2.46 p.m.]: I will endeavour to make my voice heard throughout the Chamber this afternoon. First of all, I would like to divert a little before speaking to the Budget, which I believe is a very good one put forward by the Treasurer for the coming year. It is well known that our Federal friend—the Commonwealth Government—has quite a stranglehold on the throats of the States.

It has been said by members of the Opposition that back-benchers on the Government side have never had the courage to get up and speak, and we were discounted for not having the courage to speak during the debate on the fuel and energy Bill. I do not know what members opposite mean by "courage" because I sat in another place until the early hour of 3.00 a.m. quite recently, and I was able to learn nothing from what occurred there. I witnessed a great waste of Parliament's time on something which was a foregone conclusion, and on something which was put forward by a Government which has shown considerable responsibility. That responsibility was observed during the 12 years the Brand Government was in office. I deplore the Opposition for the manner in which it attacked that Bill. On no occasion did it offer an alternative.

The **SPEAKER**: Order!

**Mr NANOVIČ**: I am diverting at the moment, Mr Speaker, but I will get back to the Bill.

The **SPEAKER**: Order, if the member will resume his seat for a moment please. There is a Standing Order which sets out that a member must not reflect on another place.

**Mr Nanovich**: I did not mention the name, but referred to it as "another place".

The **SPEAKER**: Standing Orders provide that no member shall use offensive words against either House of Parliament, or against any Statute, unless for the purpose of moving for its repeal. In any case,

the member must be careful about reflecting on actions taken in another Chamber.

Mr NANOVICH: Thank you, Mr Speaker; I will not refer to the other place again. Perhaps I can speak about this place. I repeat: We were criticised for not standing up in this Chamber and debating the fuel and energy Bill.

Mr Bertram: We were not permitted to debate it!

Mr NANOVICH: Considerable criticism was directed towards our leader, who is the leader of a team of which I am proud to be a member. In my opinion the Premier has proved himself as a leader, particularly during the years he has been a member of the State Parliament.

If any criticism is to be made, it should be made of the Government and not of just one man. If credit is due to our Government, every member is entitled to some credit. If any criticism is directed at the Government, it should be directed at all members and not at one man. The Opposition has endeavoured to discredit this man during the months I have spent in this House. I deplore this type of action.

Mr Skidmore: That is an all-embracing term.

Mr NANOVICH: My colleagues will agree with me.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr Bertram: You will get no promotion, you know.

Mr NANOVICH: I am not chasing promotion. I am trying to do my job to the best of my ability and with all sincerity as a member of this Parliament. I would like to talk about some of the good points in this Budget.

Mr May: That won't take you long!

Mr NANOVICH: We are not as fortunate as America which has Ford, cash, and hope—Johnny Cash and Bob Hope. We have Gough no cash, and there is no hope.

Mr Bertram: A lot more cash than we had before!

Mr NANOVICH: It was a very difficult task to produce a Budget in the present climate. The Commonwealth Government has done everything to strangle the private business sector. This sector plays a most important part in our economy.

Mr B. T. Burke: What about local government?

Mr NANOVICH: If all private enterprise closed up tomorrow and the Government had to employ everybody in Australia—

Mr B. T. Burke: You're just frightened you wouldn't get a job!

Mr NANOVICH: —what solution would the Opposition find to this problem? There is no solution. The private sector should have every encouragement no matter what

Government is in power. The Leader of the opposition, for whom I have a great amount of respect—

Mr Bertram: So have the people of Australia.

Mr NANOVICH: Why does not the honourable member say that about our leader?

Mr Bertram: Because it is not true.

Mr NANOVICH: It will be a great day when the Opposition can defeat us on performance instead of the muckraking that is going on at present.

I listened to the member for Warren last night in his plea to and criticism of the State Government. He asked what the Government is doing for the farming community, and in particular the beef-raising sector of this State.

Mr B. T. Burke: Nothing!

Mr NANOVICH: To call on this Government to do something for the farming community is the greatest piece of hypocrisy I have ever seen. All we heard last night was a lot of nonconstructive criticism.

Mr T. D. Evans: I thought you were going to say something else.

Mr NANOVICH: The farmer is the backbone of the economy of the State.

Mr B. T. Burke: Jellyfish don't have backbones.

Mr NANOVICH: The Opposition referred to the men on the land as the hungry farmers. Last night we were criticised for not doing more to help the farmer. What about the Federal Government? It has removed the superphosphate bounty.

Mr May: Get your facts right—it has not.

Mr NANOVICH: The Federal Government is leading us to socialism.

Mr Bertram: You practise it.

Mr NANOVICH: Because of its policy, I am certain that the Opposition has in mind to go with the Federal Government, although deep down Opposition members do not agree with what it is doing.

Mr Bertram: Why practise it if you do not like it?

Mr NANOVICH: Later on I will read a report which shows the Federal Government is determined to create socialism.

Mr B. T. Burke: That will be interesting.

Mr NANOVICH: I am sure members will find it very interesting. This is a good Budget.

Mr T. D. Evans: What is good about it?

Mr NANOVICH: The Budget was prepared under extreme hardships which were reflected back to the States because of the lack of assistance from the Commonwealth.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr NANOVICH: Last night the member for Victoria Park talked about our friends in Canberra and the kind-hearted people there who have provided some extra funds for the State. The Commonwealth Government is providing money, but it is on a restricted basis. The money allocated may be used only on certain ventures, and it will not be productive money. If we invest money it must be productive. It is no good members opposite saying the Commonwealth Government is treating us well, because it is not.

Mr Bertram: How many millions have they paid us?

Mr NANOVICH: It takes only a little common sense, a study of the Budget and the comments of the Premier, to see that the sum allocated for education has risen by 31 per cent. The Opposition is always telling us about the wonderful job it did in education.

Mr Bertram: Hear, hear!

Mr NANOVICH: Take the Brand Government—

Mr T. D. Evans: We don't want it!

Mr NANOVICH: —which took office in 1958.

Mr B. T. Burke: It was 1959.

Mr NANOVICH: At that time approximately 62 schools were not sewered; they operated on a pan system. Within two years the Brand Government had corrected this position. So do not tell us we did nothing for education. The previous Government ignored one of the most vital areas; that is, health. Opposition members get up to talk about conservation and the environment. What rubbish!

Of the total amount appropriated in the Budget, 25 per cent will go towards education. This is tremendous. We are all aware of the inflation rate and unfortunately we know that inflation will absorb a big percentage of the money allocated for education. Also in this year's Budget appears an allowance for rises in wages and salaries which were implemented last year. These increases had to be allowed for. We were not even aware of these increases, but the previous Government was.

Mr Bertram: How much were they?

Mr NANOVICH: The author of the Budget should be complimented on the methods used to make up this deficiency.

Mr Bertram: How much were the salaries?

Mr NANOVICH: I am sure members will have a copy of this document and they would not wish me to read it through. I do not think the Speaker would let me, but I will refer to a few other matters in it. The amount allocated for wages and salaries will rise by 25 per cent to \$120 million. Although a great part of this increase will be taken up with increases in

wages and salaries, there is provision for the appointment of a further 1 014 teachers. This will permit a further reduction in the pupil-teacher ratio.

Members can see that our education policy is far superior to the policy of the Opposition, although it claimed it had a perfect system. I have not seen one of its systems operating successfully yet!

Mr May: What about the pan system?

Mr B. T. Burke: "There is none so blind as they that won't see".

Mr NANOVICH: The allocation for equipment for schools was \$1.7 million more than that of the previous year. Do not try to tell us that is not good. Everyone believes that education is the major issue in politics today. We could not possibly have done more for education than we have done.

The other evening I asked the Leader of the Opposition for his thoughts on some of the good things in the Budget. I think deep down the Leader of the Opposition believes this is an extra good Budget, bearing in mind the difficulties we face as a result of the big stick wielded by the Federal Government.

Mr Bryce: Oh, you are not frightened, too? A big chap like you.

Mr NANOVICH: The spending on community welfare has been increased by 19.2 per cent over last year, and on community recreation by 65 per cent.

Mr Harman: Where is it coming from?

Mr Sibson: Out of the taxpayers' funds.

Mr NANOVICH: Expenditure on hospitals is also increased.

Mr B. T. Burke: You can't get one at Wanneroo.

Mr NANOVICH: I intend to refer to that later; it would take about \$14.4 million from the Budget. What about the hidden wage and salary increases granted last year? We had to cover up for that expenditure, as well as find additional money for estimated increases this year. Expenditure on public health is increased by 64 per cent over last year.

Mr Bertram: Have a look at the State Electricity Commission.

Mr NANOVICH: That is all right; consider the poor farmer—the hungry man. Last night an Opposition member made a plea for further assistance for farmers; and yet members opposite have always classed farmers as men with a great deal of money—like Al Jolson, walking into a bank with a money bag on his back. It is all very well for members opposite to criticise; I feel the Budget is an excellent one and I compliment the Treasurer and also the Treasury Department for its formulation. It is an excellent Budget bearing in mind the extreme difficulties with which we are confronted.

Mr Bertram: What does it do about inflation?

Mr NANOVICH: I would like now to turn from the Budget to deal with other matters because I feel the Opposition cannot produce any constructive comments; this is merely a matter of muckraking and I feel the present interjections do Parliament no good. We are accustomed to this interference from the Opposition, to the detriment of any actions the Government may wish to take for the benefit of the people of the State of Western Australia.

With regard to all the funds which are supposed to be generated by our very good friends in Canberra—as members opposite call them—

Mr Bryce: Yes, good friends.

Mr NANOVICH: —I would like to know what amount has been allocated for the takeover of approximately 5 000 acres of land for regional open space in my electorate. I would like to know where the money will come from to purchase the land. A great deal of the land is developed, and it is to be taken over by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority. I would not like members opposite to think I am a man who does not favour the provision of recreational facilities and open space. I am 100 per cent behind that, so it is useless for the Opposition to make any noise in that respect.

However, I do not support the manner in which this takeover is to be implemented. A great deal of money will be necessary to purchase the land, and this money could be better used elsewhere in the State to alleviate the rapid deterioration of the situation as a result of the unqualified leadership—

Mr Bryce: Can't you sack him?

Mr NANOVICH: —in Canberra; and that is what it has proved to be.

Mr B. T. Burke: Are you happy with the State Housing Commission?

Mr NANOVICH: I would like to know how much money will be allocated for the purchase of 4 000 acres in the western section of the area of land to which I refer. It is all right for members opposite to make wisecracks; but on Friday night I am to chair a meeting of landowners who wish to ensure that their interests are protected. A great deal of money is to be spent simply because planners say, "We want that land."

I believe the money proposed to be allocated to the purchase of this land could be better channeled to other areas to assist the States to get back onto their feet and to overcome the difficulties created by the Commonwealth Government in the short period it has been in office.

I have already challenged the members of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority for the manner in which they are conducting dealings with some of the landowners. One of the landowners probably would have \$500 000-worth of de-

velopment on his land at the moment. I wonder how the authority will compensate him. Questions were asked at a public meeting about what will occur when the landowners lodge applications further to develop their farmlets or to construct buildings, for which they must receive permission from the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority as it has made known its intention to purchase the land.

A landowner in the northern part of the area proposed to be taken over and set aside for regional open space has put a great deal of development into his property over the past eight to 10 years, and he is due to retire within the next 15 months. He sold his home on the assumption that he would be able to build another home on his property. This was after he had reticulated the property, planted fruit trees, and constructed an agricultural shed.

Mr B. T. Burke: He told me last night he did not know the meeting was on.

Mr NANOVICH: The member for Balga would not even know the man. I am concerned about the treatment these people are receiving. An offer has been made. The person in question has already sold his home and is now living in rented accommodation. He cannot build a home on his property because the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority will not permit him to do so, as it is in the course of negotiating with him for the resumption of the land. Before the announcement of the takeover was made he had intended to build his home on the property. He made several futile attempts to obtain something in writing from the authority, but received no answers. So he contacted me, and subsequently he received an answer from the authority which said that the authority would negotiate with him. This man may not get back the money he has outlayed on the development of the property.

I believe this takeover should not be on such a broad scale, because it involves such a vast sum of money. Other people in the area are living under appalling conditions. Egg producers and market gardeners have made allowances for further development of their properties, and they have had to buy machinery and equipment to enable them to achieve better production. Many now have some funds available to them, but they cannot build houses. Under the present system they are permitted to modernise their plant and machinery in order to carry on their businesses, but if they wish to build houses on the land the authority claims that is a different matter. I want to know just what power the authority has, and how it will exercise that power in the future. I would like to know what action the Minister will take to satisfy the approximately 200 people involved in the takeover.

There is also a vineyard comprising some 90-odd acres which will be affected. The owner of this property is a vigneron and he wishes to modernise his cellars, on which he will want to spend \$100 000 to update his cellars. What amount of compensation will this man get? I know his application will no doubt be referred to the MRPA and that authority will probably say, "You will not be compensated for whatever expenditure you have made on the cellars because such expenditure cannot be taken into consideration".

In my opinion before announcements are made in instances such as this, the Government should investigate the position more deeply because many more people will be affected in the next 20 or 30 years by such a decision for those who will enjoy the regional open space. I believe that when the period allowed for the lodging of objections expires on the 4th November, further claims should be made. I have advised all the people concerned to lodge their objections because I believe their claims are strong in view of the way in which their properties are to be taken over.

I also believe that the funds that will be generated to the State for this purpose will be of no great asset to the State. It is all very well to say the State must take action such as this because of the money that is being granted by the Commonwealth, but if the money will not produce anything it is not of much value. In these times money should not be set aside for purposes such as regional open space. Instead the money should be used to build up the assets of the State for the benefit of the people generally.

Let me refer to the hospital situation. Who was the member who drew attention to the fact that a hospital had not been built in Wanneroo? I am the representative of the electorate of Toodyay, and I speak for the whole district. In my opinion any Commonwealth money that is received by the State should be used to provide public amenities such as hospitals which are a necessity.

We are aware that the Royal Perth Hospital serves the needs of the metropolitan area and other parts of the State, and therefore it is most suitably situated. Also we have the Fremantle Hospital which serves the southern sector of the metropolitan area, and the Rockingham Hospital which meets the hospital needs of people further south again. I raised the matter of providing district hospitals on two occasions previously. Instead of this 5 000 acres of land being set aside for regional open space, I believe the money which is to be expended on that should be channelled into the building of district hospitals not only in my electorate, but also in other electorates. I firmly believe in the provision of district hospitals.

I have studied a report which has clearly indicated that the regional centre which is proposed to be developed in the West Joondalup area has, in its plans, made provision for a regional hospital after the Osborne Park Hospital—which is also classified as a regional hospital—is fully developed. If members opposite would take a little interest in what I am saying instead of making rude asides all the time it would be to their advantage. If they made a study of the report to which I have referred I am certain they would then say, "I certainly support the member for Toodyay in his comments for the provision of hospital needs within that area."

It could be the year 2 000 before a hospital is built and I consider that this is far too long to wait for the provision of such a hospital.

Mr T. D. Evans: Let us change the Government.

Mr O'Connor: Yes, the Commonwealth Government.

Mr Young: Look at what they are doing at Rockingham!

Mr NANOVIK: Members opposite were in office for three years and never once was there any mention of a hospital being built at Wanneroo, but I noticed that after a couple of announcements had been made in the House the acting Secretary of the Labor Party endeavoured to steal the limelight for what the member for Toodyay had raised in this Chamber. Members of the Opposition were in office for three years, but they never even gave the provision of a hospital in the Wanneroo area a thought. I must admit that this is muckraking again. It is a muckraker who muckrakes. My expert here—the member for Karrinyup—will support me in this.

Mr T. D. Evans: The member for Karrinyup will not speak to you any more.

Mr NANOVIK: That is just the difference between the previous Government and the present Government. I will continue to strive for the provision of a hospital within the area because I consider the development is most rapid. The records prove that it is the fastest developing local authority in Western Australia and therefore a hospital will be required much earlier than was predicted by the experts.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: Is it not time you did something about the high school position? It is pretty grim and you know it!

Mr NANOVIK: It makes me laugh to hear the Leader of the Opposition ask that question across the Chamber when his Government did not even do anything about the high school. We have been endeavouring for years to have sites allocated for a primary school and a high school. The Shire of Wanneroo had to negotiate to have those sites allocated.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: Has the Government done anything to expedite that?

Mr NANOVICH: Did the Government led by the Leader of the Opposition do anything to build a primary school out there? I would like to take the Leader of the Opposition out there, because one has never seen such a mess. There are nearly 1 000 children attending that school.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: What are you doing about it?

Mr NANOVICH: Plenty, I can assure the Leader of the Opposition about that! With the co-operation of the Government I am sure that adequate classrooms will be made available this year after many years of nagging, because during the three years the Leader of the Opposition was Premier the school was not given any priority, despite the fact that the conditions were absolutely deplorable.

Mr McIver: What about the conditions of the Swan View school in the Mundaring electorate?

Mr NANOVICH: In Monday's issue of the *Daily News* the Minister for Education made it clear that a school was to be built at Yanchep. That is correct, because I have already advised all the organisations in the Yanchep district that a school will be provided at Yanchep in this coming year, so it can be seen that we have made some progress.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: I will believe it when I see it.

Mr NANOVICH: All right; we will probably ask the Leader of the Opposition to attend the opening.

I think I have broadly covered some aspects of the Budget. It is a very satisfactory Budget in view of the difficult circumstances which have been generated by the Commonwealth Government and have been projected on to the States. I say this with all sincerity and I am sure members of the Opposition will agree with me but apparently they are too frightened to voice their opinions. What they do say is like a rubber stamp which they apply to everything.

I would now like to speak on the out-back parts of the State and the farming situation in Western Australia. I indicated earlier that I deplore the manner in which members of the Opposition have criticised the members of the farming community. Take the eastern section of my electorate of Toodyay; that is a great farming community—there are no two ways about that!

Only one or two people have to leave the community and the small business people are immediately affected.

The previous Government did not give any great benefits to the farming communities. If any slight benefit was generated, I am certain that the following year

Mr Whitlam would have taken everything back, including in some cases perhaps the farms as well.

Several members interjected.

Mr NANOVICH: Members of the Opposition can laugh, but we all know the large sums of money which have been collected by the Commonwealth Government and so very little has been put back into the States. The Commonwealth mint must be bursting at the seams because the amount of money which has been, or will be, collected in taxes is no joke.

Again I deplore the attitude of the Opposition towards farmers because they are the backbone of Western Australia and should receive every encouragement and incentive. Reference has been made to the superphosphate bounty and admittedly only a small amount is involved with each bag, but when we realise that most farmers must spread the super over 5 000 to 7 000 acres not once a year but twice a year we can see that in total a great incentive will be lost as a result of the discontinuance of the super bounty.

When the farmers are facing financial difficulties, the effect is felt right throughout the country. If the farmer does not have enough money to buy new plant and machinery, fencing materials, and all the other equipment he requires for his farm to make it successful, all the businesses concerned are likewise affected.

Several members interjected.

Mr NANOVICH: It is all very well for members opposite to comment and make wisecracks, but I know a little more about farming than they do.

Mr Skidmore: They should save their money when they have good times.

Mr NANOVICH: I know what the farmers are going through at the moment so no-one needs to tell me anything about the situation. It is all right for the wage earner to say that the farmers are raking in millions, but they would change their minds if they could see some of the bank accounts of the farmers. It is no wonder that farmers go grey in a very short time. They have experienced hard times, and they have more to come.

Mr Skidmore: So has everyone.

Mr NANOVICH: I agree; but let us act a little more reasonably and place the responsibility for their difficulties where it belongs—on the Commonwealth Government.

Mr Bryce: Don't—

Mr NANOVICH: The member for Ascot could not care less. He has said, "Why worry about the country people?" He should remember that the small man also likes to live in the country, and these farmers keep the small man there.

Several members interjected.

Mr Skidmore: Who keeps the farmer on the land? We don't ask him to stop there. He can get another job if he wants to.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr NANOVIICH: If there are no farmers, there are no country towns or small businesses.

Several members interjected.

Mr NANOVIICH: It comes from the irresponsible action taken by the three "Cs".

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr NANOVIICH: The interjections just reveal the lack of responsibility of members opposite.

Mr Bryce: Get back to the Budget!

Mr NANOVIICH: If members opposite travelled throughout the country and talked to more farmers they would know the difficult situation they are facing and this difficult situation will continue for as long as we have the pinchers in Canberra.

Mr Bertram: Thank God we have.

Mr NANOVIICH: I draw the attention of the Opposition to the betterment tax and particularly to the capital gains tax. What good will that do? How will that encourage the developer?

Mr Skidmore: It will distribute the wealth more equitably.

Mr NANOVIICH: The idea has been to try to encourage land onto the market at a realistic price so that the average person can buy it; but what effect will the capital gains tax have?

Mr Bryce: Provide a realistic profit.

Mr NANOVIICH: How many people will sell? They are so fearful of what Mr Whitlam will take from them; they are fearful of what he will steal from them.

Mr Skidmore: Why shouldn't he? Why should they be allowed to capitalise on land?

Mr NANOVIICH: Rubbish! The member for Swan would not know what he is talking about.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr NANOVIICH: The member for Swan should have the responsibility of working a property and be confronted with the problem of marketing produce for which he has no idea of what the return will be.

Mr Skidmore: I have been on the land.

Mr NANOVIICH: In that case, perhaps the member for Swan knows a little, but apparently he did not stay on the land long enough to know the difficult situation confronting farmers because of the centralist attitude of those on the other side.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has another five minutes.

Mr NANOVIICH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We read in the Premier's speech about money which will be generated to encourage land development. However, I would like to know what will occur in the next few years because this development will be held back as a result of Mr Whitlam and his socialistic programme. He is gaining more and more information and is trying to get more experience to implement his policy.

On the 6th September in *The West Australian* Mr Whitlam was reported as having sent one of his colleagues to Yugoslavia to study its Constitution. My parents came from that country and I know what the socialistic system obtaining there has done to the people.

Mr Bryce: What does it do?

Mr NANOVIICH: It will probably encourage the average Australian to look for another place in which to live.

Mr Laurance: They are already doing that.

Mr NANOVIICH: They are only some of the comments I wished to make. Perhaps I did not deal with the Budget very deeply, but other speakers will follow and do so quite adequately.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: Before you sit down—

Mr NANOVIICH: I compliment the Treasurer on the drawing up of what I would say is a very good Budget under difficult circumstances brought about by the Commonwealth Government. It is to the credit of the Treasurer that he has presented such a Budget for the coming year.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr J. T. Tonkin: What do you think of the taking away of the water rate concessions from the country people that we gave them? That is in the Budget.

Sir Charles Court: What do you think about the Commonwealth Government taking away all tax incentives and the super bounty?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I will not have all the interjections at the one time.

Mr NANOVIICH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I feel that perhaps I may have roused some members of the Opposition, but they do need a little of the horsewhip now and again. Perhaps in the future they may recognise that as a Government we are doing the best thing at all times. I am prepared to listen to an alternative, but as yet the Opposition has offered none. All it has indulged in is continued muckraking. If the Opposition could offer an alternative, I certainly have not heard it, but I would be only too willing and happy to hear of one.

I have respect for the Leader of the Opposition when he confidently delivered his address the other evening. I am sure

he did not really want to present his speech in such a diplomatic way, and he certainly did not offer any constructive criticism of the Budget because deep down I am sure he is realistic, and having been in Parliament for over 40 years, he feels it is an excellent Budget, too.

**MR HARMAN** (Maylands) [3.30 p.m.]: We have just listened to a rather remarkable speech.

**Mr Sibson**: It was remarkable, too.

**Mr HARMAN**: I hope the member for Toodyay will remain in the Chamber a little longer so that he will hear some of the answers which will be given to the matters he raised during this debate.

Because of his prior association with local government—and with which I believe he is still connected—I was surprised that he reflected on the Australian Government. For the first time in the history of Western Australia the Australian Government has provided substantial finance both directly and indirectly to local government and because of that I am very surprised the member for Toodyay, in fairness, did not give credit where credit was due.

**Mr Coyne**: It is their own money, though.

**Mr HARMAN**: I was also surprised that the member for Toodyay refused to acknowledge the interjection from the Leader of the Opposition in which our leader asked why the present Government had taken away a concession previously allowed to farmers—country people—at a time when the rural areas are facing a crisis.

The Appropriation Bill (Consolidated Revenue Fund) is probably the most important piece of legislation to come before Parliament. The Bill is necessary so that Parliament can appropriate expenditure and revenue for the Government. I would like to refer to some of the comments of the Treasurer when he introduced the legislation. At page 2 of the financial statement the Treasurer said—

It has been the practice for many years to preface the Budget Speech with a short survey of economic activity in the State during the previous year. In this respect, I believe that Honourable Members should be given an outline of the State's economic performance and of current economic trends which form the background against which the Budget is framed but the Budget Speech is not, in my view, a satisfactory vehicle for such a survey as there is little opportunity for detailed comment and for presentation of relevant statistics.

It occurred to me that this was the first occasion on which the Treasurer had departed from the normal preamble to a

Budget speech so I decided to read the summary which he said would be attached to the papers. It became fairly obvious to me, after reading the summary, why the Treasurer did not want to have it included in the Budget speech. I will now quote from the first page of *The Western Australian Economy 1973-74*, as follows—

Overall, 1973-74 was a year of solid growth for most major sectors of the Western Australian economy.

**Sir Charles Court**: Does the honourable member object to my saying that?

**Mr HARMAN**: To continue—

However, this was achieved against a background of rapidly accelerating inflation.

The year began on a bright note with excellent prospects for sustained economic growth. While this early promise was fulfilled, events throughout the year have led to some dampening of activity and an uncertain outlook for at least the short term.

The detailed review contained in later sections of this paper reveals the significant advances made in most areas of economic activity in Western Australia during the past year, of which the following were the highlights.

I will now list five items—the highlights—as follows—

New records were achieved in the primary sector with the net value of rural production amounting to almost double the record result of the previous year.

That is not bad for a Labor Government in Western Australia, with an Australian Labor Government.

**Mr Young**: The Australian Government is able to make it rain, is it?

**Mr HARMAN**: To continue—

The mining industry continued to grow strongly. The improved world market for metals and minerals, evident towards the close of the previous year, was sustained in 1973-74 leading to a rise of 12.5% in the value of minerals produced.

That is not bad for a State Labor Government with an Australian Labor Government. To continue—

Civilian employment rose by 5.7% during the year, the largest increase for three years.

Again, that is not bad for a State Labor Government with an Australian Labor Government. To continue—

Retail sales in the first three quarters of the year were up 17.4% on the corresponding period a year earlier.

**Sir Charles Court**: The honourable member must be sorry we made the information available.

Mr HARMAN: Those results are not a bad performance while a Labor Government was in office. To continue—

Even allowing for substantial price increases during the period the increase in the volume of retail sales was substantial by the standards of recent years.

The building industry showed a strong recovery after two years of depressed activity particularly in home building. In 1973-74, dwelling completions increased in number by 10.5% and in value by 22.9%

That is a summary of the activities during the previous 12 months, during nine months of which the State was governed by the Tonkin Labor Government and, I ask: Who was the Government in the Australian sphere? It was the Australian Labor Party.

It seems passing strange—and I am sure it is no coincidence—that when the Liberal Party came into office as from the 1st April, 1974, Western Australia's troubles began. It is not fair for the Treasurer continually to criticise the Australian Labor Government—

Mr O'Neil: That is the joke of the week.

Mr HARMAN: —when, for the past nine months, a Labor Government governed Western Australia and the economic activity of this country was increasing, not only in the rural area but also in the metropolitan area. It is no wonder the Treasurer wanted to exclude the economic summary from his Budget preamble.

Mr Young: If it is not reasonable for us to blame the Commonwealth Government, why is it reasonable for the Commonwealth Government to blame every other country in the world?

Mr HARMAN: We have observed the Treasurer using the Budget speech as another opportunity to criticise, attack, and condemn the Australian Government. He did the same by means of the Governor's opening Speech which was written by the Government. On many occasions we have observed the Treasurer continually blaming the Australian Government through other areas of the media such as television and the newspapers.

Mr Young: Why not answer the question I asked?

Mr HARMAN: One has to ask why is the Treasurer continually blaming someone else.

Mr Young: Whitlam is blaming everybody else.

Mr B. T. Burke: Rubbish.

Mr HARMAN: Is the Treasurer saying that because of his ineptitude and his inability to achieve all that he wants to achieve he has to blame somebody? That is a natural attitude to take; many people

seem to adopt it when they cannot get something done. Because of their own incompetence they blame somebody else.

It seems that exactly the same thing is happening in this State; the Treasurer is blaming the Australian Government for his commissions and omissions and, in doing so, it seems to be for the very reason I have mentioned.

Mr Young: Why is Australia's inflation running at 20 per cent? Why does the honourable member not answer my question?

Mr HARMAN: I have not heard the question which was asked.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr HARMAN: There is an art to be learnt when interjecting. Some members who have been in this place for a long time have developed that art but I suggest, for the benefit of members who interject, that they look, listen, and learn so that the timing and quality of their interjections may be more effective.

Mr Young: Some members do not have the courage to answer interjections.

Mr HARMAN: That is right, just as the member for Scarborough does not answer interjections.

To return to the Budget: one has to ask why the Premier is continually criticising the Australian Government.

Mr Bertram: He has nothing better to do.

Mr HARMAN: When we look at the Budget as presented and analyse it, in terms of Commonwealth money flowing into Western Australia this State has never had it so good.

Mr Bertram: Hear, hear!

Mr HARMAN: If there are members in the Chamber who are still prepared to agree with the Treasurer when he says the Commonwealth is not giving us enough money, I suggest they follow through the references I will give so they may see for themselves that the statement I have made is quite true.

Sir Charles Court: Are you prepared to sell your soul?

Mr HARMAN: Western Australia has never had it so good in terms of inflow of Commonwealth funds.

Sir Charles Court: It is our money. Why should we have strings on it?

Mr A. R. Tonkin: It is not your money, it is the people's money.

Mr HARMAN: I refer to pages 16 and 17 of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ending the 30th June, 1975.

Sir Charles Court: He is a former Minister and is prepared to sell the State down the drain.

Mr HARMAN: On page 18 of the Estimates it will be seen that through the financial assistance grant, debt charges assistance, and interest contributions, the Australian Government will this year provide to the State by way of general revenue grants an amount of \$280.375 million. The amount actually granted in the previous year was \$230 million, so it means an increase of \$50 million.

In this financial year there is an increase of \$54 million in the revenue grants from the Australian Government, whereas in the last financial year the increase was only \$34 million.

If we turn to the special purpose grants to the Western Australian Government, we will see that in the last Tonkin Budget the Australian Government made available \$3.7 million, whereas this year it is making available \$17.6 million—an increase of some \$14 million. So in the revenue grants there has been an increase of \$54 million and in the special grants an increase of \$17 million.

I do not want to debate the Loan Fund Estimates but on page 29 of Budget Paper No. 7 it is shown that there has been an increase of 20.3 per cent on the amount made available in the previous 12 months.

If we go through the amounts which have been made available direct to local government, we will see some very interesting figures. I think they should be recorded for the benefit of the member for Toodyay. On page 120 of the Australian Government Budget Paper No. 7 we see table 73 relating to grants direct to local government authorities for capital expenditure on aged persons' homes. The amount to be made available to Western Australia in this financial year is \$200 000.

*Sitting suspended from 3.44 to 4.07 p.m.*

Mr HARMAN: Before the suspension I pointed out to the House the dramatic increase in the Commonwealth grants to Western Australia. I commented on the increase in the financial assistance grant and the increase in the special purpose grant.

Before I proceed to the next point I wish to make in regard to direct Commonwealth assistance to local authorities, I want to refer to wages and salaries. The increase in wages and salaries has been going on for years now, and certainly there were very big increases in the last 12 months, and it has been necessary to raise additional funds.

I would like to point out that because of the dramatic increase, particularly in the special purpose grant—from \$3 million to \$17 million—the State was given the opportunity to carry on certain of its programmes which were financed by revenue and not from capital funds. So we should acknowledge this dramatic increase in the special purpose grants because it will provide Western Australia

with the finance to keep some projects continuing and to commence others. I will refer to these special purpose grants later.

I have referred already to table 73 relating to the assistance that the Australian Government is giving direct to local government authorities. I now wish to refer to table 74—grants made direct to local government authorities for delivered meals. The estimated grant this financial year is \$31 000.

Table 77 refers to grants made direct to local government authorities for child care. The estimate for Western Australia for this financial year is \$94 000.

Table 78 sets out the direct grants to local government authorities for Aboriginal advancement and the estimate for 1974-75 is \$1.2 million. This is a dramatic increase on the figure for the previous year which was \$411 000.

I now turn to table 79 which sets out the grants direct to local authorities for aerodromes. The estimated grant for Western Australia this financial year is \$85 000.

Table 80 details the grants to the States for on-passing as assistance for regional organisations of local authorities. These are not direct grants; they will come through the State. The estimate for Western Australia this year is \$46 000. Table 81 sets out senior citizens' centres grants to the States for on-passing to local government authorities. The estimate for Western Australia for this financial year is \$82 000.

Table 82 refers to grants to the States for on-passing to local authorities in respect of Aboriginal advancement. The amount for this was included in the last table.

Mr O'Neill: Tell us what it was.

Mr HARMAN: It has "n.a." against it. When I check the previous table I find the amount is included under grants direct to local government authorities for Aboriginal advancement. These tables indicate the grants, both direct and on-passing, which are made available to local authorities in Western Australia by the Australian Government.

Mr O'Neill: Have you added them to find the total?

Mr Sodeman: Could I ask a question by way of interjection?

Mr HARMAN: Perhaps the member for Pilbara could wait until the end of my speech and ask all his questions at once.

Recently I asked a question of the Minister for Local Government regarding how much finance the Australian Government had undertaken to allocate to local authorities in Western Australia in the current financial year, following the recommendations of the Grants Commission. The Minister was somewhat embarrassed to read out the answer, and he

hurried through it. In all, the allocations amounted to something like \$4.9 million. That amount was made available to local authorities by the Australian Government for the first time under the system of local authorities applying to the Grants Commission.

Some very interesting amounts are being made available. The City of Stirling has received nearly \$500 000, the Town of Canning has received \$172 000, and the Town of Cockburn has received \$110 000. In fact, when one looks through the list one finds that the main local authorities in the Perth metropolitan region have each received amounts in excess of \$100 000.

Mr O'Neill: These are known as topping-up funds; they are to meet deficits.

Mr HARMAN: No, these are grants made to local authorities—

Mr O'Neill: By the Grants Commission—as claimants; as mendicants.

Mr HARMAN: —without any strings attached for the purpose of enabling the authorities to carry out work.

Mr O'Neill: Cut it out. Grants Commission funds are for mendicants. They are topping-up funds.

Mr HARMAN: In addition to all these avenues in which the Australian Government is ploughing finance into the local authorities of this State, we have another scheme called the RED scheme by which local authorities are—

Mr O'Neill: It is well known.

Mr HARMAN: Well, if the Minister for Works likes to see people unemployed, that is his business; but I do not like to see people unemployed. I do not care what connotation the name of the scheme has; if it means local authorities are able to apply to the Australian Government for special funds for labour-intensive work within local government areas, then I applaud the scheme.

Mr O'Neill: If there was no unemployment they would not need it.

Mr Clarko: It is the worst possible way of overcoming it.

Mr HARMAN: Local authorities are now able to apply to the Australian Government for this money, and already various amounts have been made available. They will continue to be made available.

Mr Clarko: They don't work.

Mr HARMAN: I asked the Minister for Labour and Industry recently if he was aware whether the local authorities in the Perth metropolitan region had been incorporated in the RED scheme, and whether he had got in touch with them to ensure they had done something about applying for funds to soak up the existing unemployment in the metropolitan area. I was told that, as the Minister for Labour and

Industry, he had not approached any local authorities, and it was suggested this had been done by another Minister.

One would have thought that the Minister for Labour and Industry, who would have some regard for people who are unemployed, would certainly have taken the initiative within two or three days of the announcement by the Australian Minister for Labor and Immigration to ensure that all local authorities in the Perth region were aware of the announcement and were taking steps to apply to Canberra. However, he had done nothing.

It was suggested this was the responsibility of the Minister for Local Government—who is not present in the Chamber, either. A fortnight after the announcement was made, as far as I am aware the Minister for Local Government had made no approach to the local authorities. It was not until I asked a question that the Government commenced to do anything about the matter.

Mr Clarko: It is the worst possible way of overcoming it.

Mr HARMAN: The attitude of the Government is typified in the derogatory remark of the Minister for Works about the RED scheme.

Mr O'Neill: I said if there was no unemployment it would not be necessary.

Mr HARMAN: The Government is endeavouring to blame the Australian Government not only for not giving sufficient funds to the State, but also for not taking steps to reduce the rate of inflation.

Mr Clarko: That is true.

Mr HARMAN: I think when the State Government is so unco-operative it does not become it to level criticism at the Australian Government for any predicament the Australian Government might be in. You will recall, Mr Speaker, that last year the Australian Government proposed a referendum on the question of wages and prices control. It was the contention of that Government that, like any other national Government in the world, it should have power over prices and wages.

Mr O'Neill: Who told them they should not have it?

Mr HARMAN: So the Government went to the people on the issue, and both questions were bitterly opposed by the Liberal Party in Australia.

Mr Clarko: That's democratic, isn't it?

Mr HARMAN: The people voted against the questions.

Mr O'Neill: Of course they did.

Mr HARMAN: In addition, the Australian Government until recently had no control over the fringe banking system. It had to draft legislation and get it through the Senate in order to have some

control over credit houses and building societies. On top of that, the Government faces a hostile Senate.

As if that is not enough, the Australian Government must also contend with a couple of State Premiers who are most hostile and unco-operative. I ask: What opportunity has a national Government to do something positive about inflation when it is saddled with all those handicaps?

Mr O'Neil: Are you saying we have not got legislation to control the fringe banking system?

Mr HARMAN: I said the Australian Government had no control over that system until recently.

The Federal Government had a hostile Senate and some hostile State Premiers who, I believe, were acting in their own purely political interests to make sure the Australian Government was placed in all sorts of dilemmas, hoping that when an election was forced upon the Australian Government, the Liberal Party would win power. If that is the way the Liberal Party wants to treat the people of Australia, the people will soon wake up to the confidence trick which is being perpetrated upon them.

Mr O'Neil: That is a pious hope.

Mr HARMAN: When people wake up to the fact that they have been conned, they will become very disgruntled. If anything is going to bring about the downfall of this State Government at the next election, it will be the people in this State who have discovered that for three years they have been conned by the Court Government.

Mr O'Neil: It took them less than three years to discover about your Government.

Mr HARMAN: Once the people find that they have been conned, it will be the end of the Court Government.

What did the Australian Government do? It proposed a referendum on prices and wages; it was defeated. It introduced legislation to control the fringe banking system and established the Prices Justification Tribunal.

Mr Clarko: The Australian Government has no fiscal policy against inflation.

Mr HARMAN: I am told that the Prices Justification Tribunal has saved price increases of the order of \$250 million. The Federal Government reduced tariffs by 25 per cent so that goods in Australia would be cheaper.

Mr Clarko: And it created more unemployment.

Mr HARMAN: And what did the private people, the retailers and the big stores do about that? Some months ago, I asked the Minister for Labour and Industry if he would investigate claims that had been made that retailers were excessively mark-

ing up prices on imported clothing; however, the Minister just wiped his hands of the whole affair; he was not going to involve himself in any inquiry of that nature.

Mr T. D. Evans: Don Chipp is concerned about that.

Mr HARMAN: What conclusion could one draw from all these facts? One conclusion is that although before the 1st April this year the State Government had a fairly rosy picture to present, since that time everything seems to have gone bad for the Court Government. If things are going bad because of this Government's ineptitude and incompetence, naturally it will seek to blame somebody else; in this case, that somebody is the Australian Government.

The State Government is perpetrating this confidence trick upon the people of Western Australia so that it can hide and cover up its own mistakes and the rather absurd policy proposals which were advanced before the last election.

Mr B. T. Burke called attention to the state of the House.

**Bells rung and a quorum formed.**

Mr HARMAN: I should like to refer members to the Liberal Party's policy in respect of trade unions and industrial relations in Western Australia. In its "Liberal Policy 1974-77" booklet under the heading, "Deal with industrial unrest", the Liberal Party has this to say—

We believe in unions and will endeavour to assist and encourage unions with responsible policies to fulfil their roles.

We will encourage regular, meaningful consultation between unions, employers and Government in an effort to ensure that Government economic, financial, social and development objectives are better understood. From this we hope all parties will come to a better realisation of interdependence and community responsibilities.

On top of that, soon after his appointment as Minister for Labour and Industry, the Minister said he was anxious to co-operate with the trade union movement. I should like to give the House some examples of this co-operation. Firstly, the Government, no doubt on the recommendation of the Minister, appointed an additional commissioner to the Industrial Commission.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has five minutes remaining.

Mr HARMAN: Ostensibly, this was to provide an opportunity for the apprenticeship system in Western Australia to be re-organised. However, in appointing an additional commissioner, the Government did not consult the trade union movement or the Employers Federation or take the advice of the apprenticeship council.

To add fuel to the fire, the Minister reversed a decision of the previous Government when, on the request of the trade union movement, the Tonkin Government agreed to celebrate the Labour Day holiday on the first Monday in May in 1975; however, it is now back to the first Monday in March, 1975.

Mr O'Neil: A very wise move.

Mr HARMAN: The Minister also made a remarkable statement to the Employers Federation in May, when he was reported as saying—

"I am looking for the right ways to improve the Industrial Arbitration Act to tremendous effect. I invite the views of the Federation and industry. We are looking for something that we would not hesitate to use if we had to act about a Statewide stoppage.

"So far as I am concerned we are not going to tolerate intimidation but we will not do anything abrasive, so that where we act it will be effective.

"The Government believes in voluntary trade unionism," Mr. Grayden said.

"The majority of unionists seems to say it does not want anything to do with compulsory union membership."

This provocative statement made by the Minister in May, the guillotining of the Fuel, Energy and Power Resources Act Amendment Bill, which unfortunately I was not here to witness, his recent statements about introducing legislation dealing with secret ballots and indicating that the workers do not have to belong to unions and, finally, his statement in this House the other night by interjection that, as far as he was concerned, we were not going to have an inquiry into industrial safety and hygiene in Western Australia go completely against the policy enunciated in the Liberal Party manifesto, which claims there will be discussions and consultation with the union movement.

Members must agree that the Minister's statements over the last six months are not in accord with the Liberal Party policy. In that time, the Labour Advisory Committee established under the Minister has met only once with the Employers Federation and the trade union movement. Everything contained in this manifesto relating to industrial relations is a lot of hogwash and nonsense; the Liberal Party had no intention of trying to reduce the number of disputes, stoppages, and strikes in Western Australia by consultation with the trade union movement. On the contrary, what it wanted to do was to go through the whole area with a sledgehammer, causing as many strikes as possible so that the people of Western Australia would say, "There goes the Labor Party again; they are the people who cause all the strikes." All this will help the Liberal Party when it comes to an election.

If the Minister for Labour and Industry wants really to establish himself as a Minister who is looking after his portfolio, I suggest to him that he should maintain a relationship with the trade union movement with a view to trying to understand its members and its objectives. Further, he should call for some additional research to be made and have the results made known to him so that he may investigate some of the causes of the disputes and strikes that have occurred in Western Australia in recent years. Also, he should make sure that he carries out his Government's policy, because I think that if he did have consultations with the unions instead of upsetting them and intimidating them as he has in the last few months—

Mr Grayden: Whom are you talking about?

Mr HARMAN: I am talking about the Minister.

Mr Grayden: I am talking with them all the time.

Mr HARMAN: I think I have adequately covered what I intended to say. The Liberal Party in this State cannot continue to criticise the Australian Government about the lack of funds coming into this State, because when it comes to an influx of funds, we have never had it so good. I repeat that the Liberal Party cannot criticise the Australian Government on the question of its providing funds, especially in view of the predicament in which it has been placed by actions of some members of its own party. All this Government has done is to cover up its ineptitude and incompetence; cover up some of the extravagant promises it made prior to the election, such as the admittance of five-year-olds to primary schools—

Mr Clarko: Are you against that?

Mr HARMAN: —and the introduction of State-wide traffic control. However, we have now been told that this will not eventuate; traffic will still be controlled by the police. So I have indicated quite clearly what is happening in this State. The present Government has been in office for six months and it has done nothing positive in that time. All it has done is endeavour to stir up strife and strikes, and I understand that shortly the Minister for Labour and Industry intends to bring down some legislation.

The SPEAKER: The member's time has expired.

MR COYNE (Murchison—Eyre) [4.32 p.m.]: First of all, I wish to congratulate the Treasurer on this great Budget.

Mr T. D. Evans: A great Budget?

Mr COYNE: Yes, it is a great Budget in view of the confined area in which the Treasurer has been allowed to operate. We know that the attitude and the policies of the Federal Government are having a disastrous effect on country areas. To date, we have heard mostly about the country areas in the wheatbelt, and how

the removal of the super bounty and other moves by the Federal Government have affected the people living in those areas.

The people in my electorate are in a situation which is a little different, because they rely entirely on pastoral and mining pursuits for their survival. In representing the people in those areas by speaking to this debate today, I have to confine myself to the Murchison area and the north-eastern goldfields area, and, although similar in many respects, each has to be treated differently.

Meekatharra is regarded as being the largest town in the Murchison area and it is towards that town that I want to direct my remarks in the initial stage. I have just spent a weekend in Meekatharra where there was great activity, as there always is in the first week of October. It is the first leg of the Murchison racing round which commences at Meekatharra with a two-day meeting. Ever since I have attended there since 1964 this has been the position.

Meekatharra is also the scene of other activities; notably, the meeting of members of the Pastoralists and Graziers Association. That conference is attended by people who come from centres throughout the pastoral areas and from as far afield as Leonora. This past weekend Meekatharra was also the venue, for the first time, of a conference organised by the Isolated Children's Parents' Association. It is a great tribute to that organisation that it was able to get so many people to attend that conference, many of whom travelled from far distant places. The secretary and the president of the association—Ruth and Eric Swann—journeyed from Karandah Station, which is 200 miles the other side of Kalgoorlie, in order to attend this conference. They were accompanied by other station owners from the other side of the Murchison. A man called Hazel-tine from Derby also attended the meeting.

Another couple who attended that conference at Meekatharra were Bill and Olive Henwood, who came from Wigloo Station near Carnarvon. Many of the resolutions and discussions at that meeting were of great interest to me. Those attending were able to highlight some of the difficulties they encounter in these outback areas. I hope that during the course of my speech today I will be able to pass on to the members some of the difficulties they do meet, because at that conference reference was made to the problems they face in regard to the education of isolated children and the School of the Air programme, in view of the attitudes adopted by the Education Department.

I would say that throughout these outback areas the people have a feeling almost akin to despair because of the way some of the Federal policies are affecting them.

Mr Bryce: Education policies?

Mr COYNE: I am speaking mainly of people engaged in pastoral pursuits, because something like 50 people attended the Pastoralists and Graziers Association meeting. By attending this meeting I was able to gauge to what extent these policies had affected the pastoralists and graziers. The policies have left these people in a very serious situation. Although they have been guaranteed a wool price of 250c, which sounds reasonable, when it is analysed the price comes down to something like 50c for greasy wool, which is only a subsistence margin. I will admit that the Federal Government was congratulated, on the one hand, for having guaranteed this price for wool, because at least it gave the pastoralists and graziers a base upon which to work.

Nevertheless, it was also felt that although the Federal Government had given a lift to the wool price it was very quick to waive some of the tax concessions that applied to those engaged in the pastoral industry. One of these concessions was that relating to the conservation of water and the other was allowing the tax on improvements and development to be written off in the year in which they were carried out. The fact that the Federal Government is to phase out the tax on such work over a period of 10 years makes it much more difficult for the pastoralists and graziers to take advantage of the higher price of wool, because most of the income they obtained during the short period of high wool prices has been denied to them as a result of their being deprived of taxation deductions.

One of the factors causing this feeling that is almost akin to despair amongst the people in these outback areas is the way money is being spent, apart from the ordinary accretions to the Federal Government through the medium of increased petrol tax, stamp duties, telephone charges, and all the other charges that were broadly imposed on people in outback areas. As I have said, these people are suffering from frustration because of the careless way that money is being spent in outback areas; in fact, they consider it is almost being wasted. This has caused a great deal of confusion and frustration among communities generally in the outback.

The ordinary working people of the towns in the Murchison live in homes which they have occupied for years. They become very frustrated when they see Aboriginal families, who are being encouraged to occupy the new type of homes that are being constructed, mistreat and neglect them. This creates a great sense of frustration, especially when they see the great amount of money that has been expended in this area on welfare housing.

I, for one, was very disappointed to see the phasing out of the Native Welfare Department in this State. I realise this was as a result of a decision arrived at by an Australia-wide referendum of the people, when the Federal Government took over control of Aboriginal affairs.

When the Native Welfare Department existed in this State it was possible to place the blame squarely on the department which was responsible in a particular issue. If something went wrong in a matter concerning Aboriginal welfare it was possible to pinpoint the person who was responsible, whether it be the damaging of a mess on the reserve, or something else. In those days it was possible to effect a remedy.

However, once the Native Welfare Department was embraced by the Department of Community Welfare it became increasingly difficult to exercise control, because many of those responsible were able to sidestep the issues. The situation has deteriorated. This is more apparent in the fringe areas than in the bigger communities, because it is possible to see the dire effects in the fringe areas.

At Wiluna a problem has arisen over the citrus fruit operation which was initiated by Mr Jack Parr. I was one of those who were very vociferous in trying to promote this industry at Wiluna; and I made representations to the Federal as well as the State Government to enable the industry to continue operating. I had a genuine interest in this project; and I felt it was one which could have established a worth-while industry in a remote area. I made an endeavour to persuade the Government and Jack Parr to participate on a 50-50 basis, so that when it was taken over by the Government there would be some effective management of the project. However, this move was negated; but eventually the Commonwealth Government acquired the project for about \$250 000.

The Commonwealth authority appointed an administrator and provided him with \$203 000 with which to organise the work force to develop the citrus project as well as a little farm which, it was hoped, would become self-sufficient. The aims of the Commonwealth were very commendable, and I could not criticise the project in any way. It was envisaged that in addition to the project to produce vegetables, as distinct from the citrus-growing project, there would be a bakery and a butcher's shop. It was hoped that by this means the project as a whole would become self-supporting.

An attempt would be made to grow maize, for the brewing of beer. The person who organised this had some prior experience in South Africa where he helped the natives in similar types of ventures.

Although the present operation at Wiluna has been going on for 12 months, I say at this stage that it is a complete failure. One of the big drawbacks is the inability to train the Aborigines to work constantly on the project. A couple of weeks ago they left *en masse* to travel to Jigalong, with the result that the whole project came to a standstill.

When the people of the area see money being squandered in this way—and they are aware of the amount that has been made available—they become a little unhappy, because the Federal Government has taken steps to tax them more heavily and thus make their operations more difficult.

Another example to illustrate the careless way in which Commonwealth funds are expended arose from the visit of the Federal Minister (Mr Bryant) to the Leonora area. He was made aware of the need for a kindergarten, and he agreed to provide funds for its establishment. It was established eventually at a cost of \$106 000. This is one of the most magnificent kindergartens to be found in the back country. The buildings include a clinic, as well as a residence for the married couple in charge of the centre. This kindergarten caters for 13 children only.

A smaller kindergarten was established in Meekatharra by the local people with the aid of State and Federal funds at a cost of \$25 000. This kindergarten caters for 30 children in the morning, and another 30 in the afternoon. From this it can be seen clearly that no proper planning was carried out in establishing the kindergarten at Leonora. The amount expended on the Leonora kindergarten is sufficient for the building of three or four kindergartens in the various towns of the Murchison. At Laverton a kindergarten is to be established, and \$30 000 has been budgeted; this is in a township of 1 500 people. In all country towns there is a hard core of old settlers who over the years have intermarried. They become the settled population of such towns. It is these people who at the present time are talking about leaving. This highlights the negative reaction of those people, and is affecting them right at the core. This is a situation about which we should all be very concerned.

One cause of people leaving the towns is the high cost of living. I can well appreciate the difficulties they confront and the disadvantages they suffer. How the people have managed to survive for so long I fail to understand. The price of food items has escalated tremendously. I understand their position, because between 1948 and 1960 I was a suburban grocer and ran a family business at Dianella which, in those days, was not as big a district as it is now. That was a period of great stability.

In those days the women who patronised my shop were very conscious of any change in the price of an article. Today, the housewives have to become accustomed to the never-ending steep rise in prices. This must be very frustrating to the womenfolk in trying to arrange their household budgets. The people of the towns in my electorate have to cope with the high price of perishables—frozen foods and vegetables. They also have to bear the high cost of electricity, fuel, telephone charges, and newspapers which sell at 14c to 15c a copy. The air fare out of Meekatharra costs \$100.

Other drawbacks relate to the quality of life and educational facilities. In recent years it has been very difficult to induce a doctor to practise in the Meekatharra area. However, I am happy to say that a doctor arrived there last Friday on the same plane on which I travelled. I hope he will remain at Meekatharra for a long time and settle down happily in that environment.

However, the doctor does need a good back-up staff in the hospital and this is the responsibility of the Public Health Department which should not take the view that anything is good enough for an outback town. For the very reason it is an outback town it requires the services urgently and an endeavour should be made to provide a better type and more experienced person to assist the doctor.

The same applies to the Education Department in connection with the education of the children in country towns. The department should encourage experienced teachers to go into the areas, instead of first-year teachers. Experienced headmasters and administrators should be sent to these areas because the schools in country towns have greater difficulties than those experienced in ordinary provincial towns. Country towns have an Aboriginal problem because they have a big preponderance of Aboriginal children. This in itself requires a terrific understanding on the part of the teachers and administrators.

Another problem facing those living right throughout the area is that no dental facilities are available, and in addition, no optometrist visits the area.

When speaking about the isolated children's meeting I meant to mention the tremendous cost of getting children to the city. We criticised the previous Government for not introducing the additional living-away-from-home allowance and I understand that at the moment this aspect is being studied to see whether something can be done. A third air fare for children is another matter under consideration. We hope that will be granted in the near future.

Another cost which should be considered is that of getting children from their homes to the point of departure. In

some instances this is something like 300 or 400 miles and it is a costly operation for the parents to take the children to the point of departure, spend the night with them at a motel, and then return home, the round trip involving approximately 600 miles.

I know that in this regard the Isolated Children's Parents' Association is preparing submissions, which should not be treated lightly, but should be examined closely. Although it may not be possible to refund the whole of the outlay, at least some contribution should be made towards the expenses, perhaps on the basis of what is paid to a normal public servant for mileage covered in the execution of his duties.

Mr May: How many would be involved?

Mr COYNE: It would be something like 30 or 40. There would be Mrs Smith from Eraheedy Station, 300 miles the other side of Wiluna, and there are about 30 or 40 all told from other stations. I was surprised at the number.

Mr Carr: Your electorate would appreciate the offer of the Federal Government in terms of increased living-away-from-home allowances.

Mr Sodeman: You have to be joking, surely. What about what they took away? It is a case of "Here it is", on the one hand and "Give it back" on the other. Don't jest.

Several members interjected.

Mr Sodeman: What about the taxation deduction reduced from \$400 to \$150?

The SPEAKER: The member for Murchison-Eyre may interject!

Mr COYNE: Having dealt with depressing aspects, I now wish to say that the pastoral areas and goldfields have always been a Cinderella in terms of the State's development and one very good reason has existed for this state of affairs. In the early days—in the early 1900s—when gold was first discovered, towns grew up usually around a mining development on which everything was dependent. If it crashed or petered out, the population would disappear. So consequently nothing was ever done for a goldmining town. I will not deal with Coolgardie or Kambalda at the moment because they are in a different category and have their own problems.

Mr May: Kambalda is different inasmuch as it has nickel and gold.

Mr COYNE: That is right. Actually I had in mind the township of Cue which in the early days was referred to as the queen city of the Murchison. Because of the nature of the buildings, it is possible to visualise that Cue was a town of considerable importance. They were similar to the buildings at Coolgardie, but not quite so elaborate. I have been to most towns and I have not seen buildings as

magnificent as those at Cue. Certainly the buildings in Laverton are brick, but they are nowhere near the same style as those in Cue. The reason for this is that once the gold ran out or the gold price decreased, the town dependent on that particular mine usually died.

However, this situation is changing now and it is of great interest to me particularly, because I have spent most of my life in those areas, to see the development at Windarra which is developing now on a more permanent basis with compared the situation which existed in the gold-mining era. Even though the town is geared for a life of 14 years, it is completely different from what one would expect. The development is based on a 14-year life, but if it is able to have a longer life, that will be a bonus, and we certainly hope this will be so.

At the moment 109 of the 159 houses projected have been completed and the community is being serviced rapidly and is getting under way. It will be something of consequence in that particular area because it is the most remote town of any size east of Kalgoorlie.

The most heartening announcement of all was the recent one concerning the Perseverance project. In the early 1900s Lawlers was referred to as the capital of the east Murchison and had a population of approximately 5 000. At that time the size of a town was based on the number of hotels and breweries in its area. The old Donegal, Wahroonga, and Great Eastern Mines were around the town like an arc and provided the link between the Murchison and the north-eastern goldfields.

I am particularly pleased about the development at Perseverance. It will dwarf the development at Windarra and possibly that at Kambalda because it is envisaged that something like \$300 million will be spent there to cater not only for the development, but also for a refinery and smelter.

The development will encourage a population of about 4 000 people. I feel happy for those people who will reside in the area because they will experience something which has been missing during the last 50 or 60 years. The Murchison has been a tremendous no-man's-land. I certainly wish the developers well and I will watch their progress with great interest.

During the rest of my term as the member representing that area I will be striving to ensure that the Government recognises the needs of the people. I refer particularly to health and educational needs. I have already contacted the Minister for Education regarding the completion of the high school for the Laverton region. It is essential that the school be completed in time for the commencement of the next school year because the people in the area come from vastly different parts of the State

and they have previously experienced good educational facilities. I trust the Government will take cognisance of what I am saying and make every effort to have the school completed in time for the next school year.

The provision of medical services is also most important. Laverton has grown so quickly that medical services have not kept pace and they are in a deplorable state at the moment. I am aware that it is planned to upgrade the medical facilities and connect them to a deep sewerage system; the sooner it happens the better it will be for the people of the region. It is important that they have good medical services with a back-up staff and preferably with a resident doctor.

I have seen the plans of the hospital which is to be constructed for the Laverton district and I am sure it will cater for the needs of the community once it is established and has an experienced staff.

Only recently a gas reticulation scheme was installed in the town and the houses now have gas heating and lighting which is most convenient when compared with the hurricane and primus lamps of the old days. The installation of reticulated gas is a credit to the planners and I would not hesitate to live in a town such as Laverton with its modern concept and design. It is worth seeing.

I look forward to the development of Agnew. The whole pattern of the goldfields will change and people who take employment there will enjoy the same quality of life as they enjoyed before moving to the goldfields. It will be something new for the district, and the development will be foreign to that part of our country. I hope there will be an overflow to the Murchison region because conditions are still fairly primitive there.

Mr May: Of the 109 houses, how many will be allocated to Aborigines?

Mr COYNE: Approximately six in the complex. The Aborigines have a different development outside the actual town limits. It is a whirly type of structure with an opening in the centre. It is something new and fairly cheap to construct, but it is the type of home which apparently suits the Aborigines.

Mr Hartrey: Does the Mt. Magnet police station still have one cell for Aborigines only?

Mr COYNE: No, that is quite wrong. Actually Mt. Magnet now has a modern police station.

Mr Hartrey: Since when?

Mr COYNE: Since the other day. Only recently I was talking to a policeman at Meekatharra and he said that in that town there are two cells for men, and one for women. On occasions the police have to put 30 people into one cell and members can imagine the result.

Mr Hartrey: I can!

Mr COYNE: How much time do I have left, Mr Speaker?

The SPEAKER: Until 5.18 p.m.

Mr COYNE: That just about gives me time to develop a theme on which I have wanted to speak for some time: I refer to the phasing-out of missions.

I have been travelling through the Murchison now for something like 10 years and I have come to know the people who run the missions. Without doubt, those who run the best missions are the Seventh Day Adventists. I have also had previous experience with missions and I have always admired the tremendous spirit of the people who go to those outback areas.

During the war years I was a radar technician in the Air Force, and I served on coastal radar stations around the northern coast of our continent including South Goulbourn Island, North Goulbourn Island, Port Keats, and Millingimbi.

On most of the locations where I served we were stationed close to the missions. The Aborigines were different from those who live in the Murchison, and the people who worked amongst them taught them needlework and gardening, amongst other things. At Port Keats station, about half way between Wyndham and Darwin, there was a Catholic mission called the Sacred Heart Mission. It was run by three nuns, a lay brother, and a priest. Those people really looked after the Aborigines. The nuns dedicated themselves to the children knowing full well the children did not have any future unless they did so.

The mission was in the form of a stockade and young Aboriginal girls were taken in and taught needlework and handicrafts. Those girls were kept in the mission until they were 14 years of age but immediately they returned to their tribes they became the fourth or fifth wives of old bucks who were between 50 and 60 years of age. I thought at the time it was a pity that that should happen but the missions keep going, year after year, and attempt to train these people in spite of what they know will be the ultimate result.

While in that area I was able to see Aborigines in their natural state, and I have not forgotten that experience. To pursue the matter a little further, the wives of the Aborigines used to do all the hard work and the carrying. The wife would carry a kangaroo while the buck would carry only his woomera and his spear.

Towards the end of the war the officer was posted elsewhere, and I, being a flight sergeant-radio mechanic at the time, was put in charge of the station which was staffed by 15 men. Our duties were, in the main, to do maintenance and go where we were directed. Four or five Aboriginal bucks used to come down to do our

fatigues. They were very healthy specimens. They lived on the coast and were very clean-limbed and athletic. They ate the same food as we ate. Their muscles rippled under their flesh, their hair was greased with diesel oil, and they wore only a small loin cloth.

They wanted to go to an initiation ceremony at Daly River, and after much deliberation we allowed them to go. We fed them up—because the pressure was off us and we were able to be a little more generous with our rations—and gave them tobacco and tinned food. They went over to their camp, sat down and ate as much as they could, and away they went. They were away at the initiation ceremony for about two weeks and when they returned they were about the colour of gray ashes. The flesh was hanging on them in folds and they were completely emaciated. One of the first lessons to be learnt about Aborigines is that they never think about tomorrow.

I have watched the Wiluna situation for something like 10 years. The Aboriginal children usually find their way onto stations. They are really good kids; they do a tremendous job and have been trained well. People on the stations are always looking for children from Karalundi or the Seventh Day Adventist Mission at Wiluna.

It is apparently the policy of Mr Whitlam to phase out the missions by not supplying them with any more funds. This policy has already resulted in the living-away-from-home allowances being discontinued, so the missions are virtually being chopped off. I contend that it is not right to take the children away from the spiritually-motivated people who go to these areas of their own volition to help them, and one cannot but admire their tremendous efforts.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The honourable member has five minutes.

Mr COYNE: Apparently it is proposed to replace those people with public servants. In the last couple of years something like seven parties of people, mostly from the Federal sphere, have been to Wiluna to investigate where an Aboriginal township or village can be situated. About three years ago the previous Minister for Housing tabled plans and documents relating to the type of village it was intended to build. In the 2½ or three years since that village was first mooted, not one house has been built in Wiluna, and the most frustrated and confused people are the Aborigines themselves. The group of Aborigines in Wiluna have gone backwards to an alarming degree in that period because they are completely confused with so many official parties visiting the town.

The mission influence has been very effective in the area, not only at Wiluna itself but also in the secondary school at the Karalundi Mission about 45 miles from Meekatharra. It is a shame those two areas are being phased out. I do not think that type of effort can be replaced by public servants, and I feel for the Wiluna community in this respect.

It is becoming obvious that Wiluna will develop as a black town. The Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority has recently bought the only remaining private enterprise store, which will be run similarly to the one at the Jigalong Mission. I think that eventually the only non-Aboriginal people living in the town will be a policeman, a shire clerk, and possibly a director.

Mr T. D. Evans: I hope the two hoteliers stay there.

Mr COYNE: Perhaps they will, because even though they are women they have more control of the situation than many men have. For some reason the Aborigines respect women in hotels. They may get out of hand outside the hotel, but very rarely inside the hotel.

I support the Bill.

MR T. D. EVANS (Kalgoorlie) [5.16 p.m.]: This debate offers us an opportunity to discuss the Budget, to analyse it, and if necessary to criticise it. The speech which has just been delivered by the member for Murchison-Eyre gave us a very interesting tour around the Murchison-Eyre district and an intimate insight into the life and customs of the people living in it; but I am afraid it did not tell us very much about the Budget, which is the subject of this debate.

Mr Hartrey: It was a more interesting speech.

Mr T. D. EVANS: That might well be so, but the occasion calls for an examination of the Budget and some observations on it, which I will endeavour to make. I say that without any criticism of the member for Murchison-Eyre.

The present Government came into office following the general State election on the 30th March last, with the clarion call of its successful election slogan still echoing in its collective ear. The slogan was, "Put things right." I mentioned this was an echo in the collective ear of the Government, but I am afraid that collectivity has now diminished, and, speaking generously and in an objective manner, I believe the situation then, in polarisation to the present situation, is that, having regard for the Government's election promises, it was a case of the blind being led by the blind. There is only one thing worse for the blind than being led by the blind, and that is being led by the deluded.

I therefore say the Government mounted the hustings suffering from a great bout of delusion—and I am generous in saying that—having regard for the nature and quality of its election promises. The Government took office with the clarion call of its successful election slogan "Put things right" in its collective ear. It came into office under a delusion that perhaps it could put things right for certain privileged sections of the community—certainly not the community as a whole. Unfortunately, that delusion has now degenerated into malice. That malice is expressed by the Government exerting its spleen against the Australian Government, firstly, to hide its own ineptitude because now it has been in office for some eight months—

Mr Laurance: Frustration would be better.

Sir Charles Court: Six months.

Mr T. D. EVANS: —and it has achieved nothing at all. Secondly, it accuses the Federal Government collectively to set up a smokescreen hoping that the people will in time forget some of the promises it made. I mention just one promise we have heard nothing about: the Premier said that the Government would lease back schools. What happened to that grandiose proposition?

Sir Charles Court: We never said that at all.

Mr T. D. EVANS: The Premier said that his Government would lease buildings from private enterprise to use as schoolrooms.

Sir Charles Court: We did not say that at all. I think I should send you a copy of the statement made and what appeared in the Press.

Mr T. D. EVANS: The Premier elect, as he was on the 1st April, 1974—

Sir Charles Court: The Commonwealth Government left us high and dry.

Mr T. D. EVANS: —even before he was sworn into office and sure of his majority—I concede he had a majority but he did not know to what extent then—made a statement which appeared in *The West Australian* the next day.

Mr B. T. Burke: What date was that—the 1st April?

Mr T. D. EVANS: Yes, and the statement appeared in *The West Australian* on the 2nd April. The Premier commented on a recent decision of the High Court of Australia relating to the Tasmanian tobacco tax. The court declared that the principle of imposing an *ad valorem* tax—whether it was called a tobacco tax, a purchase tax, or a consumer tax—was quite valid. The court had some reservations about the method of collection of the tax, but this is not relevant.

Apparently, representatives of the media asked the Premier early in his career whether he would impose such a tax on Western Australia, because obviously the High Court had given the green light for such a tax. This is what the Premier said—

I am more concerned with ways of curbing taxes rather than increasing them.

Mr May: He curbed them all right.

Mr T. D. EVANS: The Premier came into office with this charge of putting things right.

Mr May: Right up.

Mr T. D. EVANS: One can be generous and say that as at the 1st April—and I pass no comment on the status that day enjoys—the Premier was concerned about putting things right for certain people. He said he was more concerned with curbing taxes than increasing them. I say the best of British luck to him. I wish he had stuck to his guns. What happened to that charge of putting things right? I am afraid it has become a charge of putting things right up, because in the few months this Government has been in power, even before the Budget was introduced, what did we find? Pay-roll tax was increased, bus fares went up—

Mr Young: It is funny—we found this when you were in Government.

Mr T. D. EVANS: —rail freights and fares were up, electricity charges were increased, and drivers' licenses and registration fees were increased. We also saw the introduction of a recording fee which was not to replace the third party motor vehicle surcharge but to stand alongside it. Both the recording fee and the surcharge are to go to Consolidated Revenue. It is six of one and half a dozen of the other, whatever these fees are called. Most of these increases hit one section of the community—the motoring public. Let us look at some of the other increases.

The member for Murchison-Eyre, to whom I referred when I commenced my comments, was most concerned when it was announced that State Battery charges were to be increased by 185 per cent on the 1st August last.

Mr B. T. Burke: Shame!

Mr T. D. EVANS: No Government in the past 70 years had found it necessary, or indeed desirable, to impose these charges. These charges were imposed outside the Budget.

Mr Young: Your Government introduced a Bill to put up some company fees by 300 per cent.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: The difference is that those rises were warranted.

Mr May: You want to talk to Mr Rinaldi about it.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Kalgoorlie has the floor, and I would ask that interjections across the Chamber cease.

Mr T. D. EVANS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

I would like to read a comment which appears on page 3989 of the 1973 *Hansard*. I will not identify the author of this comment until I have concluded the quotation. The gentleman was passing a comment on the practice which has grown up of Governments imposing charges outside the climate created by the introduction of the Budget. This is the comment—

Of course, this device is not new—it is becoming a rather common one throughout the free world these days. Statements in regard to increases are made ahead of the actual Budget in the hope that when the Budget is introduced people will be led to believe there are no increases when in fact they have been announced earlier. However, the simple fact is that the increases have to be incorporated in the Budget.

The speaker is none other than our present Premier.

Mr May: He is the only one who makes any comments anyway.

Mr T. D. EVANS: The point then made by the present Premier as Leader of the Opposition is quite valid. All the charges to which I have referred have to be considered within the framework of the Budget.

Let us come now to some of the significant features of the Budget. Time does not permit me fully to examine all the charges that have been increased in this Budget. I shall refer to those I feel to be the most significant, and some which affect my electorate in particular, and indeed, country people in general.

I will commence with the charges for water supplied in country areas. My inquiries reveal that for the last three accounting years the average annual domestic consumption in the country areas of Western Australia was in the vicinity of 120 000 gallons. I will speak of gallons rather than kilolitres for the sake of comparison. The previous scale of water charges, as distinct from the imposition of a rate, was 20c for the first 60 000 gallons, and 25c per thousand for the next 40 000 gallons up to a total consumption of 100 000 gallons. Applying the old scale to a consumption of 100 000 gallons—bearing in mind the average consumption struck between individual consumers within the country scheme is 120 000 gallons—we find that the average water charge would have been \$22 per year. Under the proposed charge, a flat rate

of 32c will be charged for the first 100 000 gallons. This amounts to \$32 per year and it represents an increase of 45.4 per cent.

It is not as bad as the charge imposed upon the prospectors, who suffered an increase of 180 per cent, but it is quite a startling percentage increase. But that is not all. If one goes further and does not rely on what the Treasurer revealed in his Budget speech, but makes other inquiries, one finds that proposed charges for water consumed in excess of 100 000 gallons will cause some people very real nightmares; about which members representing country areas will have good reason to be concerned.

Mr Coyne: You should not refer to the battery charges. That was an outright racket, and you should know it.

Mr T. D. EVANS: The member for Murchison-Eyre did not tell that to the prospectors in Kalgoorlie; I wish he had. The next 50 000 gallons will be charged at 50c per 1 000; and the further 50 000 gallons—bringing the total to 200 000—will be charged at \$1 per 1 000; and heaven help anybody who exceeds 200 000 gallons, because the excess will be paid for at the rate of \$2 per 1 000.

I come now to the differential between the domestic and the commercial water rate. The present system of uniform country water charges, as the Treasurer indicated in his Budget review, was introduced on the 1st January, 1963. At that time water rates were fixed at 7.5c in the \$1 for domestic consumers, and 10c in the \$1 for commercial properties. In 1972, during a very severe setback in the rural community—and I ask those present who plead on behalf of the rural community whether they feel that setback has been cured, because if we are to believe the Treasurer's speech everything is fine in the rural communities—the Tonkin Labor Government, recognising the plight of country people and their short-term liquidity problems, decreased the rate from 7.5c to 6c in the \$1; and in the case of commercial properties from 10c to 9c in the \$1.

The present Government, in an atmosphere in which every country member sitting on the Government side of the Chamber has pleaded, or can be expected to plead, that things have never been so bad in the rural community, has seen fit to wipe out the reduction in the rates permitted by the Tonkin Government, and has restored the rates to what they were previously. I think it is a question of *res ipsa loquitur*—let things speak for themselves.

Sir Charles Court: The increase amounts to less than 10 per cent of the estimated loss this year.

Mr T. D. EVANS: That does not alter the logic of my argument. Have the economic ills experienced within the rural com-

munity in 1972 been cured, or not? In the matter of commercial properties, the proprietors of which—if one may speak generally, and I know one should not—might well be expected to support members of the Government parties, the increased rate takes no account of increased property valuations due to inflation; something about which we have heard so much and about which the Government appears to care so little.

I turn now to industrial and commercial water charges. The Treasurer said they are also to be increased. He did not tell us by how much, so one had to be perspicacious and, indeed, become somewhat of a Sherlock Holmes and ask appropriate and probing questions. My efforts resulted in the following information being gleaned: The figures I am about to relate are in kilolitres; for those who wish to convert them to gallons, a rule of thumb would be that 4½ litres approximate one gallon, although I can give the decimal reading to three figures if so desired. The first 909 kilolitres will be charged at 11c per kilolitre. I do not know who devised the formula, because the next group in terms of consumption is a large one; there is no graduation. The next 8 183 kilolitres will be charged at 22c per kilolitre.

In terms of commerce, the first 909 kilolitres will be charged at 11c per kilolitre, and thereafter there will be a flat charge of 22c per kilolitre.

I would like to turn now to the impact of these charges on decentralised industry. Again, the charges are worthy of repetition. The first 909 kilolitres—and if one multiplies that by nine, divides by two, and then multiplies the result by 1 000, one will convert these figures to gallons—are to be charged at 11c per kilolitre; but heaven help any industrial project which uses in excess of 909 kilolitres per year, because the next 8 183 kilolitres—and this group would envelop a great many if not all decentralised industries—will be charged at an increase of 100 per cent over the charge for the first 909 kilolitres; they will be charged at the rate of 22c per kilolitre.

This demonstrates the concern of the Government for decentralised industry—a concern which can be polarised by this magnanimous gesture to assist this form of industry by way of recompensing those concerns situated in nonurban areas and which pay pay-roll tax. What do we find set aside in the Budget towards this end? The grand total of \$50 000. When I first heard of this proposition I was most concerned that unless some form of eligibility scale was adopted it would be most inequitable. It is not for me to mention names, but one would not have to think very deeply to think of an industrial giant amongst the corporations in Western Australia which operates not solely, but significantly, in the country. This firm will be able to qualify for pay-roll tax assistance, whereas

a small firm within 50 miles of the GPO will receive no assistance at all. However, I think my fears are unfounded when I consider the magnanimous sum that has been set aside!

Mr Hartrey: It wouldn't matter, because he would be battling to pay enough wages to attract pay-roll tax.

Mr T. D. EVANS: If he pays wages in excess of \$20 800 a year, he must pay pay-roll tax; and we must bear in mind that as a result of the effects of inflation a small industry, relatively speaking, could easily have a wages bill of that size.

I intend to devote a little time to an examination of one aspect of the Liberal Party's policy relating to education. I know a motion is before the Chamber dealing generally with other aspects of education, and including this one, but in the light of the Budget provisions I would like to examine the proposition that the Liberal Party section of the Government announced on the hustings under the heading of "Primary schools". I refer to the Liberal Party policy, a photocopy of which I have here. Under the heading, "Primary schools" the Liberal Party policy states—

We will lower the admission age to the year in which the child turns five.

To refresh the minds of members opposite, the policy of the National Alliance in this area was in accord with the policy of the Australian Labor Party. However, the people of Western Australian were exposed to this particular part of the policy of the Liberal Party. There have been so many acrobatics, Press statements, evasive answers in Parliament and conferences by the Minister that I feel sorry for him. Yet despite all this, there is still an umbrella of darkness over the whole area; it is difficult to know just what is going to happen.

I am not concerned so much with what is going to happen as to whether justification exists for whatever might happen. The Budget provides \$202 900 for the establishment of four pre-primary centres. However, since the Budget was introduced an announcement in *The West Australian* of the 15th October indicated that two further country centres are to be established. On the 15th October, the member for Canning asked some very significant questions of the Minister and the answers he received only partially succeeded in clearing up some of the doubt which exists. Part (b) of the question states—

Where does he intend recruiting the teachers necessary to staff the pre-primary school centres?

I make the comment in passing that, in the Liberal Party policy speech, these were not referred to as pre-primary centres; the policy merely said, "We will lower the

admission age in primary schools." However, be that as it may; I intend to say more on this subject when we resume debate on the motion relating to the condemnation of the Government's education policies. However, I must raise a point now which I would not be allowed to raise when speaking to the motion, because I would be introducing new material. Where does the Minister intend recruiting these teachers? The Minister's answer was—

From outside the Education Department, although any departmental teacher with the necessary qualifications could apply.

Mr Clarko: What else do you expect him to say when you have briefed the headmasters not to take them in?

Mr T. D. EVANS: Does the honourable member mean me, personally?

Mr Clarko: Yes, in general. Your supporters, through the union, have deliberately contrived a situation to stop five-year-old children getting into school.

Mr T. D. EVANS: I do not think that statement does justice to the member for Karrinyup, or to the profession from which he came. Part (c) of the question stated—

What qualifications will these teachers need to possess?

The answer given was—

Pre-school teacher status.

I make the point that the next three questions were not answered in full but were given a composite, evasive answer. The three questions were—

- (d) Will these teachers be part of the Primary Division of the Education Department?
- (e) If (d) is "Yes" then what action will the Minister take against these or any other teachers who comply with the decision handed down at the 1974 teachers' conference, i.e., not to enrol or teach five year old children in 1975?
- (f) If these new teachers are not to be part of the Primary Division (which means they will not be eligible for membership of the WA State School Teachers' Union), what will be their conditions of employment?

The composite answer given to those questions was—

- (d) to (f) Discussions have been held with the headmasters of the pilot schools and the President of the Teachers' Union. It is my intention that discussions proceed in an endeavour to resolve all issues.

The questions were not answered and should be answered now, in the Parliament. We should not have to pick up the

morning newspaper and read a spate of Press releases by the Minister; we should be able to get questions answered in the Parliament when we ask them.

Mr Clarko: Who ran education when you were the Minister?

Mr T. D. EVANS: I think the honourable member is well aware of the fact that the Minister ran education. The other part of the question which remained unanswered and which should have been answered was the query relating to the employing authority of these teachers. *The West Australian* this morning reported a Press release by the Minister which touches on this question; however, it does not answer it. Is the employing authority to be the Education Department? If the Minister could say, "Yes, it is definitely to be the Education Department" we would know that these teachers will be eligible to join the Teachers' Union and we would know their terms and conditions of employment. Or is it to be the Pre-school Education Board, bearing in mind that the Minister said the teachers will be required to have pre-school-trained status?

Does the Government intend to introduce a Bill to amend the Education Act? If these teachers are to be employed outside the Education Department, who is to authorise their appointment? Is the employing agent to be the Pre-school Education Board? It would appear that an amendment to the Act is necessary. What of the child-teacher ratio which is to prevail in these pre-primary centres? Is it to be one adult for every 10 children? If it is, what are the grade 1 teachers in the orthodox primary school to feel when they work under a much larger ratio?

Will the features now applying to pre-school centres obtain in these pre-primary centres? I mention flexibility, individual tuition—which the present ratio in pre-school centres permits—self-discipline, parent involvement, and teacher autonomy, as just a few examples.

Mr Clarko: Nobody is proposing any change in that arrangement.

Mr T. D. EVANS: I am asking the question; these questions should have been answered either in the Parliament or by ministerial statement.

We have heard a lot from the Minister, but it has been meaningless and has not cleared the air. To show members that the air has not been cleared, I have letters from the Thornlie Kindergarten expressing doubt and concern; letters from one of the delegates to the pre-school board meeting expressing concern; I have received submissions and letters from the Deanmore Parents and Citizens' Association; and we have seen countless statements in the Press relating to the doubts surrounding this matter.

Some of the headlines state, "Use of pre-school centres in WA"; "School-at-5 problems"; "Top educators oppose school-at-five plan"; "Bid to settle pre-schools dispute"; and, "Teachers to bar pupils under five".

Mr Clarko: Do you intend to table those?

Mr Skidmore: Do not be so ridiculous!

Mr T. D. EVANS: All this controversy could and should have been avoided if the committee had done its homework and the Premier had been more honest on the hustings instead of using education as a vehicle with which to gain votes.

Mr Clarko: That is a completely irresponsible statement.

Mr T. D. EVANS: In the short time remaining to me, I should like to ask the Government whether the education Estimates provide for increases in allowances to students at teachers' colleges; those who will ultimately be employed in teaching in Government and, for that matter, non-Government schools in Western Australia.

The appropriate item in the education estimate which provides for an increase in student allowances is headed "Scholarships and Allowances". Before continuing to deal with that item I would point out that scholarships belong to the years gone by. I do not know whether the Education Department in its estimates now provides any scholarships at Government expense, but nevertheless the heading is there—"Scholarships and Allowances". The question I ask is: Does this item embrace increased allowances to be paid to students? I notice that in 1973-74 the vote for this item was \$690 000, but the actual expenditure was \$696 209. The estimate for this financial year—\$909 000—shows only a meagre increase; so I trust that something will be done to restore equity and justice in the various teachers' colleges.

I now wish to deal with the subject of recreation and I note with some degree of satisfaction, the vote for the Community Recreation Council has been increased. I note also, not with surprise, but with pleasure, that the advice tendered, when I was in a position to tender it, appears to have been taken, because the actual expenditure of the council for 1973-74 was right to the very cent; it matched the actual vote. Often we find that some departments and authorities do not, in fact, spend all the money that has been allocated to them by Parliament, but this was not the case with the Community Recreation Council. I note that in this financial year the money made available to it has been increased. My only regret is that it has not been increased to the extent one would expect.

At the time the Community Recreation Council was created I made the forecast then, and I am prepared to back that

statement with some reservation whilst this Government is in office, that the Council, because of its importance to the community should, within 15 years, have a vote that would rival that of the Education Department. Unfortunately, however, it has a long way to go.

I draw attention to the fact that yesterday I asked the Minister representing the Minister for Recreation in this Chamber a question as to the activities of the Community Recreation Council and the funds it has at its disposal to render assistance in a very worth-while area of recreation, which is attracting a large number of people; in fact, the number is growing annually. It is a most salutary form of recreation. I am referring to a maritime form of recreation—the use of small boats. I am also referring to another form of sport that appeals to many more individuals, because in following it one does not necessarily have to acquire a boat; one requires to purchase only a humble fishing line. I refer to the recreation of fishing by anglers around our coastline and in some of our rivers and estuaries. The Government has seen fit to require fishermen to take out a license to fish in inland rivers, but I am afraid we have done little to improve the facilities for anglers.

In our election policy we made a special point of announcing that funds would be made available this year to the Community Recreation Council to enable it to assist where it could to improve facilities for anglers, and particularly with a view to negotiating and co-operating with private enterprise and local authorities where possible and appropriate for the provision of small boat ramps.

Yesterday I asked a question as to what progress, if any, had been made, and what funds had been provided, and the answer I received, although quite interesting, is not very reassuring. It is as follows—

For some time the Community Recreation Council has been aware of the shortage of small boat launching facilities, particularly at beaches north of Fremantle. In March of this year, it convened a meeting of interested parties including Government Departments, local government authorities, the boating industry and relevant recreation clubs and associations to investigate the problem.

I know it did, and it did so with the blessing of the previous Government; indeed it was at the instigation of the previous Government. I continue to quote the answer to my question—

A working party was formed and recommendations, including a priority of sites were submitted to the Council. However, in the present difficult financial situation, it has not been

possible to pledge any capital monies from the 1974-75 Budget towards the provision of these facilities.

The **SPEAKER**: The honourable member has one minute.

**Mr T. D. EVANS**: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I return to the theme that if the Government had done its homework in the field of education and had not come up with extravagant, unworkable, controversial policies, it would have had ample money to apply in those areas where the needs are greatest.

In this field of recreation we find evidence that members are complaining that plans for extensions and for new schools previously approved have had to be cut back. An examination of the General Loan Estimates tells a sad story. So it is obvious that this Government has blamed the Federal Government not only to hide its own ineptitude, but also to put up smoke screens in an effort to overcome the monstrosity it has produced in trying to fulfil its extravagant and unworkable election promises.

I come to the conclusion that, having examined the Budget, it points to unnecessary and unjustifiable expenditure. Enough has been said about the proposed road traffic patrol, to say nothing of the expenditure of \$290 000 for the holding of a referendum on daylight saving. All this expenditure is uninspiring and unnecessary and, if examined critically, it could even be said to be evil.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Watt.

## **MONEY LENDERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL**

### *Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr O'Neill (Minister for Works), read a first time.

## **BILLS (2): RETURNED**

1. Library Board of Western Australia Act Amendment Bill.
2. Main Roads Act Amendment Bill.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

## **ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE**

**SIR CHARLES COURT** (Nedlands—Premier) [5.59 p.m.]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Before the House does adjourn, I wish to warn members that we hope to spend all Tuesday night on the Budget.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 6.00 p.m.*