

# Legislative Council

Tuesday, 6 December 1988

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 11.00 am, and read prayers.

## STATEMENTS - MINISTERIAL

### *Law Reform Commission of Western Australia - Reports*

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan - Attorney General) [11.03 am] - by leave: It has been my practice to report annually to this House on the Government's position in relation to reports by the Law Reform Commission. This year is especially significant as it marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment in 1968 of the Law Reform Committee. That was the predecessor of the Law Reform Commission, which was established by Statute in 1972.

I am pleased to say that the outstanding record of implementation of Law Reform Commission reports in Western Australia continues to be the envy of the commissions in other States. In this respect the approach of the present Government is in marked contrast to that of the present Opposition, which left office in 1983 with a huge backlog of pigeonholed reports. Since my last report to this House, the following Law Reform Commission reports have been implemented by legislation:

Report No 21: Associations Incorporation Act, reflected in the Associations Incorporation Act 1987;

report No 27: Admissibility in Evidence of Computer Records, reflected in the Evidence Amendment Act 1987;

report No 76, Part I: Wills, substantial compliance, reflected in the Wills Amendment Act 1987;

report No 34, Part V: Trustees' powers of investment, reflected in the Trustees Amendment Act 1987;

report No 80: Problem of old convictions, reflected in the Spent Convictions Act 1988;

report No 64; Bail, finally implemented by the Bail Amendment Act 1988.

Mr President, we are now in a position where nearly three quarters of Law Reform Commission reports which call for legislation have been implemented. Of those which remain, a substantial proportion have been approved and await completion of the drafting process. On the 20th anniversary of our formal law reform process, it is instructive to reflect upon the contribution which this has made to our present law and legal system.

The major rewrite of the Strata Titles Act in 1985, and legislation to ban the sale of undivided shares in land by confidence tricksters, are prominent among the achievements of the commission in reforming the law of real property. The commission's report on the Land Agents Act also led to the present Real Estate and Business Agents Act.

The commission has paid close attention to the modernisation and consolidation of the law of succession. This is an area of law which has traditionally been obscure and complex, some of it deriving from English Statutes of the 17th century. The commission's report this year on the administration of assets of deceased estates will lead to further reform.

Last year saw the introduction of a new Associations Incorporation Act which simplified the process of incorporation and has made associations more accountable. This reform was also substantially assisted by commission recommendations.

Trustees' powers of investment have been widened, rules governing commercial arbitration have been revised, gaming contracts have been made enforceable, and a system dealing with the disposal of uncollected goods has been introduced.

I have already referred to the implementation of the commission's report on the Land Agents Act; its report on mortgage brokers has also been implemented, and drafting has commenced on a Bill to implement the report on the Pawnbrokers Act.

The Law Reform Commission is beginning to have an impact on criminal law as well. The Spent Convictions Bill which is now before the Parliament is based upon the commission's report on the problem of old convictions and, in the near future, we expect reports on criminal process and mental disorder, medical treatment for the dying, and Police Act offences. I have recently asked the commission to consider the question of incitement to racial hatred in the context of the latter reference.

In the area of personal injury damages, commission reports have led to reform of the Fatal Accidents Act to extend the class of potential claimants, and the introduction of new rules dealing with interest on judgments. The commission's report on criminal injuries compensation led to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1982. Since 1983 this Government has, on two occasions, increased the maximum level of compensation payable under that Act. In 1982 the commission reported on the obstacle that the limitation rules presented to compensation claims by Wittenoom asbestos victims. The Liberal Government of the day took no action on that report, and it was only because the present Government acted quickly to introduce the Asbestos Related Diseases Act that the current asbestos claims were able to proceed.

In 1984 the Government introduced legislation based on the commission's report on offices of profit under the Crown. This resulted in changes to the law governing the circumstances in which persons who hold offices of profit under the Crown, or who have contracts with the Government, can be members of Parliament.

In more recent years the commission has produced substantial reports on the review of administrative decisions by way of appeal and by judicial review. The Government has commenced the drafting of legislation to implement these reports, and this will result in greater accountability on the part of public servants, improved freedom of access to information held by Government agencies, and the establishment of an Administrative Appeals Division of the Supreme Court.

The Law Reform Commission has received a substantial number of references relating to the courts and the law of evidence. A commission report led to the establishment of the Small Debts Court, which this Government has expanded to form a Small Disputes Division of the local court in order to accommodate the residential tenancies jurisdiction. In due course it is proposed to also transfer the jurisdiction for small claims and dividing fence disputes to this low cost, more informal court.

In recent years the commission has issued major reports on the Courts of Petty Sessions and the Local Courts, both of which are under active consideration. These reports build upon a number of earlier reports proposing action in more limited areas which has already been taken. Prominent among these is the report on bail, which has finally been implemented by the Bail Amendment Act this year, and the report on appeals from Courts of Petty Sessions, which is the subject of the Justices Amendment Bill which is now before the Parliament.

Three of the commission's four reports on evidentiary law have been implemented - one by case law developments and two by legislation. A fourth report on the competence and compellability of spouses as witnesses is the subject of a Bill currently being drafted.

The Law Reform Commission of Western Australia has attracted competent and committed staff, and dedicated and distinguished commissioners. The newly appointed Chief Justice of Western Australia, the Hon Mr Justice Malcolm, was the private practice member of the commission between 1975 and 1982. He joins another former member, Mr Justice Rowland, on the Supreme Court bench. Four other members of the commission are now judges: Judge H.H. Jackson, in the District Court; Justice R.S. French and Justice M.C. Lee in the Federal Court of Australia; and Acting Chief Judge I.W.P. McCall in the Family Court of Western Australia.

On behalf of the Government it is a pleasure to acknowledge the work of both past and present Law Reform Commissioners and the staff of the Law Reform Commission, and the contribution they have made to this State. I also acknowledge the work of the staff of the Crown Solicitor and Parliamentary Counsel in bringing the commission's reports into legislative form.

The State Government remains strongly committed to law reform and the usefulness of the commission process in appropriate areas. It will continue to reduce the backlog of Law Reform Commission reports and to pay prompt attention to new reports as they emerge.

# **BILLS (10) - ASSENT**

Messages from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills -

1. Crimes (Confiscation of Profits) Bill
2. Local Government Amendment Bill (No 2)
3. Equal Opportunity Amendment Bill
4. Family Court Amendment Bill
5. Electricity Amendment Bill
6. Veterinary Surgeons Amendment Bill
7. Acts Amendment (Stock Diseases) Bill
8. Medical Amendment Bill
9. Soil and Land Conservation Amendment Bill
10. Companies and Securities Legislation (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill

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

### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from 29 November.

**HON P.H. LOCKYER** (Lower North) [11.15 am]: Thank you, Mr President, for the opportunity to say a few words during the debate on this Bill when, traditionally, members have the opportunity to bring up some matters that they believe are pertinent to this Chamber and need to be brought to the attention of the Parliament.

You, Mr President, and many members in the Chamber will have read newspaper reports of a call by the Aboriginal Legal Service for the removal of three police officers from the Murchison district; that is, two officers from Meekatharra and one from Cue. I have viewed with concern for some time the amount of support given to police officers in Western Australia by the Government of this State, particularly in remote areas. I want to convey the argument that insufficient support is given to the Police Force and I want to put the call by the Aboriginal Legal Service for the removal of these officers into a more fair perspective. This call came about after two incidents. One of these incidents was at Meekatharra where a senior sergeant and a senior constable were involved with some unruly elements of the community. It is important to know that this was not just a very light offence. On the weekend I met with members of the Police Force and discovered that this incident left the senior sergeant with six stitches on the top of his head which were caused by the wielding of a sprinkler on the end of a hose which was planted between his ears. The senior constable suffered a depressed fracture to his cheek bone, a broken nose and bruising to behind his eyes in the incident.

**Hon J.N. Caldwell:** He must have been playing cricket!

**Hon P.H. LOCKYER:** This is not a matter that should be treated with any mirth in this Chamber. The constable from Cue received injuries to a certain part of his anatomy which caused it to swell up like a football and he cannot return to work; it was an injury to the most painful place that a man can get hit. The Aboriginal Legal Service sent out a field officer to report on the incident. I will not name the officer here as it is not necessary. However, the officer who was chosen to do the report is a well known antagonist to the Police Force who was involved in the major fracas at Geraldton. Therefore, I am not surprised that upon reporting on the incident his recommendation was that the three policemen were incapable of carrying out their duties in the Murchison area. With the greatest respect, I believe he is wrong and that the Aboriginal Legal Service is wrong.

The Government needs to totally reassess the support that it is giving to the Police Force in the remote areas of our State; I speak here about the northern parts of the State. Many members of the Police Force in the north of our State are getting heartily sick of constantly facing these sorts of terror tactics. More alarmingly, I am informed that well above 60 or 70 per cent of all police officers in the north of our State have needed individual hospitalisation or treatment from a doctor in the last 12 months as a result of such incidents. This is mainly

due to the fact that, for instance, the town of Cue has two constables managing the whole of the town. In Meekatharra the staffing level for the town is insufficient and the workload that is placed on the men and women there is simply too high.

There has been a breakdown of law and order in some areas because some people think they are different from others and can carry on like lunatics, attacking hotels and the rest of the community in general. It is significant that a large proportion of the population living in that area is sick and tired of it and I fear there will be a major backlash if the appropriate support is not given to the police. The problem is that, when things go bad, the police are the first to be called on to help. If they do not receive support from the Government sufficient to protect the community, those attacks become attacks on the very fabric of our society. Once law and order breaks down, anarchy reigns. Many families living in these areas are concerned that that is happening now. We cannot expect the police to continue to put up with having their heads bashed in with sprinklers, and suffer broken jaws, broken noses and black eyes. We will not be able to get police to go to those areas. Already, the police in those areas live under pretty tough circumstances.

At the weekend I had the opportunity to inspect some of the housing of those police officers. While it is of a reasonable standard, they cannot get any repair work done for periods of up to six or seven months. The cost of living to people in Wiluna is so high that it costs as much for them to freight in their fruit and vegetables as it does for them to buy them in the town. It is absolutely necessary that allowances available to police officers living in these areas be reassessed urgently. We also need to give massive professional support to police officers in the north of our State. If that is not done, as I said earlier, no-one will go there and the public will suffer because the damage that is being done to property and to people is increasing. I spoke yesterday with a publican in Meekatharra who made it very clear that if nothing is done he will commence his own form of retribution on those who attack his property by taking to them with a block of wood that he will keep handy on his premises long before the police get there. He is aware that he will be in the wrong as far as the law is concerned.

Hon Kay Hallahan: His profits won't be affected, I suppose, as he wields his piece of wood.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: That is the sort of statement I expect from people who sit back with their hands over their eyes. Those people want to protect their property. The Minister forgets that, if she were running the hotel and being attacked regularly by marauding crowds of people who broke windows and stirred up her customers, she would take action too.

Hon Kay Hallahan: I don't defend damage to property. This is a community issue. It is a problem if publicans are going to serve people with alcohol to the point where they get out of control.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: He has been attacked by people he has not served. Many of those people were not necessarily under the influence of alcohol.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Many incidents are caused by people who are under the influence.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: That was not the case at Meekatharra. These people suddenly began breaking windows and attacking customers.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Are you suggesting that they were not under the influence - that they were sober?

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Yes. Those attacks were organised. They were concentrated attacks on the police officers in these towns. It is not happening only in Meekatharra; it is also on the increase in other towns. I suggest that the Minister tell the Government of the concerns of those police officers because control of these people is slipping out of their hands. They are also frustrated because, when they catch these people and get them to court, the sentences being handed down are a joke. In saying that I am not blaming the law officers; they can do only as the law permits them.

The people are on edge. At the weekend, I spoke to wives of police officers who are terrified that their husbands will be seriously injured or killed. That is how serious the matter is. Some believe that there will be a death if something is not done. The Government cannot wash its hands of the matter and say it will have another look at it. It has gone beyond that. Urgent action is needed because these incidents will not stop. I have carefully not singled

out any one section of the community because I believe there are good reasons for people to look at each of those towns in the north to see what can be done. The police need support urgently.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: I fully support what you say about attacks on the police. However, I recall that, three or four years ago, you made a statement in this House about how problems in the north west were settled. Maybe you should start taking a lead.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I thought the member was going to be serious. That is not what I am talking about. I am not talking about an argument between two people. I am talking about a marauding crowd of 20 or 30 people.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: I think you should take the lead. You made your position clear.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: That is the sort of statement I expect from a member when one of my Senate colleagues, according to page 3 of Saturday's *The West Australian*, has been invited to defend his statements on the flat at Fitzroy Crossing. Those are the sorts of people who support the party represented by the member. Let us not be frivolous about this. We are talking about people being attacked with bricks. A constable in Cue had a rock the size of a cricket ball hurled at him from 20 feet. That rock hit him in a most painful area and he may never be the same again. He may never return to work. This matter needs to be examined at the highest level - at ministerial level. The problems occurring in the Murchison area need to be considered urgently. However, I fear that they are more widespread than that and that that sort of behaviour will be tolerated by the community no longer. It will be a terrible day if the community takes matters into its own hands.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: I believe the Premier was involved in a similar fracas at one time.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Very constructively.

Hon P.G. Pendal: He stirred it up.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I understand that he does not like to be reminded of that. It is amazing how a change of circumstances dims one's memory. A number of police officers were not impressed with that incident. With due respect to the Premier, and, knowing him as well as I do, I do not think he would become involved today. I believe he totally supports the Police Force of our State. However, that Police Force needs increased manning levels and allowances, particularly in remote areas where the cost of living precludes many of them from living comfortably from day to day. Yet we expect them to be on call for 24 hours a day, seven days a week to the point where they can take no more.

Hon D.K. Dans: I wish I knew the answer to crime and punishment problems. Man has been searching for it since time began.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: It does not mean we can wash our hands of it. The problem has been with us for years.

Hon D.K. Dans: It is not a question of washing our hands of it; it is a question of how much the community is prepared to pay.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: The community is paying dearly at the moment. If the member owned shops in Geraldton where that fracas occurred he would not be happy with the system.

Hon D.K. Dans: I am not impressed with things that occur in the metropolitan area.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: On that occasion a group of people went on the rampage after a funeral and several shop windows were broken. I am sure that all members recall watching the television news and seeing the offenders being arrested and put into a police van. The offenders were then released to settle down the people involved in the fracas. In my view what occurred on that occasion set back relations between the police and the public by at least 50 years. Subsequently the senior police officers were transferred away from the town, and that action was regarded poorly by the other police in Geraldton, who believe that their authority has been badly eroded. It certainly does nothing for justice to try to wash one's hands of that incident. We have been trying to find answers to this kind of problem for centuries and I can assure Hon Des Dans that the community is sick to death of the problems they have to put up with.

Hon D.K. Dans: You said it was only up there. It is a problem that has been around for years all over the world.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I know it also occurs elsewhere, but the police should be able to do their work without any interference from the do-gooders.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon Graham Edwards: Your policy is for capital punishment.

Hon Kay Hallahan: They are walking away from the question.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: In the case of crimes like those committed by the charming Birnies who captured young ladies, did horrific things to them and killed them, the community believes that capital punishment is too good for the offenders. I respect the Minister's point of view, but it does not mean he is absolutely right.

Hon Graham Edwards: I thought it was your policy.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon P.G. Pendal: It is not. I crossed the floor and voted to get rid of it.

Hon Graham Edwards: So it is not the Liberal Party's policy.

The PRESIDENT: Order! If the Ministers want to finish the day inside this House - the Minister may smile, but I have reached the stage where I am sick and tired of members setting themselves up as the determiners of decorum in this place. Until I am shifted out of this position I will make that determination. Hon Phil Pendal is just as bad. We have a couple of long days ahead of us. If I allow members to embark upon private arguments across the House while a member is seriously addressing the Chair, before the next few days are out we will have the strong possibility of the same thing occurring inside this House as Hon Phil Lockyer says is happening in the north of the State.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Thank you, Mr President; I appreciate your correcting the erroneous behaviour. It is something I do not support.

I make it quite clear to the House that the return of capital punishment is not the policy of the Liberal Party and the Minister well knows that.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Since when?

Hon P.G. Pendal: For ever.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: It does not stop members of the Liberal Party, including me, being of the opinion that capital punishment should be introduced for certain crimes. I will debate this subject in public at any time and the first people I will invite to listen to the debate will be the parents and relations of the people whom I mentioned earlier. The Minister is trying to score cheap political points by saying that the Liberal Party's policy is to reintroduce capital punishment.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Why do the papers say that? I do not understand it.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Every time a newspaper is mentioned in this place Hon Tom Butler stands up on his soapbox and says that the Liberal Party judges the Labor Party from what it reads in the newspaper. The honourable member happens to be a friend of mine.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon Kay Hallahan: I thought it was the only strong articulated policy you had.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: The Minister knows that the Liberal Party does not judge the Labor Party from newspaper reports. I can assure members in this House that if the return to capital punishment were a policy of the Liberal Party it would have been included among those 60 or 70 policies announced since May.

Hon Kay Hallahan interjected.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: If the Minister is going to peddle untruths -

The PRESIDENT: Order! I am not going to say it again: If the two frontbench members from either side continue to interject I will invoke Standing Order No 106. If either member opens his or her mouth again I will name them. If the honourable member addressing the Chair concentrated on addressing the Chair and stopped becoming involved in arguments, the debate would be better served.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Mr President, I will do precisely that, especially as I have noticed in your gallery Hon Graham MacKinnon who was a pillar of good behaviour when he was in this House. I will certainly take more notice of what you are saying.

Before I get off that subject I want to make it clear - the Minister knows it - that the statement made by Hon Barry MacKinnon concerning capital punishment was his personal view which happens to be the same as mine. Hon Phil Pandal who sits on my right disagrees with us. We are allowed to do that in our party. If members opposite were to do that they would not last five minutes. Mr Campbell received a three month suspension from the Federal Labor Party. I understand he is putting his time to good use. I have always admired him. He does not have to attend Caucus meetings for the next three months and it will make absolutely no difference to him. I remind members opposite that the day they cross the floor in a division they will receive similar treatment to that meted out to Mr Campbell; it may be tougher because Mr Tom Butler is a tough leader and he will hand down a punishment that will suitably fit the crime.

Hon G.E. Masters: Ron Thompson had to resign.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: That is true. I will now change the subject which will take the pressure off members opposite.

I refer now to my pet subject: The Mickelbergs. If members thought I had forgotten them, I have not. Last week I asked a question without notice of the Minister for Corrective Services concerning prisoners in the East Perth lockup. He told me that it was no good politicians trying to interfere with the system. That attitude is okay except when it concerns the Secretary of the Transport Workers Union who finally had his charge withdrawn. I am sure members can recall that the Attorney General had no hesitation in interfering with the system on that occasion.

The reason I have raised the question of the Mickelbergs is that once again people have been charged and given light sentences for a variety of horrific crimes. Only the other day a fellow was sentenced after being convicted over a fracas with a taxi driver who, as a result, passed away. I understand that the Crown has chosen not to appeal against the very light sentence he received. There does not appear to be any equality when we compare that sentence with the 20 years that the Mickelbergs received for allegedly stealing \$500 000 worth of gold. I cannot come to grips with the inequality of justice. Many times some of my colleagues, including Hon Mick Gayfer, have brought to the attention of the House the plight of the Mickelbergs who are now exhausting the last of their appeals to the highest court in the land. While I hope that the court reviews the position, I cannot help but pass on to the House the concern within the community about the sentencing of the Mickelbergs. It was simply too harsh. Every day sentences are handed down in the courts which highlight the fact that there does not seem to be any equality in the sentencing. The saga continues. I assure those people who may have read the article in the *Weekend Magazine* that it is no fun at Canning Vale. It might look like a luxurious castle, but anyone incarcerated as long as the Mickelbergs have been does not find it so. The Mickelbergs have to watch their kids grow up from the prison. I cannot come to grips with the massive sentence of 20 years they were given.

While in Meekatharra on the weekend, the State parliamentary Leader of the Liberal Party, Barry MacKinnon, and I had the opportunity to drive over the appalling road between Meekatharra and Mt Magnet and on to Wubin. You will remember, Mr President, that in 1979 the railway between Mullewa and Meekatharra was closed.

Hon Fred McKenzie: I warned you what would happen if the railway was closed.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: The words were drawn out of my mouth by Hon Fred McKenzie. I carefully read the debates because I was not a member of the Legislative Council at the time. Hon Fred McKenzie warned that the roads in the area would deteriorate if the railway line was closed. He was right; they have deteriorated.

Hon Fred McKenzie: Thank you. You are a very honest man.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: What has happened is far more serious than that. Members opposite will blame the Government that was in power until 1983. They would be justified in doing

so because not enough was done to widen the one lane highway in the area. However, nothing has happened in nearly six years of Labor Government. The road is now in a very dangerous condition. You, Mr President, being a very wise person and one who has had some mining interests around Paynes Find and in the Murchison area, would understand the enormous boom taking place in goldmining country. The population of Meekatharra has quadrupled. With increased gold prices, a more efficient method of gold extraction and the open pit method of mining, mines that were unoperational 10 to 15 years ago are again operational. As a result, there has been an enormous increase in traffic. That traffic is not made up only of Mini-Minors; it is made up of great semitrailers, big road trains with two and three trailers behind them. The poor old road has taken an enormous hammering.

Rocks the size of cricket balls lie on the road verges. The only people applauding the condition of the road are those who replace windscreens in the various towns, and they do so tongue-in-cheek. Accidents are happening with increasing frequency, necessitating a need for very urgent action, instead of political posturing on the matter. An atrociously low level of funding for road construction and maintenance is given to local authorities. The Meekatharra and Cue local authorities, for example, have had to resort to doing deals with mining companies to assist them to keep the roads at a minimum safety level. An agreement recently concerning the Meekatharra to Peak Hill road was made possible only after the mining companies within the town committed a much greater portion of funds than the Government. The Government's contribution was to be only \$25 000. After being squeezed it reluctantly agreed to a contribution of \$40 000. The local authorities simply cannot suffer the cutbacks in funding.

I understand that some local authorities are considering tearing up their bituminised roads and returning them to gravel roads. The cost of maintaining a gravel road is much lower than that of maintaining a deteriorating bitumen road. It is vitally important to the area that funding be made available to maintain the road between Meekatharra and Wubin before people are killed. The level of road funding granted to the States by the Federal Government is appalling. The Federal Government receives approximately \$9 billion from various taxes and returns approximately \$1 billion. The rest of the money finds its way into Federal Government coffers. One wonders where the responsibility should lie if anyone is killed on these roads.

Many members in this Chamber have heard of the Gunbarrel Highway; some may even have travelled on it. I suggest to members that they make no plans to travel on it at the moment. Maintenance of the highway is the responsibility of the Wiluna Shire Council. The council, although it does a pretty good job out there, simply does not have the funds to maintain the highway. The highway has been described to me as being extremely dangerous. People travelling on the highway tell horrendous stories about its condition. They suggest that people contemplating using it think again. It is a highway of some historical significance. With the advent of more four wheel drive vehicles, people wanting to travel extensively off the beaten track choose that route because it takes them through the centre of Australia. It takes them through the Central Desert and to areas that are deemed to be somewhat romantic. However, there is nothing romantic about having to leave parts of vehicles, for example, a trailer, or broken down vehicles in the middle of the highway. That happened only this week. A bloke and his wife abandoned their trailer with all their belongings on it in the middle of the desert. If it were not for the goodness of a chap who was doing a fuel run about the place, the trailer might still be there today.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: It might have been knocked off.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Thieves would have to have a tank to steal it because the road is appalling. The Gunbarrel Highway should be regarded as a national road and funds should be made available for its maintenance. It should be borne in mind that tourism is the world's biggest business. Coaches are now unable to use the Gunbarrel Highway because it rattles the buses to bits. Insufficient funding for roads is made available to councils such as Wiluna.

In the last couple of weeks the State Government announced the building of a marina complex in Exmouth. I very much welcome the decision. It has been mooted for some considerable time. For a variety of reasons, the announcement of the project was delayed for some months. The complex will be built over a three or four year period in the town of Exmouth which, without doubt, has one of the greatest potentials for tourism in our State.



We have all heard the parochial arguments about the possibility of an international airport being located in the north. The Premier has made it quite clear that he favours Broome as the location for a new international airport. I am in some agreement with him, with one proviso. The building of such an airport would greatly benefit a place like Broome. Private enterprise, therefore, should share some of the costs involved in setting up such a structure. In a joint venture with a private developer, Ansett developed the Hamilton Island airstrip in the Eastern States. Just last week an announcement was made that for one day a week the Hamilton Island airstrip will be an international strip, and overseas tourists will be transported directly to the place where they will spend their time. Cairns has been successful in doing precisely the same thing. There is a danger in these calls for international airstrips from towns such as Kununurra, Derby, Port Hedland and Karratha. I admire Karen Merrin, President of the Port Hedland Shire, who is pushing the case for Port Hedland; as a former shire president of that town I can say that I would do precisely the same in her position. The ownership of the airport has been foisted on the shire, which has had to spend considerable funds on it.

Hon D.K. Dans: What would you bring international visitors to Port Hedland for?

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I know a little about the area and I want to make it clear that it is the right of these people to push their own barrow. One could ask what there was to see in Port Hedland, and the tourism people in that town could probably present a good argument on that subject. No doubt the people from Broome could present a similarly good argument for that town. However, they are all entitled to use every argument they can to further their cause.

There is already an international airport in my electorate at Learmonth. With the development of the marina and the recent announcement by a consortium, involving a father and his son, of a plan to build a \$10 million complex at Exmouth, this will become a major international stopover. Hon Des Dans will know that it is no use bringing people to an area if there are insufficient beds to accommodate them. That argument was put by the English general manager of P & O Lines, when it was suggested that a shipload of 1 000 passengers should call at Broome. He inspected the area and told the public meeting afterwards that he had visited the beautiful town, had been to the beach and seen the dinosaur's footprint, and had appreciated the great history of the area; however, if he brought 1 000 people to Broome, where would they go to the toilet? That was a valid point; the logistics of looking after 1 000 people are important. The same problem exists, for example, in connection with landing a 747 aircraft with 400 passengers at Learmonth; on a conservative estimate, 300 hotel rooms would be required. In addition, back-up facilities, such as buses, and ancillary items would be required. Much more is involved in this question than enthusiastically saying that 747s should land in a town because it would be great for tourism. The first requirement of tourism is to provide accommodation so that the tourists who arrive can be adequately catered for.

The developments at Broome are incredible. Lord McAlpine's resort at Cable Beach is magnificent, and his enthusiasm, business acumen, and the money he has brought to the town have encouraged others to develop the town. Old hotels have been revamped and new accommodation has been built; Ansett Airlines of Australia is providing package holidays and bringing people to Broome from all over the world. It is wonderful and such developments should be encouraged. It is important to note that there are sufficient hotel beds in Broome to accommodate the people once they get there. Other towns must also consider that aspect.

Learmonth is on the verge of a boom. Local entrepreneurs, such as Bob Burkett and George King, have put their money where their mouths are and have improved the available accommodation. They want to be part of the action when the boom takes off. Many of us who travel will be aware that the international routes fly directly over Learmonth. It is a reporting point for international aircraft and if an international standard airport were considered for the north, it would have an enormous advantage, in that it has a 10 000 foot long airstrip.

Hon T.G. Butler: Dudley Maslen would be able to land there then. I believe he needs 200 yards in which to pull up.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: The airstrip is sufficiently big enough for him to pull up across it. At present if an aircraft enroute from Singapore to Perth is unable to land at Perth because of bad weather, it is diverted to Learmonth as an alternative. All that is necessary at Learmonth

is a customs building. I am not an engineer and I do not know much about building costs, but I would be very surprised if \$1 million or \$2 million were not sufficient to build a luxurious customs building, with a lounge and associated facilities, thus providing an international airport in no time at all. That airstrip is used regularly by the RAAF for all types of aircraft, and I understand the airstrip is as long as that at Perth Airport. When the cry is made for an international airport to be located in the north of the State, people should not forget places such as Learmonth and Derby, where recently an RAAF base was opened. Both these airstrips are capable of handling international aircraft.

I am inclined to agree with Hon Des Dans that if a certain area is to be promoted for tourism, people must be transported directly to that area. It is no use flying people, for example, to Karratha and then transporting them further to places such as Broome or Learmonth. Similarly, it is no use in the Eastern States transporting people to an airstrip and then transporting them by commuter air services to Hamilton Island or Cairns. People must be taken to where the action is; those are the cold, hard facts.

Notwithstanding that, I agree that there are different markets. I understand that the Shire of Port Hedland is targeting a particular market and it believes that it has the right ingredients to attract that market. Exmouth has an international reputation for good fishing, particularly game fishing, which has been enjoyed in the area for a number of years. I accept that Cairns has the premier reputation in this area; however, it is being seriously challenged by the Exmouth waters. I understand that on two occasions the Prime Minister of Australia has spent some of the few days he has for recreation in Exmouth and he has publicly said that it is the best fishing ground in the world. Regardless of one's political persuasion, it is damned good advertising for Exmouth when a picture is shown of the Prime Minister standing in Exmouth with two or three red emperor fish in his hands. He is not the only Prime Minister to have visited the area; many other politicians have been there, including leaders of the Opposition. It is an internationally recognised fishing ground. The grounds are facing one serious attack from the Japanese long line fishermen who are increasingly fishing the area. Members may have seen reports in the Press in the last few weeks expressing the concern of fishermen in the area.

Hon Mark Nevill: We saw you on television.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: It is a great worry. I hope it is not the honourable member who just interjected who sent the telegram congratulating me on the safe arrival of my third chin. I suspect that one of my constituents in Exmouth did that. However, Hon Mark Nevill may have been vaguely involved.

Japanese long liners are a serious invasion of this area.

[Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.]

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I make quite clear that what the Japanese long line fishermen are doing is not illegal as they have permission to fish inside the area, I understand, up to the 12 mile limit. The trouble is that these fishermen are taking game type fish such as marlin and tuna, and some fish we are not allowed to sell commercially in Australia because of their mercury level. In the view of many professional fishermen in Exmouth and people in the tourism game fishing industry they are depleting the fish stocks and consideration needs to be given to their operation. In particular, marlin are being taken when it is quite clear that they cannot be sold in Australia as a table fish, or commercially. The Federal Government needs to review carefully the licensing of this fishing group to make absolutely sure there is no damage to these fishing grounds.

This new marina will quite obviously bring the same benefits as the one in Cairns, including extra game fishing operators. Tourism is so important to our economy today that it should be encouraged in that area and game fishing should be nurtured carefully. I do not say that the Japanese long liners should not operate off our shores, but consideration should be given to perhaps keeping them outside the 100 mile limit, or something like that. International waters already have a 200 mile limit. However, they are exempted from that and allowed inside that limit. I have already written to the Federal Minister asking him to look quietly at this problem.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: Hon Philip Lockyer should have written to the Prime Minister.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I may just do that, because he should have a particular interest in the

area. I understand that there is a problem as some of the arrangements made for Japanese long liners to operate relate to the sale of iron ore to that country. Our iron ore industry is an important one, so this is not something that should be done without careful consideration of the matter by all concerned.

Hon Tom Butler will growl when I mention once again a report which appeared in the newspaper and which all members will have seen; that is, the architect's report that Parliament House will be extended out over the freeway at the front. I am neither for nor against that suggestion. However, I am concerned that while these discussions are proceeding it is an appropriate time for members who represent country areas to have a small input. I know that my colleagues on both sides of the House who have sparse electorates outside Perth are concerned about the accommodation for members of Parliament. At present, those of us who choose to live in our electorates, particularly in the north of the State, must have a residence in the city or rely on staying with relations or at places such as the CWA, as does Hon Barry House. People such as Hon Doug Wenn and Hon Tom Helm share a small apartment across the road from Parliament House. This is becoming a serious cost imposition on members.

These days a member's electorate allowance needs to be stretched as far as possible. People who have travelled in the north of our State lately - and I know Hon Mark Nevill does a fair bit of that - know that one cannot stay at a hotel or motel up there for less than \$70 or \$80 a night excluding anything to eat. The cost of doing things in these remote areas is making serious inroads into the ability of members of Parliament to survive financially. I make no secret of the fact that I believe we are worse off today than when I first came into this Parliament in 1980. I am not just whingeing because it is the time for whingeing about parliamentarians' salaries and things like that; I am saying that people who make industrial decisions about building around this place should consider seriously the matter of accommodation for country members of Parliament when they are in the city for parliamentary sittings or on official business. There is no way in the wide world that we can ever hope that the general public will agree with my thoughts, although the kind thinking ones, and the ones who consider it most, may believe that we have a good argument.

There is no public servant in this State who, if they had to go to the north, south, or east of the State, would do so unless they received an allowance to cover the cost of their accommodation, etc. They make sure that they are covered totally. As Hon Tom Stephens would agree, our electorate allowance does not cover that situation any more. It is enormously expensive. I know that some members have chosen to live in Perth rather than in their sparse electorates because it is not economically viable for them to have two properties. I say that the time has come for those who make these decisions - and perhaps that is the Premier and Cabinet - to examine the possibility of accommodation for country members.

There is a precedent for this already in Australia, in Queensland, where politicians are not thought of most kindly at present but where they are provided with the best facilities in Australia for their members of Parliament apart from those in New South Wales. Members who have been to Queensland and New South Wales will know that the facilities available to them are much better than those available to us. If the general public really knew what we have to put up with in this House - in some cases four members of Parliament sharing an office with phones ringing and where they cannot invite anybody to talk because they cannot find a room to talk in - they would know that its facilities are archaic. Not one public servant in this State would put up with what we put up with here, but we get less sympathy than anyone I can think of and before an election no Government would say it will put up a parliamentary tower to double the size of Parliament House or will build accommodation. However, the time has come when that matter must be considered before members of Parliament are priced out of being able to live in their electorates because, in the end, it is the electorate which will be worse off because of that. It is difficult for members with young families to afford two residences. This point is overdue for consideration so far as members are concerned.

I support the Bill.

**HON JOHN HALDEN** (North Metropolitan) [12.09 pm]: I rise not to speak directly to the matters in the Bill but to comment about matters in my electorate. The first matter is

directed to the City of Wanneroo and the activities that are going on there with regard to development approvals. I refer specifically to the development on the corner of Hepburn Avenue and Moolanda Boulevard. In 1982 the Freemasons and the State Housing Commission negotiated for the transfer of that land to the Freemasons so that a two stage development could be commenced on what was then lot 501 - Corner of Hepburn Avenue and Moolanda Boulevard, Kingsley. The idea behind that development was that the Freemasons would build a retirement village. At that time not one adverse comment was made about that proposal, and it was unanimously accepted by the council. The first stage of the development went ahead successfully without any problems. It was proposed at the same time that the adjacent lot be developed for commercial purposes; and there were no problems about that. The original proposal was that the commercial development would take place on an area of 1 000 square metres, but the council decided in December 1982 that the development would take place on a 500 square metre lot. In December 1984 the State Housing Commission put forward a subdivision plan which proposed that the commercial zoning be 800 square metres, with 500 square metres of that being for retail purposes. In December 1986, the council reaffirmed its position that the shopping centre should be only 500 square metres. That development was at that time designed to service the local community. In the meantime, the Freemasons had completed stage one of their development, which was opened just prior to the 1986 election, if I remember correctly.

On 24 February 1986, the title of that land was transferred to the Freemasons. I suggest it was at that point that things began to go a little wrong. The Freemasons made an application for the land - which had been given to them for what I would call community purposes - to be transferred to use for commercial purposes, contrary to the agreement which they had struck with the State Housing Commission. The first stage of that commercial development was for a service station to be constructed on the corner of Moolanda Boulevard and Hepburn Avenue. Applications for the development of that service station were put forward in December 1986 and April 1987, and were refused. In July this year, a further submission was put to the council, involving a service station on what is now called lot 54. The council again refused the application on the grounds that the site was considered to be unsuitable; the local residents were opposed to the development; and the location was considered to be hazardous in relation to the sight lines. At the time that the application was rejected, concerned citizens who had been involved in the opposition to the proposal had been at the council meeting, and they were told they could see the engineer's report and could discuss their concerns with the town planner. They went to the City of Wanneroo the next day, after having spoken to the town planner to instigate that meeting, and after having agreed on a time, yet that information was not provided to them, nor have they been able since that time to ascertain that or other information regarding the development.

Some four months later, another development plan was put forward, which included not only the service station but also a commercial centre. The objections to that plan were very widespread. There were 596 objections from the suburb of Kingsley; 96 objections from the suburb of Greenwood, which is on the other side of the road; 92 objections from people residing in other suburbs; 31 objections from businessmen in the local area; and 28 objections from Ampol. One would have thought that, considering this weight of objections, the City of Wanneroo would have looked very carefully at the decision it had to make. However, I have been told by the residents who live in that area, and whose homes I have visited recently, that four days prior to the closing of the advertised period the council made a recommendation that the development of the service station be approved under AA usage - which is of course legitimate, but how local governments define AA usage varies considerably - and that the other part of the development was to be passed on to the Minister for Planning for approval.

In October, the Liberal candidate for Kingsley, Cheryl Edwardes, became involved in the matter, and brought her husband, Colin Edwardes, with her to a meeting of residents. They advised those residents that they would fix up the problem; there would be no hassles; everything would be quashed; and the development, which was considered to be unsafe, and which people did not want, would not go ahead. The residents who attended the meeting at the Wanneroo Council on 23 November said they were very concerned about Councillor Colin Edwardes' efforts to represent their needs. He apparently rose to speak in the council chambers, and he had to be asked to speak up on a number of occasions.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: We had to ask you to speak up a minute ago.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: Yes; I am pleased that the member remembered that.

When the vote was taken, Councillor Edwardes did not call for a division. This was contrary to the situation in respect of another development not that many months previously, when the vote taken was 13:0, and Councillor Edwardes called for a division. On this occasion, six people voted against the recommendation of the town planning committee, and four people voted for it. However, democracy does not work like that in the City of Wanneroo. The council's standing orders apparently provide that recommendations from its planning committee require an absolute majority in order to be disallowed. So the City of Wanneroo was in a unique position on that night. One councillor had recently died, so the chance of getting an absolute majority was reduced by one. Councillor Cooper - who is the Liberal candidate for Wanneroo; and I am sure he is known to members opposite - was basking in Bali, and Councillor Duffy was not there either, so the prospect of getting an absolute majority meant that seven out of 10 people were required to vote in the affirmative. Councillor Cooper had indicated in an article in the Press in the preceding week that he was not happy about the development recommendations being changed once the community had been built up, so it was highly likely that he would have voted against the proposal. The end result was that the majority lost. The original recommendation was put forward, and surprisingly, after six people had supported it, the mover of the objection to the recommendation - Colin Edwardes - then changed his vote, and supported it, after having given a categorical assurance, along with his wife, that such action would not be taken.

Hon T.G. Butler: She is the Liberal candidate for Kingsley.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: Yes. It seems to me that the actions of the City of Wanneroo are questionable. I know from having done some preliminary research into the matter that the standing orders used by the City of Wanneroo are not universal throughout local government. The power that the City of Wanneroo gives to its committees, in that it requires an absolute majority to overrule its decisions, is not common. The standing orders give to those committees considerably greater powers than they enjoy elsewhere, particularly in respect of town planning matters. They also open up the situation to the prospect of being manipulated; which is what the residents of Kingsley have been saying to me about this situation. The chance of getting an absolute majority of 10 is quite slim.

The acting town planner put forward certain residents' points of objection, which were that: The area is already adequately serviced by shops and service stations; the land opposite was for residential or other alternative acceptable use when people in that area were purchasing their property; the inability of Moolanda Boulevard to accommodate traffic; increased traffic hazard at the corner of Moolanda Boulevard and Hepburn Avenue, a major intersection approaching the freeway; parking and traffic problems associated with Moolanda Boulevard, making access to and from residential driveways difficult; danger to children from increased traffic in Moolanda Boulevard; increased noise levels; the need to protect the viability of existing businesses; concern that the commercial component had not been advertised; and concern that within the community there were rumours about vested interest/corruption at council level.

It seems to me that when the acting town planner is suggesting those things on the basis of what the people in the local community are telling him, the City of Wanneroo has a responsibility to look not only at its Standing Orders but at this issue very specifically. It is imperative that those councillors who supported this motion, or who supported it on one vote and not on the next, should have the matter reconsidered. Nearly a thousand people in this local community do not want this development. There is very likely no need for this development on economic or town planning criteria, so why is it going ahead? That is the question I am asked, but I do not have the answer. Perhaps the 13 elected representatives on the City of Wanneroo, or some of them, do have the answer. That is not the only town planning problem causing concern to people in the City of Wanneroo. The very next item concerns another service station to be built in Ocean Reef. Over 1 100 people objected to this proposal. In spite of the fact that the community has put forward the view that it does not want this service station, the project has been passed. Again the City of Wanneroo has disregarded the wishes of the local residents in regard to a facility which local residents say is not needed; and economically and in terms of planning requirements it does not appear to be needed.

Hon G.E. Masters: Do you think if the community is strongly opposed to a project it should not go ahead?

Hon JOHN HALDEN: I think the community's views should be very seriously taken into account, yes. When six councillors out of 10 oppose the project - it is a majority decision - a Standing Order which requires an absolute majority needs to be very seriously questioned.

Hon G.E. Masters: I shall be interested to hear your remarks on Order of the Day No 9.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: I have no idea what that is.

Hon G.E. Masters: Mineral sands.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: We cannot allow a committee of four plus the ex officio member to have so much power that any decision requires an absolute majority. The matter raises a number of problems. Initially the place was to be an old people's home, which everybody in the community accepted as appropriate. That development should have been proceeded with. When community objections and issues of safety were clear, and when issues to do with the environment in which people were living were clear, the City of Wanneroo had a responsibility to act. The majority of the councillors did act appropriately, but some obscure Standing Order blocked that action. For some reason or other, some of them changed their minds within the space of one minute or less and supported the recommendation. Such action is not appropriate to efficient and open local government, or any tier of Government.

What is required is an effective, honest situation where the will of the people can not only be heard but acted upon. That was not the case in the City of Wanneroo. It is clear that the approval under AA usage was also not appropriate. A councillor who supported the motion is a well known member of the Freemasons and a well known member of the Liberal Party. In fact he moved the motion.

Hon Doug Wenn: A conflict of interests!

Hon JOHN HALDEN: It is a conflict of interest, but it does not breach the Act. It is not that the conflict of interest was stated at the time; people had obtained that information from other sources. It seems to me the actions of the City of Wanneroo have been questionable for many months and many years. Its actions have been brought into question not only in this Parliament but outside as a result of the council's irregularities. The City of Wanneroo should quickly take action to have this matter reconsidered in an appropriate way so that the wishes of the community can be taken into consideration. The previously stated dangerous situation must be faced, and the development not proceeded with mindlessly, but so as to reveal to the community that the City of Wanneroo is working in an appropriate and sensible fashion to meet its own needs and not those of others, as people are suggesting to me very clearly.

HON W.N. STRETCH (Lower Central) [12.26 pm]: In speaking to this Bill I will take the usual liberty of going through certain matters which are of considerable significance to my electorate. Firstly, many factors within this Bill need clarifying. As members will have observed, it represents the appropriation of a very large sum of money for the continued running of the State, and contains matters of great interest to the people of Western Australia as a whole as well as to me personally. Certain large sums of money which come under the portfolio of the Leader of the House have been mentioned. I am sorry he is not here, but no doubt he will clarify them for the House in the not too distant future.

I refer to the appropriation of \$35 million to the Rural and Industries Bank of Western Australia under Miscellaneous Services, which I hope will be clarified. Funding grants to the R & I Bank have been matters of great public interest, and they are becoming more so by the day. We have an appropriation of \$2.5 million to the State Engineering Works. In the context of the State Budget these are not great figures, but in the context of a family or small business budget they are large amounts of money and we are entitled to know what they are all about, particularly as we thought we had sold the State Engineering Works for a magnificent profit as a result of a magical deal done by the Western Australian Development Corporation. The sale was to be of enormous benefit to the State. If that is so, why do we have to pump another \$2.5 million into an instrumentality which has already been sold? I have no doubt there is a perfectly logical explanation, but the House and the public of Western Australia deserve to hear it.

A little further on is a grant of another \$2 million to the Western Australian Development Corporation's LandCorp. We have been told that LandCorp is one of the best things since sliced bread, that it has pumped tens of millions of dollars into the State's economy, that it is keeping taxation down and doing wonders for everybody. Again, I think the State is entitled to know why, at this late stage, we are pumping in another \$2 million. As well, there is an appropriation of \$2.5 million for EventsCorp. We understood that body would bring great benefit to Western Australia by attracting sporting events which would ultimately be profitable. We want to know how long it will be before the taxpayers get their \$2.6 million back.

Under Miscellaneous Services, a sum of \$12 million has been allocated to the Swan Building Society. How much more will follow that down the track? Two lines down, the WA Teachers Financial Society Ltd (under administration) appears. We thought that had been cleared up.

Hon T.G. Butler: You have had all this explained to you about 10 times and it does not sink in.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: It has not sunk in to the public of Western Australia.

Hon T.G. Butler: It hasn't sunk in to you, so don't you say anything. The public of Western Australia are not as dense as you are. You just don't seem to be able to understand anything you are told.

Hon Tom Stephens: He is a Liberal.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Mr Deputy President (Hon John Williams), the member can sit over there and hurl his barbed insults across the Chamber.

Hon T.G. Butler: I didn't insult you.

Hon Tom Stephens: I did - I called him a Liberal.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: They really do not worry me at all. The point is, I believe explanations have not been forthcoming. They are certainly not made clear when they are brought forward.

Hon T.G. Butler: I do not know what we have to do to make it clear to you.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: They are being delivered with ridicule and a certain amount of offhandedness which I think is not consistent with a good, responsible, accountable Government. We are asking questions and we want answers.

Hon T.G. Butler: How many times do you want the same answer?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon John Williams): Order!

Hon W.N. STRETCH: The last we heard was that the Teachers Credit Society had been taken over by the R & I Bank, liabilities and all, yet here, in a Bill before the Parliament, another appropriation of a miscellaneous payment of \$18 797 056 is made. That might be a small matter to the President of the Australian Labor Party, who is no doubt better funded than I am, but I believe for the people of Western Australia it is a matter of some passing interest. Members opposite may brush off a figure of \$18 million if they like, but I believe my constituents are entitled to an explanation and I welcome the Minister's response.

Hon T.G. Butler: You do not understand what you are told.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: That may be so.

Hon G.E. Masters interjected.

Hon T.G. Butler: You don't either.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! Hon Gordon Masters and Hon Tom Butler were in the Chamber when the President issued his warning to the front bench this morning. The same rules apply to the back bench, and I remind those on the front bench again.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Thank you, Mr Deputy President. If the member has nothing better to do than to hurl insults across the Chamber at me personally, that is of no consequence, because they are of very poor quality.

Hon T.G. Butler: No, my insults are better than that.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I do not think so. I believe some things in this Bill need explaining. We are dealing with large amounts of money and we are entitled to a conscientious answer by our Ministers.

Further on in the Budget papers appear the appropriations to Ministers and other departments. I really do not know how far the responsibility of the Minister, in his capacity of Minister for Budget Management, Attorney General or Leader of the House, goes. However, I would imagine that the matters brought up in such a Bill introduced by the Minister would come under his interest if not his portfolio, and certainly they are his responsibility in this presentation. Therefore I would like to know the progress of the Bunbury Tower. When I last heard, the taxpayers were subsidising that project by around \$500 000 a year in payment for unrented accommodation. I believe the situation has improved.

Hon Barry House: They have spread out a bit more.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Quite. I would like a conscientious answer as to whether or not the situation has improved and what the taxpayers' liability is for that project. That building has been a matter of some conjecture and has caused some hardship for people who have built office accommodation privately down there. The Government should let us know what is happening in this case and how much the indebtedness is.

In various parts of the Bill there are many questions to be asked and I know many of my colleagues will be asking similar questions, but those are the ones of immediate interest and concern to me. I think it is right that these answers be given. Much has been made lately of accountability. The Premier has said he will be accountable, but accountable to himself, not very accountable to the taxpayers of Western Australia.

Hon Tom Stephens: He didn't say that.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I do not believe the Government will give us the sort of answers we need. On many occasions the Opposition has been accused by the Government of downgrading the image of Western Australia.

Hon T.G. Butler: Hear, hear!

Hon W.N. STRETCH: That was pretty close to the mark, or pretty close to the bone anyway. The point is, the damage was done long ago and I personally take exception to some of the Press that has been given to Western Australia by the Eastern States' Press.

Hon Tom Stephens: Your party has caused most of that.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: That is absolute rubbish. It is only a cover up by the Government's Press people, who cover up all this stuff to the best of their ability. The Government has in the past gone to the extent of proroguing Parliament to make sure answers do not come out, and I believe the Government would be quite willing and ready to do it again if the opportunity arose.

Hon Robert Hetherington: You are talking nonsense.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I may be talking nonsense, but that is my right under this debate. I do not believe I am; I believe I am very close to the mark, hence the responses we are receiving from such honoured members as Hon Robert Hetherington, who does not usually indulge in such fatuous remarks.

Hon Mark Nevill: I think the Fairfax Press have an axe to grind in their approach to Western Australia.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: In a recent issue of the *Farmers' Weekly* there was a column called 'You Don't Say'.

Hon Tom Stephens: Is that the same one with the editorial praising the Labor Government?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I do not know. The first one was a quote from *The Age* in Melbourne describing the Western Australian Government's stance on Rothwells, saying -

An outsider can grasp for the first time how Gallipoli and Dunkirk were described as victories. There must have been Western Australian public relations practitioners at headquarters.



I did not think that was very nice, but we cannot blame the papers when they are not being fed the truth, when their financial analysts are going through the Western Australian Government's dealings and coming up with findings that cause them to be prepared to go into print and say such things. On the same subject, the *The Age* said -

In the sale of snake oil and dodgy schemes, Perth is in world class.

I do not think it is any use blaming the Opposition for those sorts of rumours - and the member for North Province can sit there and nod his head and shake his finger.

Hon Tom Stephens: I was pointing the finger.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: As long as the member does not point the bone.

Hon Mark Nevill: How do you reconcile the difference between your \$600 million estimate -

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon John Williams): Order! Order! Hon Mark Nevill will come to order.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: That conjecture is interesting - those figures are well founded, well based and supportable. We do not have many research facilities compared with the Government, which has made an art form of this type of propaganda, but our people are not bad and I would say those figures could be stood by quite confidently. Members will find as they go through the various analyses that have been made of the financial dealings of Western Australia that our figures have usually ended up a damned sight closer than those of the Government - and there are a couple of well known cases to support that. So I think it is misleading, and a sign of the death throes of a desperate Government, to be throwing that sort of accusation at the Opposition. I remind members that an Opposition's role under the Westminster system is to probe, to question, and to find out what is going on when it believes the taxpayers - the electors - are not being informed. This is exactly what has been happening and that is why the Opposition has pursued these facts and inquiries so relentlessly. It is our job; it is what we are paid to sit here and do.

Hon Garry Kelly: What would you have done in October 1987?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon John Williams): Order! This is not a conversation; it is a debate.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: That is a very interesting conjecture and with your permission, Mr Deputy President, having been asked a personal question I will say what would have happened - I would not have allowed such a situation to have developed.

Hon Tom Stephens: Prevent the 1987 crash? King Canute!

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Members opposite can laugh. However, I have been through a few crashes in my life. There are many people who were advising clients what to do, what not to do, what to get into and what to get out of.

Hon Garry Kelly: What about local government and the Catholic Church?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I am not a member of the Catholic Church or a local government.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! I do not know how many times members want reminding. It was put upon members this morning that we are in for a long day. I know Hon Tom Stephens was not in the House when that warning was given and therefore he can be excused but no-one else can be excused. The President made it quite clear that no matter who interjects, they will have a rest before the rest of us do.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Thank you, Mr Deputy President. That underlines the difference. Most of the members on this side of the Chamber have worked in a business, have worked with their hands, and have worked in a situation where they have virtually been in control of their own destiny. Hon John Caldwell will know what I am talking about because he and I have both worked in a high risk industry - primary industry - where there are just as many factors impinging on our livelihoods as there are in the vagaries of the stock market; it was just as easy, if not easier, for us to fall foul of the vagaries of markets, weather and so on. We are used to taking prudent steps to safeguard our incomes and our way of life. I say quite seriously that prudent management would have prevented the Government getting involved

as deeply as it did, and as it is now, in the ramifications of the crash. The point is that the Government should never have been involved in the first place. What a person does with their own savings is their own business.

At the risk of delving into history, for which I was admonished the other day when I referred to the Magna Carta - which is another basis of our operations in this place as an Opposition and as the Devil's Advocate - there are several old saws in the simplified business world where I operate such as, "If you go for high interest, you accept high risk." I think even Hon Garry Kelly has heard that and accepts it. If any shire council, the Catholic Church or anyone else members opposite care to interject with, go for high interest they must accept there is a risk factor.

Hon Garry Kelly: Where does that leave the Government if they go broke?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I will ask Hon Garry Kelly to leave in a moment.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Mr Deputy President, I know this is frustrating for you as well. The point is that the Government should never put itself in a position where it is exposed to such operations and fluctuations. The Government of the day had no compunction in writing off the creditors of Payton Finance in Bunbury. They just went; there was no rescue.

Hon Garry Kelly: That is not comparable.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Perhaps Hon Garry Kelly will tell the House later why it is not comparable. To me, they were people who had invested their savings - sometimes their business surpluses - in an investment company which got into difficulties and lost. Those people were short of money for a long time. I understand the company will trade its way out of it in time and those creditors will finally be paid. However, it has caused considerable distress, hardship and some failure to some people and businesses with which I am personally familiar, although not personally involved.

*Sitting suspended from 12.45 to 2.30 pm*

Hon W.N. STRETCH: The electors of Western Australia, particularly the electors in my area, are entitled to an explanation of some of the financial ramifications of this Bill. Government members have made light of such figures as the \$35 million to the R & I Bank allocated under Miscellaneous Services. Nevertheless, the people of Western Australia are entitled to an explanation. I may return to that point during the Committee stage if no explanation is forthcoming from the Minister during this debate. I have referred to several saws in the business world such as, "If you are looking for a high interest rate, do not expect high security." As a young man leaving school and entering business, I was told by a family lawyer, "Don't go guarantor for anyone, not even your mother." The advice was given in all seriousness because strange things can happen.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: He said that you should give your mother the money.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: He said, first, to be sure that I have the money, and then give the money to her. But he said I should not go guarantor because strange things sometimes happen in life. Another well known saying is, "A person who gives a guarantee is a fool with a pen in his hand." In some situations, Governments have to underwrite projects, but the general rule should apply to Governments in the same way as it applies to individuals. A Government should be prudent in giving guarantees, but I regret to say that over the last five years we have witnessed the Government being very free with guarantees. Consequently, when things go wrong the taxpayers pick up the financial tab. Time and again we have seen the Government's reliance on taxpayers' footing the bill indirectly through sales tax on items as mundane as a box of matches or a tin of baby food, apart from the general taxation methods, to meet Government commitments. Every Government has a strong obligation to treat calls for financial guarantees with suspicion. If there is another way to handle the situation the Government should take that alternative rather than become a guarantor.

Another major problem is the shipping of live sheep from Western Australia. I know that Hon Des Dans has some fairly strong views on the situation.

Hon D.K. Dans: The sheep are all shipped out of Fremantle.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: The realities are that the bulk of the sheep will be shipped in bulk from Fremantle in the foreseeable future.

Hon Robert Hetherington interjected.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I cannot hear the member.

Hon P.G. Pandal: We don't want any bleating from that side of the Chamber.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Most ships rely on significant repair and providoring facilities on reaching the Western Australian coast. At the present time, the only port with those facilities to any extent is Fremantle. When Hon Julian Grill was the Minister for Transport, he made a laudable attempt to decentralise the live sheep shipping trade by increasing the charges at Fremantle, in the hope that some shippers would be forced to use out ports. Regrettably, such are the economics of the industry, and the economics related to the running of such large and cumbersome ships, that those ships cannot use any port which does not have two tugs and significant onshore facilities for maintenance and loading. So, as I have said, for the foreseeable future these shippers will continue to use Fremantle.

Hon D.K. Dans: Another reason is that the shippers have put their feed lots close to Fremantle.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Some do, although large numbers of sheep are lot fed in the Kojonup area; therefore, it would be just as easy to use Albany or Bunbury if the facilities for looking after sheep were comparable.

The current Minister for Transport has not taken on board the fact that the experiment with decentralisation has not worked. We are left with high charges at Fremantle, and lower charges at out ports - which does not matter because no-one uses them anyway. The time has come for the Government to accept that decentralisation has not worked and the charges must be dropped back to the earlier rate. The rate per tonne at which sheep are shipped is the highest rate for any commodity that moves through the port - twice as high as the rate per tonne applicable to scrap metal. Apart from the stigma of the comparison that sheep breeders feel in having sheep compared with scrap metal as the next best competitor, the nonsense is the application of such a high rate.

To load a sheep on to a ship at Fremantle, the rate is 28 cents compared with 12 cents per head at Portland in Victoria, and 20 cents per head in Adelaide. This represents a fairly severe impost on Western Australian exporters, the majority of which is passed back to the producer. Being a producer, I would have to declare a vested interest, but by the same token I am but a very small part of a very large multimillion dollar industry, and the situation should be redressed. As I say, that equals \$5.89 per tonne of live sheep loaded which is well over twice as much as scrap metal which is \$2.30 a tonne.

The livestock inspection fees have also gone up heavily, and have doubled in a fairly short time. This is predominantly a Federal matter but I would be obliged if the Minister would ask the Minister for Agriculture to take it up with his Federal counterpart. The stock inspector's fee is \$100 an hour, plus \$1 a kilometre for travelling. That is another impost on the industry which it can ill afford. The Minister will appreciate that as the charges of going through Fremantle rise, shippers will use either Adelaide or Portland. Before anyone interjects, I point out that naturally that depends on the sheep being available, but in similar circumstances, unfortunately, ships are bypassing Western Australia. This is not only a loss to the growers, but the economy of the State is forgoing a considerable income.

While I am dealing with matters which the Minister should take up with his Federal counterpart I would like to touch on the income equalisation deposits provision which was promised to primary producers in the last Budget but was deferred for three years. That was a sleight of hand by the Federal Government. We took immediate cuts in some assistance provisions for agricultural industries when the carrot dangled in front of us was, "Yes, but you will get IEDs." Unfortunately, that side of the bargain has not been kept but has been deferred for two or three years.

The rationale behind the income equalisation deposits is to allow primary industries to put some fat back into their own industry - to put reserves away in a prudent manner in a reasonable, but not high interest earning, account. The money would not be taxable in the year it was put into deposit, but in the year it was taken out. Members will see that, in effect, that provides a buffer against bad seasons, low prices or unforeseen calamities such as fire or personal hardships. Industry should thus be enabled to be more self sufficient and able to look after itself in its downturns rather than having to appeal to the Government for assistance.

Unfortunately, there is a common belief - I suppose this is a philosophical difference between the Liberal and Labor parties - that people in trouble should turn to the Government. I believe that people are far more efficient if, by prudent action on their part, they are able to provide for themselves. They get the challenge out of doing so and are more the master or mistress of their own destinies. It restores a certain amount of dignity to the operator of any business to know that by safeguarding his own interests he can provide against the calamities I mentioned earlier.

It is ignominious to have to go through the good seasons and pay enormous amounts in taxation in the sure and certain knowledge that in a bad season you will have to apply for drought relief, water carting subsidies, or whatever. I contend that it is far more efficient and proper that an operator should be able to provide from his own storage of surplus grain, put in more dams, and in every way insulate himself against the vagaries of nature from his own resources in his own time and according to his own cash flows, rather than having to approach the Government when Mother Nature fails to smile.

My colleague, Hon Philip Lockyer, referred to the desperate need for road funding for Western Australia. The National Farmers Federation director of transport provided figures on the sad plight of country road funding recently.

Hon J.M. Brown: Why - because of the increase?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: No, it was not to do with any increase at all. The Federal Government funding of roads has declined by 20 per cent in real terms over the last four years. Of the money collected by fuel tax 67 per cent was supposed to have been allocated to road maintenance and construction, and this 20 per cent decline has had very serious effects throughout the State. Hon Philip Lockyer referred to the Cue road; that is one of the worst examples we have, but numerous country shires are faced with similar situations. The Federal Government has got to come to grips with its priorities and make these allocations to country roads.

As I have said many times before in this place the road system is the arterial network of the body of Western Australia - it is like the blood supply. If the roads cannot carry the produce and trade in the State the whole body withers. Obviously, the body will not wither and we will have to put up with worse and worse roads. I have also spoken before about the increase in vehicle maintenance and the general cost of operating our export producing industries as road standards decrease. It is no good Hon Jim Brown sitting there and shaking his head.

Hon J.M. Brown: I think you are talking garbage, actually. I really do, when you are talking about road funding. If those are James Ferguson's figures -

Hon W.N. STRETCH: No, they are not James Ferguson's at all, they are Dr Peter Barnard's.

Hon J.M. Brown: All I was going to say is, they are very strange if they are James Ferguson's figures, because he is usually competent.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: No, they are not, they are Dr Peter Barnard's, the NFF Director of Transport. They are correct and certainly borne out by the shire councils in my area. I am pleased for Hon Jim Brown's shire if they are not correct there.

Hon J.M. Brown: That is only because we have got an increase in road funding in the country.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: At all the regional shire council meetings that I know of the major concern is where they are going to raise the money for road maintenance and construction programs.

Hon J.M. Brown: Mr Stretch, just let me say one thing about country roads.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I will, if the President allows it.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon W.N. STRETCH: It sounds as if the President will not allow it, and that is quite right too. The point is that we cannot continue in this way. As I have pointed out before, the rate at which roads deteriorate accelerates rapidly as they reach the end of their lives, and there must be a rapid increase in funding for the road network very soon. It is almost too late, but we must arrest the problem by getting those allocations increased so that we can catch up with road maintenance and construction.

Figures can be produced and argued about, and construed or misconstrued, but certainly all my shires are very concerned about the state of their roads and their lack of maintenance funding. If the Commonwealth is going to opt out of the allocation of road funding it should also opt out of the majority of fuel tax, let it revert to the State in some form of levy, and make it quite clear where that responsibility lies. At this stage, the policy of taking \$6 or \$7 in fuel tax and returning \$1 to roads is just not on. It is not a fair allocation and will do nothing but gradually wither the system.

I suspect that this is a deliberate program to run down roads so that we are forced on to rail. The rail program will continue to be a very good link in providing full-load block trains on major arterial lines. I do not believe that we will be able to sustain the network of smaller lines in the future. Many smaller lines have closed already with their traffic being picked up by road transport, presenting its own problems for road funding. A Government with a well thought out plan has to accept that two things will happen. First, there will be a consolidation of some of the smaller lines into major lines that will carry big trains with one load in a block system to one destination. I think everyone will agree that, in a long haul situation, nothing can compare with rail. Certainly our colleague, Mr McKenzie, will agree with that. Secondly, it could mean that although some of the smaller lines will be upgraded but, at the same time, there will be a rationalisation of some of the smaller lines and they will be fed by road. Whether they are fed by Government trucks - I hope they are not - or by subcontractors or private contractors is not the point at this stage. The Government must plan its operations now and be prepared to put aside the funding to ensure that a properly integrated transport system operates in this State. At this stage it seems roads are being allowed to run down and other transport systems are not taking up the slack. That has major implications, particularly for rural people in Western Australia. I believe we have to get a balance back into the transport debate and keep open the arteries that feed the State. The State has to be kept in a fit and healthy state so it can meet the increasing production which will flow across our transport system.

I welcome the recently announced Labor Party policy on water resources because it is based on initiatives advanced by the Liberal Party for the south west. I wrote to the Minister about those policies and I am pleased to say that the Government has taken up most of the points I raised in a true bipartisan fashion and the Government is now heading in the right direction.

Hon J.M. Brown: You are not taking the credit for water resources now, are you?

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I did not catch that; I do not think it was complimentary so I will not worry about it.

One point not taken up was that in relation to taxation incentives for primary producers who put in their own water supplies. I wrote to the Minister urging him to take that suggestion to his Federal colleagues. Unfortunately, if he took it, he was not successful, because nothing has been done. I urge him to take it to his colleagues again and again until it is accepted, because it is important. I am afraid it comes down to the same arguments that were used in the income equalisation deposits debate; that is, that incentive must enable primary industries to safeguard their own water supplies because a dollar given away in a tax concession now will be compensated for in the future by farmers not claiming drought relief and water carting subsidies when the bad times come around again. I agree that the Minister is heading down the right track, a point that has been generally acknowledged in rural areas.

An editorial appearing in *The Australian* of 24 September 1988 was headed "Farmers to the rescue again - unfortunately". That editorial underlines what I have been saying; that is, not only do we say that we run the export industries of this country, but we virtually provide the backbone for the Australian economy. It is sheer folly for the Labor Government to ignore that fact and cut back on road funding, IEDs and water supply encouragements. If the 50 per cent or 60 per cent of the wheat and wool contribution to the Australian economy were withdrawn, the so-called best Treasurer of Australia ever would look very sick indeed. It behoves any Government to keep a little oil on the rag to ensure that these agricultural and pastoral industries are healthy enough to continue to provide the backbone to the economy. All economies are cyclical, and the pastoral industries must be kept healthy to respond when our economy looks sick next time.

HON ROBERT HETHERINGTON (South East Metropolitan) [2.56 pm]: Mr President -

Hon G.E. Masters: He has been waiting for three weeks for this.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: It gives me great pleasure to support this Bill. This is the sixth time that I have supported an Appropriation Bill in this House, five introduced by Hon Brian Burke and this one introduced by the present Premier. I am particularly pleased to support this Appropriation Bill because this Premier will make one of the best Labor Premiers this State has ever seen. I look forward to people recognising that and giving him a chance to introduce another one next year.

Hon G.E. Masters: He won't have the chance.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: We will see. On six other occasions, when in Opposition, I have not opposed Appropriation Bills introduced by former Premiers. On each of those six occasions, I have not opposed any of the Appropriation Bills introduced into this House because I believe that money Bills should not be opposed by this House, but always passed. I have said before that the Constitution should be changed so that this House does not have the power to reject money Bills. In the meantime, I hope the House continues to do as it has always done - that is, accept money Bills. Members opposite have boasted proudly whenever we say that we want change and reform that the House has never rejected a money Bill. So be it. I hope that long may that be the case - not that I will be taking part in any future debates on money Bills. I will be one of the critics, no doubt representing Grey Power or a similar group.

Hon G.E. Masters: You will be leading Grey Power!

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I would find it very difficult to leave the Labor Party, to which I have belonged for a long time and I could not find it in my heart to go anywhere else.

Some weeks ago when I intended speaking on the Budget papers, I dug out a report from a committee I chaired that inquired into senates and councils of tertiary institutions in Western Australia. I was shocked to find that the date on it was July 1985. For three years I have waited and hoped for legislation to eventuate from that report. The reason that has not eventuated is not entirely the fault of the two Ministers who have been Ministers of Education in that time. The previous Minister, Mr Bob Pearce, had the report circulated and had received reactions from people who were concerned and this took time. In fact, towards the end of last year he and I had a discussion and we reached the stage where he had decided on the form of the legislation. He said, "I had better not go on with it because I have a feeling we will have a change in the Ministry soon and I had better let Carmen do it." I agreed with him. Since then, other things have happened. The Dawkins' white paper, the proposed amalgamation of universities and a change in status of various tertiary education institutions, has meant that the whole thing has been postponed again.

I advise people who have asked me, through speaking in this House, that the report has not been forgotten and when things have settled down the Minister has promised me she will put her mind to it and something will emerge. One of the things I hope will not emerge is the kind of proposal suggested in the white paper. There are many aspects in the Federal white paper on tertiary education which I do not like at all. One is the suggestion that because a large corporation needs only 10 to 15 people on its board of directors that is all a university needs. The attitude that a university is a kind of business to be dominated by the people from the top, that the people who do the teaching have to be told what to teach and that someone else makes the decisions for them, is one I deplore. I hope that is not the kind of thing that will happen. I am deeply worried and concerned about it. A university senate is not a board of directors. It is a senate governing what should be a body of scholars who gather together to give knowledge and to seek not the truth, but knowledge. I suggest that we will still need a fairly large senate or council when things have settled down. As a matter of fact, I believe that sometimes academics are not completely aware of the society with which they are dealing and that other people are not aware of what academics are doing. I quote from page 14 of the report which reads as follows -

- 3.8 It is the view of the Committee that responsibility grows from the exercise of responsibility and that academic staff must, therefore, share direction in their own governance and that of the institution in which they work. Adequate representation of academic staff on Senates and Councils and their

committees will also ensure that community representatives on Senates and Councils are kept fully aware of the academic needs of the institution.

- 3.9 Since it is also desirable that academics be made aware of the problems confronting society, care must be taken to appoint as community representatives on Senates and Councils and their committees, people who are actively engaged in solving contemporary problems.
- 3.10 It is the firm view of the Committee that, in the interests of academic freedom and good governance, Senates and Councils should provide a setting for continuing dialogue between the academic community and members of the wider community.

This should be the basis of whatever kind of governing body is set up in our tertiary institutions in this State. I have found some interesting reaction among academics, as well as other people, to a suggestion in our report that people from peak employer institutions and people from the Trades and Labor Council should be appointed to senates and councils. Somebody said to me recently, "If you want representation, what about the Claremont Football Club." That comment made by an academic who is, in many ways, a learned academic was a fatuous statement.

The argument is that we are still, in many ways, an industrial, or post-industrial society, or a capitalist society, or a post-capitalist society - call it what one will - and the two important and vastly different groups in the community who tend to dominate it for good or ill are the employers and the trade union movement. I refer again to the report and quote from pages 38 and 39 -

- 5.5 Individuals able to express the interests of private sector employers have always been well represented on Senates and Councils.

One of the things we discovered when we looked at senates and councils was that they comprised older individuals and sometimes retired individuals who were not always in the thick of the battle. The report continues -

There have been, however, no representatives of organised employer interests. Employers are closely concerned with the quality of graduates and the nature of the studies undertaken by present or potential members of the workforce, and their representation should be continued.

- 5.6 There has been no tradition of including representation of employee interests on Senates and Councils. Employees form an important group in a democratic society with a capitalist economy, and its members have aspirations for their children and a valid interest in tertiary education. Provision should be made for them to be represented.
- 5.7 The employer and employee representatives are likely to view some issues from different perspectives, and the Committee believes that the injection of this diversity of outlook will enrich the debate within Senates and Councils and their committees and enhance the decision-making process.

I hope that whatever happens this principle is continued when we reform senates and councils in this State. It is essential we do so. I am not asking that they be there as delegates. Some people seem to think that because they are representatives I want them as delegates of their bodies - I do not want them as delegates. I want people on the senates and councils who are representative of, or who are typical of, a wide range of people in our community. For that reason I hope, when this report is carried into some kind of legislation, that something along those lines will be done. The report is not yet forgotten.

Another thing that concerns me was a reported statement by Hon Norman Moore. He may not have been correctly reported and if he was not, I stand corrected. His statement was to the effect that with the proposed amalgamation of Murdoch University and the University of Western Australia he under no circumstances - I am referring to the report I read - would support it.

Hon N.F. Moore: It is pretty close.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I ask the honourable member to reconsider that view.

Like him I believe the amalgamation should not have taken place. I would be happy if it did not take place.

Hon N.F. Moore: It still has not taken place.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: It is in the process.

Hon N.F. Moore: It has to come through here yet.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: Yes, I know. Unlike Hon Norman Moore I am of the opinion that there are some advantages in such an amalgamation and I think we should wait to see what the proposals are to ascertain whether the advantages outweigh the possible disadvantages. Should the amalgamation take place, I would like to see - I am sure Hon Colin Bell would like to see it also - some of the recommendations of the Bell Select Committee report on agricultural education implemented; for example, that the School of Agriculture from the University of Western Australia be moved to the Murdoch campus and be joined, we hope, with Muresk and the School of Horticulture and Biology from Curtin University of Technology. This is a difficult and delicate thing to carry out, but after discussing it with various people I still believe that it is highly desirable. We would hope that the Murdoch campus of the new University of Western Australia, if it comes about, turns into something like the Massey of Australia, so that we could get the best agricultural tertiary institution in Australia. That is our ambition.

Hon C.J. Bell: It is a matter of having the will to do it.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: On this particular matter there is some agreement across the parties. Certainly there was complete agreement among the people from the three parties represented on the Select Committee.

One other thing that concerns me about the White Paper and some of the proposals that have followed from it is the introduction of fees in universities. As an egalitarian, I find this a retrograde and reactionary step. I do not approve of it. It will result not in greater equity, but in less equity. Even at the very beginning, those people whose parents can afford to pay fees get a discount and those whose parents cannot afford to pay fees must wait until they get a certain level of income before having two per cent per annum taken out of their salaries. "To him who hath is given, and to him who hath not is taken away". I think we should rethink this and do a little better about it. It derives, I think, from the fact that the community looks at universities as places for vocational training.

I once had an argument with a Minister from Canberra about people my age, 65 and over, going to universities. I said that if fees were introduced, I might be able to afford to pay them. Everyone says that parliamentarians get fat superannuation pensions and can afford to pay more than anybody else. Perhaps I can. I am not arguing about that. I asked about the genuine pensioners who would not be able to afford to pay fees. The Minister asked me what social use they would be to anybody. That is a deplorable attitude. What social use may they be? They may find that they have new interests. They may find that they are healthier because they have their minds occupied and because they are finding a new lease of life. They may save money in health payments. They may be more useful elderly citizens in the community, and they may just be happier. I thought the Labor Party stood for all those things. The Labor Party does stand for them, but we need to get our sights in perspective again.

The matter I am about to raise usually generates laughter when I raise it, but I do not think it is funny. All people have a right to their freedoms. I happen to believe in freedom. With the introduction of tertiary fees, the children of wealthy parents can have their fees paid by their parents. They will not be able to afford to pay them themselves unless they go out to work. Parents who pay the fees of their children will then be able to dictate what courses they can do; in other words, the students will have less freedom. Any student who is prepared to leave the family home and become independent should have not only free universities, but also support, if they can pass their exams, in order that they can develop into complete people who have developed their own capabilities. They will thus be better members of society in all kinds of ways.

The other day there was a big write-up in the newspaper about how generous the University of Western Australia was being for producing audit courses. Anyone who wishes can pay a fee and be allowed to sit in on university courses without having any prerequisites. Payment



of an extra fee will give that person the right to sit for an exam, but it will not be the exam sat by those doing degree courses because that might prove that the person without prerequisites is as good as anybody else. The exam is a special one which the person can pass or fail. At the same time, subjects not for degree are being disbanded. I feel quite strongly about this because I once did a subject not for degree. I did it in 1980 while I was a member of the House. I studied Italian 110. I can still remember sitting over there where Hon Norman Moore now sits learning my verbs while Hon Lyla Elliott was trying to make a speech. She was less than amused and used unparliamentary language towards me, but I do not think it was registered in *Hansard*.

I am one of those people who need goals and crises in order to get me through work. I wanted exams and I also wanted to know how I compared with other people. Therefore I did a not-for-degree course. I sat for an exam and I found out where I was on the scale, as it were. I think this is highly desirable. The only trouble is that it might show that people who do not have formal prerequisites could do university degree courses. I suppose that would never do because we might encourage the unwashed to try it. Although I appreciate audit courses for people who want to do them, it would be a good idea if we retained units not for degree so that people could try themselves out and see whether they wanted to go on to university.

I would hope for the best in the development of our tertiary institutions. I hope they do not become regarded as places for vocational training because they are enough of that as it is, as one realises when seeing some of the products of the medical schools. Universities are places where people are encouraged to learn for the sake of learning. They are encouraged to do research for the sake of doing research and the people to whom research money is granted are capable of understanding what research is all about. One of the things that worried me about the Liberal Party "Waste Watch Committee" that was floating around some years ago - I am not blaming the Liberal Party for this; some of its members did funny things sometimes - was the great fuss it made about money being available for research into motherhood in ancient Rome. Presumably we were all supposed to fall about laughing when the subject was mentioned. I cannot see why the money spent on such a subject should be considered money wasted. I would think the study of motherhood in ancient Rome may be interesting in itself. It is also quite likely that it would throw light on motherhood in modern Perth.

Hon W.N. Stretch: There could be some interesting parallels.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: We should not think we have nothing to learn from our rude forebears or our civilised forebears. We have much to learn about the rearing and upbringing of children from a range of people, including our own Aboriginal people who in many ways rear children better than we do when they have the environment in which to do it. However I do not want to pursue that further because I want to go on to something else.

Last August I was fortunate enough to be available to represent the Premier on a visit to the AIDS conference in Hobart. I was also one of the branch delegates, with Hon A.A. Lewis, to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in Canberra, where we also discussed the AIDS problem.

I learned a great deal about AIDS that I did not know before; much of what I learned has changed my outlook and attitude, and made me realise that I have to think through a whole lot of problems. This was brought home to me even more strongly when I read an article in *The Weekend Australian* under the headline "Persecuted AIDS victims forced to leave town". An article appeared in the Press recently stating that a person whose employer was notified by accident that he was HIV positive - that he had the human immune deficiency virus - was sacked. In New South Wales people who die of AIDS are buried in plastic bags. Some health workers will not touch AIDS victims, and some people who have anything to do with them wear masks. I discovered when in Hobart that I was surrounded by people who were HIV positive, so I can only hope for the best. It seems quite clear that many of the worries we have about AIDS are not real worries, but we should think about some of the issues involved. I want to give a few statistics, although it is not my usual habit to spoil a good argument with facts; however, this time I think it might be useful.

In 1982 there was one case of AIDS; that person has since died. In 1983 there were seven cases, of whom two are now dead. In 1984 there were 49 cases, of whom 48 are dead. In

1985 there were 162 cases, and at the time these statistics were published, 144 were dead. In 1986 there 386 cases, of whom 318 are dead. In 1987 there were 731, of whom 478 are dead. When I went to Canberra in September, according to the figures given in the briefing notes, the number of AIDS cases had increased to 943, of whom 482 were dead. That figure increased to 1 000 the following month. The current figure is 1 023, of whom 511 have died. It is increasing exponentially, at a very rapid rate. We have real concerns.

Added to this, in the data we were given was an article by Jonathan M. Mann, MD, MPH, on the global picture of AIDS. He states -

In seeking to anticipate the future of the epidemic, we estimate that approximately -  
He is talking about worldwide figures. It continues -

- 150,000 new cases of AIDS will occur during 1988. The number of new AIDS cases during the year will likely equal to the total number of cases which had occurred from the mid-1970s through 1987. If we adopt the conservative estimate that 5 million people are affected today with HIV, at least one million new AIDS cases may be expected during the next five years.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Did you extrapolate the Australian figures from that?

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: It means about 3 000 cases in 1990.

Hon W.N. Stretch: The relationship between deaths and known cases seems to be widening.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: It is widening as it gets closer; in other words, at one stage in 1982 there was one case and he was alive, but now he is dead. The mean life of a patient who gets AIDS is slightly longer than nine months. That has not changed. The doctors are stretching some a little longer with new drugs, but life is still pretty short for AIDS victims. Of course, that does not apply to a person who is HIV positive, who may not get AIDS for 15 years, or may never get it. However, once a person has AIDS, he is incurable and death is inevitable within a couple of years, unless he is extremely lucky. This means that we are facing a pandemic, the like of which we have never known before. In those circumstances we tend to get terribly worried about the issue and to do all sorts of things. We must be careful in our reactions. I quote from an article referring to the opening of the AIDS conference in Hobart by the Governor General, Sir Ninian Stephens, in which he -

... warned Australians not to try to fight the epidemic by isolating itself from the rest of the world.

Sir Ninian said the conference would have done humanity a major service if all it did was to make Australians aware of their international responsibilities.

"To retreat into illusionary isolation in the face of AIDS would be as irresponsible as it would be likely to be self defeating," he said.

Sir Ninian said the epidemic had all the ingredients for self-righteous moralising.

The attitude of some people reminded him of early church frescos, in which the damned were shown as getting their just desserts.

That has been some of the reaction to the AIDS epidemic in Australia. Some people have retreated into moralising and said it served the AIDS victims right because they had been immoral. That is the first reaction. The second reaction is to want to test everybody and to isolate those whose tests prove positive, on the basis that it has been done before and it can be done again. That does not make sense either and this is one of the problems with the parroting of treatment. Some people think that because everybody was tested for tuberculosis, a similar course should be adopted for AIDS. When we are testing, we have to think about what we are testing for. A person who is HIV positive does not have a contagious, airborne infection. Some doctors think it may become one, but I hope they are wrong. At present it is a lifetime infection; it is a virus for which there is no treatment which reduces the person's infectivity. It is incurable, and no vaccine is available. So far there are very few viruses - including the common cold - for which a vaccine has been discovered. Therefore, why should we test and isolate? If we do so, we shall not make any difference to the number of people who contract the disease. I suggest that members should read the green paper on AIDS which states -

There are no documented cases of transmission via casual, non-sexual social contact, of transmission in occupational settings other than health care settings, of transmission by insects or other vectors, or of transmission through the common use of facilities such as swimming pools, eating utensils, communion cups or toilets.

The green paper continues -

There is no evidence of insect transmission of HIV. Data globally showed that both HIV infection and illness are age-specific and, in some areas, sex specific. Insect borne transmission would put all people at risk, whatever the age or sex. In African urban areas where children and the aged spend most of their time outdoors, prevalence figures would be significantly higher in these age groups if transmission occurred through insect bites. Serological testing has shown that HIV-infected people are not more likely than others to have been exposed to insect borne diseases.

Some surgeons are quoted as saying they want testing and there is an argument for it put forward in an abstract at the AIDS conference which appears on page 102 and which was put forward by Dr Richard West as follows -

The risk of health care workers contracting AIDS is small but real. Eleven health care workers in the USA have contracted disease, and two surgeons have died of AIDS. Routine testing for HIV antibodies is required by law for donors of blood, blood fractions, semen or ova, and donors of organs for transplantation. Routine testing should be performed on patients undergoing major surgery such as transplantation, cardio-pulmonary by-pass, and on patients who are bleeding after major trauma. All patients in the high risk groups should have HIV screening before routine surgery so that the appropriate precautions can be taken and so that the patient's likely response to surgery can be assessed. Some patients will already have, if positive, a significant degree of immuno-deficiency and may develop life threatening complications after surgery.

This makes some kind of sense. If we are saying that all people should be tested for all surgery are we also asking, "What else?" What else are we saying? If it is not to care for them we may be saying, "So a surgeon can refuse to operate." If we are saying that, we should think about what it means and about the ethics of the situation. It is not a thing to be tossed away lightly; we must think about it. If we are saying, "So the surgeon can take routine checks to make it harder for him to be infected," those people who test negative can indeed have the infection. Therefore, from now on what we should be doing, so far as surgery, hospitals and needles are concerned, is routinely taking all precautions with everybody that one would take for an AIDS patient because for all one knows anybody may have it.

There are people who are walking around who may have picked up AIDS five years ago and who test negative. Of course, one of the other things, if one is relying on tests, is that there are false positives which show that people have it when they do not have it - and they have to go through the psychological trauma associated with that - and there are false negatives which show people have not got it when they have got it. If people are to be tested they will have to be tested continually, because I could be tested today and test negative but might show up positive in three weeks' time if I were infected with HIV; in other words, one of the dangers of talking about using testing as if that is the panacea for AIDS is that it can put us in a situation of false optimism and mean that we do not take the realistic look at actions we need to take.

I came away from Hobart thinking that we really have to think about issues which raise moral questions and which are repugnant to many people. One of the main means of transmission of the disease is sexual intercourse and the main means in Australia so far has been through anal intercourse. We have to try to prevent this, or to get people using condoms if they indulge in anal intercourse. As has been said to me time and time again by people working in the area - and as I said to this House when I introduced my Bill to try to legalise homosexual practices between consenting adults, whether one approves of it or not - and I have no great approval of it - while it is illegal people will not easily and voluntarily come forward for testing. According to all the people to whom I have talked in the field who are trying to deal with people with AIDS, people are more likely to come forward if we legalise homosexual acts. Even then it will be bad enough. As Hon Phillip Pandal has

pointed out in this House, it will be bad enough because there will still be the social obloquy if it gets around, so even then it will be hard to persuade people to come forward for testing, to behave sensibly, and to be educated.

The other thing I find hard to cope with about which I am thinking and thinking is that one of the other main ways that the virus is transmitted is through the sharing of needles. People taking drugs intravenously, and not necessarily drug addicts, often share needles. By sharing needles they are sharing blood and by sharing blood they are sharing the HIV virus. What are we to do about this? The answer most often given is to make sure that there is a supply of clean needles; to make them free; and to have vandal proof needle dispensers. This, of course, again raises the problem of whether we give people needles to carry out an action that we regard as illegal. It also raises a further question which we have to consider very carefully and about which I have had strong arguments put to me - although I have not given in to them yet - that we would do well to legalise heroin because it would be a lesser evil. That is something I think members who return to this House next year will have to think about very carefully. I am not telling them what they have to think; I am telling them what they should think about because this is a pandemic disease of a kind that is so great that we could have huge numbers of people infected and dying if we do not do anything about it.

One of the interesting things I found while around the table in Canberra was that people said, "What we need to do is return to the traditional values." I agree with that. It would be lovely if we could return to the traditional values, if that is all we need. The only trouble is, we have never had them.

Hon Barry House: How does Hon Robert Hetherington feel about the use of heroin for cancer patients?

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I am in favour of it. I think there is no argument about that matter. I think our whole attitude towards that is foolish, but that is a different attitude and a different argument. It should be treated separately. That should not be regarded as a let-in for what I am talking about because they are different issues. Everything I have read about the use of heroin for cancer patients suggests that such use would be highly desirable, and I strongly support it, as I support all sorts of things that we have not got at present. I am not sure where this leaves the notion of legalising heroin, because some people think this might be useful in the fight against AIDS.

[Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.]

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I have some evidence that in one country - which I will not name because it may be wrong - there are so many people infected with AIDS that the population of that country should for all practical purposes disappear by the end of the century. AIDS could become an epidemic of the proportions of the Black Death, but we must not draw the parallel too closely. The Black Death was carried by little friendly black rats which lived in people's houses. I do not know whether they carried a germ or a virus, but the Black Death was transmitted in that way. AIDS is normally transmitted by sexual intercourse, the sharing of needles, or by receiving blood transfusions or blood or organ products from infected carriers. There is also some evidence that AIDS can be transmitted from mother to child in breast milk.

We cannot just say, "Let us do with AIDS what we did with TB", because we were able to put people suffering from TB in isolation until they were cured, and then return them to the work force. We will have so many people being infected with the HIV virus that, even if we were to find them all out and isolate them, we would have many more people to support and fewer people to support them. People infected with the HIV virus are usually able to work normally and to contribute to the economy of the country. If we were to isolate them, they would not contribute anything. All sorts of problems have arisen in prisons in respect of AIDS, and there was a case in Hobart where prison officers were afraid that if condoms or needles were issued to prisoners, they could be used as weapons. I am not sure what they were thinking of - it was perhaps shanghais - but they were really concerned.

There is a whole range of serious issues that needs to be looked at. I first considered talking about this matter in response to the comments made by Wilson Tuckey. I do not blame the Liberal Party for Wilson Tuckey - he is very much his own man - but what he said at Hobart could not have been said by anyone who had been there for three days, as I had, because he

was talking nonsense. His successor, Peter Shack, who now speaks for the Liberal Party, has been making statements which are quite different, as I would have expected because he is a sensible, responsible person.

Hon P.H. Lockyer: With due respect, I possibly agree with you, but I have heard many people say that the way he presented it was wrong, yet none have said that what he said was wrong.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I would say that.

Hon P.H. Lockyer: You are the only one that I have ever heard say that.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: What he said was true, because one of the things that the anti-AIDS people put on their programs is that, "You do not catch AIDS; it has to be given to you." However, in the context in which he said it, he was saying, "You get it through your own fault." He went on to say that homosexuals had grabbed the whole agenda; and I do not think that was true.

*Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.00 pm*

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: In the context of where and how he said it, the statement was quite wrong and mischievous. So, we have to be very careful in what we say, where we say it and how we say it. There is only one other thing that I want to mention before passing on from this subject; I could go on for another full hour with no trouble at all and I think I could say useful things for the full hour, but neither the clock nor you, Mr Deputy President, would let me.

People too easily make assumptions which are not correct and that is why we have to carefully look at the statements we make such as the statement about testing which suggests that we ask "Why do we test?". I have the petition that was presented by Hon John Caldwell and others on prostitution. Among other things the petition stated that prostitution demeans women by encouraging men to view them as sex objects. Well, I agree with that. The petition also states that prostitution undermines marriage by promoting promiscuity among single men and adultery among married men. That is a highly debatable proposition. It also asserts that prostitution lowers the health of the community by facilitating the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. The evidence available to us indicates that a person who has slept around promiscuously with willing volunteers, as it were, has more chance of contracting HIV than a person who habitually went to a prostitute. Prostitutes do not want to die and they know the danger that they are in and take some kind of action.

So, what seems self evident is not self evident, and whenever we make a statement in relation to AIDS we must examine what we are saying. This is the time for analysis of language, and for thinking subjects through because if we do not, and we do not get the words right, it will be a pretty sad state for our descendants, and even the people who are alive now. One of the interesting things - and I do not have the figures with me - is that although the incidence of male to female sufferers of HIV in Australia is 25 to one, in some countries the incidence is one to one. In other words, in many countries AIDS is a heterosexual disease, and although the number of women in Australia who have caught AIDS through sexual intercourse is something like the number of fingers on two hands, the numbers are growing and if we are not careful it can become a full blown heterosexual disease and attack our society in a vicious and savage way.

Once when we were discussing the closing down of a special school I said to Hon Norman Moore that I would talk to him at another time about the notion of the integration of handicapped children into ordinary schools. This is a subject which I have been closely associated with. When I ceased to be the Deputy Leader in this House and the Shadow Minister for Education, I became the Chairman of the State Executive Committee on Education. I swapped places with Hon Bob Pearce and he became the Shadow Minister and I became chairman of the committee.

Hon Barry House: Much to everybody's regret.

Hon N.F. Moore: It would have been much better for Western Australia if you had been made the Minister instead of him.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I will not argue about that because it may not have been the case.

One of the things that I did was to alter the policy of the committee in relation to handicapped children. The policy had been - and it changes from time to time - that the committee would set up a diagnostic centre to diagnose the category of handicap. I changed that policy to one of diagnosing the educational needs of the children. That was one of the other things that we too easily took at face value; that is, that a person with cerebral palsy, for example, needed a certain kind of education, but, of course, there are bright kids with cerebral palsy and there are dull kids with cerebral palsy as there are dull and bright kids with all sorts of handicaps. Their educational needs are different. I once spoke to a doctor - I do not remember at which of our centres it was - who said that he had a Down's syndrome child who was the same age as the other grade three people and doing the same grade three work. So, where was he to put that child? The committee developed a policy that children should be integrated into ordinary schools as far as possible, but should not be forced to do so.

One of the things that parents do not always understand is that handicapped children will one day have to live in the world, unless they die young, without their parents; the parents die and leave their handicapped child behind. Therefore, it seemed that wherever possible - and I emphasise "wherever possible" - we need to integrate handicapped children and handicapped adults into society and we need as far as possible to get handicapped children, whatever their handicap or disability, into ordinary schools. Some will need to go to special classes, and some will need some special classes and some special teaching, but some will find that they can integrate into ordinary classes with a little help. Some children will find that they can go into the school socially and spend the rest of the time in special support centres. Some children that I have seen will probably never be able to get out of the support centres and that is very sad.

What I was saying to Hon Norman Moore some time ago on this matter was that I did not want to debate that specific issue at the time because whether they were doing the right thing or the wrong thing in that instance was not so much what concerned me - because we will make mistakes in carrying out a policy - as the policy of maximum integration. There must be a policy for maximum integration, but it must be flexible, which means that if people have been thrust out too far so that they cannot cope, they are then withdrawn to a stage where they can cope. That is a good thing.

We need to have so-called non disabled children - so-called normal children - meet people with handicaps and disabilities and learn to treat them as ordinary people. I know he will not mind my saying this, but we are really fortunate in having Hon Graham Edwards in this House. The fact that he is in a wheelchair and has no legs makes no difference to the fact that he is a human being; we have learnt to relate to him. We can look at him; we do not have to look away from the wheelchair, as we do with some people in wheelchairs. We can talk to him; we have become used to him. He has become integrated among us. We need to do this with all kinds of people.

I remember the time I went to a special school in Britain for the first time. The children looked very peculiar to me, and they wanted to touch me. I did not want them to touch me because I had all sorts of preconceptions and prejudices and fears. Somebody said to me, "They are very friendly, you ought to let them touch you", so I did, and it did not hurt. They were very friendly, and now if I go into the schools and kids touch me I touch them back. They are just people. It takes time, and it takes propinquity. We need to meet people like this to know that they too are human beings and have to be treated as human beings. I look forward to the day when a generation of children grows up into a generation of adults who will accept all kinds of handicaps, particularly intellectual handicaps, in their society, and when they go shopping, treat them as they need to be treated. Hon Phillip Pendal was also involved in this debate. This is the basis of the policy. Whatever members might think at any given instant, this is the policy that I hope will be carried out by any Government, Labor or Liberal.

I have been involved in a number of policies which I believe are bipartisan. One is agricultural policy; one is policy for the handicapped; one is policy for tertiary education, if we can get that, but that is harder; another is the policy on sexual assault; another is policy on harm to children. It is important to develop bipartisan policies if we can. One of the things I have found very handy with committees is that we thrash out ideas together, and often suddenly we find that on a whole range of issues political opponents, some of whose political

ideology we may find quite offensive, come together and agree. The more we can do that, the better. I am certainly not saying we are looking forward to the day when we all agree; of course we will not all agree, because that would be highly undesirable. Somebody said to me, when we were having afternoon tea -

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon D.J. Wordsworth): Order! The member's time is up, I am afraid.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I shall have to tell members that at some other time.

HON NEIL OLIVER (West) [4.14 pm]: At this time of the year, from August to November, we have what are called Supply Bills and Estimates, and the order in which these Bills come before the Parliament is very strange. The Appropriation (Consolidated Revenue Fund) Bill concerns the provision of Supply for requirements of uncompleted items in 1987-88, and also for services in the current year. It is interesting that the expenditure estimate is \$4 044 million, which is rather a substantial amount. Of that estimated expenditure, approximately \$494 million has already been permanently provided under special Acts outside the normal Supply Bills. That leaves an amount of some \$3 549 million to be appropriated in a manner shown in the schedule to the Bill.

Earlier this session we passed the Supply Bill, which has already appropriated some \$2 billion under the Budget, therefore this appropriation is for the final amount, or the funds already appropriated under special Acts, and so the amount of \$1 549 million remains to be appropriated in this Bill. It seems strange that this Bill should come first, and then we will move on to the capital expenditure program, and ultimately to the loan Bills, although they are all interrelated with the Consolidated Revenue Fund. But over the years I have been here this Bill has always come first; it has been the first cab off the rank, so to speak.

I did not take part in the debate that the House should take note of the Tabled Paper. This format was introduced by Hon Graham MacKinnon some years ago, and concerned the manner in which we dealt with the Budget. When the Budget was passed in the lower House, it came to the upper House and was dealt with expeditiously so as to ensure that the legislative program was not delayed in any way. Unfortunately this mechanism introduced by the Leader of the Government at that time, Hon Graham MacKinnon, has lost its way and its purpose. I realise that Supply Bills and finance Bills give members an opportunity to canvass many matters affecting their electorates. It is essential that this should happen, because members are deprived of that opportunity. In this House we do not have private members' day, as occurs in another place, where a member can publicly draw the attention of the House to matters not necessarily of an urgent nature, but to matters that are more appropriate to his or her electorate.

I have been reluctant to speak on the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure in taking note of the Tabled Paper because under past Leaders of the House, at the conclusion of that debate normally there was a summing up. That procedure was followed right through, including the period when Hon Des Dans so ably was the Leader of the Government in this Chamber, so that at the conclusion of that debate members who raised certain matters which affected their electorates were given appropriate answers. If those answers were not available at the time, I well recall that Hon Des Dans and the Leaders of the House before him ensured that members received replies in writing.

I regret that this procedure has now been cast aside. Whether the demands made on the present Leader of the House and his staff preclude his following the procedures that were set down by his predecessors - Hon Ian Medcalf, Hon Graham MacKinnon and Hon Des Dans - I do not know, but regrettably it has led to this noting of the Tabled Paper becoming something of a talkfest with no response being given by the Leader of the Government. I would be very interested to hear the Leader of the House's comments in this regard before this session closes, because if the procedure I have outlined was felt to be appropriate at the time it was introduced, it must now be considered inappropriate unless there is some response from him to the requests that members place before him. Alternatively, it means that members are standing here, addressing themselves to issues in their electorates which remain unanswered and, frankly, serve no useful purpose whatsoever unless the member wishes to have the *Hansard* printed and circulated through his or her electorate purely to show the concern he expressed in the Parliament. That is not what Parliament is for; Parliament is for vigorous debate and it is the responsibility of members on both sides to play their part in the activities of the legislature.

The other matter which concerns me is the manner in which this session is drawing to a close. The Leader of the House made a statement last week varying the sitting times for this week to expedite legislation. The legislative program for this Parliament - the Legislative Assembly as well as the Legislative Council - gives the closing date of the Parliament as Thursday, 8 December. The Leader of the House last year advised members that the legislative program, which is basically set for the other House, often requires this House to continue for a further week, and it has now become practice for this House to proceed for a further week after the other House has passed into recess for the Christmas period. Therefore I am concerned that, while there is a considerable amount of legislation on the Notice Paper in this House - and, I understand, on the Notice Paper in another place - the other place has moved into recess, and the legislative program which was outlined to us by the Governor at the opening of this session remains unfinished. When I examine that program, I am surprised to see items set forward in His Excellency's speech to this House have not been brought to the Parliament, or remain on the Notice Paper uncompleted. Frankly, it is almost making a farce of the Parliament itself. I believe that what happens in one year should happen in another. If the Government is to be consistent and set its legislative program, it should abide by that program. It may need some variation but there should not be a great rush, such as we are now facing, to draw to a conclusion.

I make those remarks because over the last month when I have attended various functions in my electorate at which Ministers of the Crown have been present, they have outlined to me the very major legislative workload that the Government had prior to Christmas, and have wondered whether they could complete that program. I can only assume that Ministers of the Crown who wished to bring legislation forward were given some alternative reason for this session of Parliament being terminated, as it has been in another place and as it appears will now occur in this place. I do look forward to responses from the Leader of the Government to the matters I will raise during my contribution to this debate.

I wish to bring forward two domestic matters which relate specifically to my electorate. Initially I refer to a crisis in hospital care which is occurring in Midland, the Swan Valley and the eastern hills corridor of Perth. It is a serious crisis which affects health care among residents in that area and its environs. The crisis centres around the ageing Swan District Hospital which has grown like Topsy over the past 25 years and which under the present Government has been driven to crisis point.

Hon T.G. Butler interjected.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: I know Hon Tom Butler will appreciate this concern, which is shared by Hon Gordon Hill, a Minister who represents part of this area. I believe the hospital may be almost within the current boundaries of North East Metropolitan Province, which Hon Tom Butler serves, and I know he will share my concern.

The latest situation is that confined within the hospital is a centre called the "Accident and Emergency Centre". This department has been forced to closed for the second time in the last six months due to an inability to staff the centre with doctors. I qualify that by saying there is one doctor still in residence who is endeavouring to provide some form of service at night, but within the area people are unaware of whether that service is available by day or by night. I could cite some serious situations which have arisen over the last month at that hospital with patients requiring emergency treatment. The Government claims that the reason for the centre's closure is a shortage of doctors. In fact there is no shortage of doctors; there is a critical shortage of doctors who have the incentive to work there. The Government has repeatedly assured any critics of the hospital that their criticism was unfounded. The Government gave an unequivocal assurance that the hospital would be fully staffed and the accident and emergency department would not close. That assurance was given publicly by the former Minister for Health, Hon Ian Taylor, just prior to the by-election for the electorate of Morley-Swan. It was very well documented in the Press and is well known to all of us. Unfortunately the emergency department has not been set up in a way which confers any status for medical training or advancement of experience. This is vital to both doctors and nurses and to the service they seek to give to the community.

Clearly the Government has failed. Despite the problems of attracting staff to this vital department, the Government has failed to understand what it is doing wrong. If it is not so, the Government must be so foolishly committed to its "kick the medicos" attitude that it has



persuaded itself doctors will be forced to go there as a result of the surplus of doctors in the community. Apparently medical people have some pride even if the Government has not. If the Government had some pride, it would be ashamed of the way it is treating the public through its misguided policies. The people of a major regional centre - Midland, the Swan Valley, the entire eastern corridor - cannot now get emergency treatment from the State hospital in the region. However, even this is not the whole picture. The maternity section is inadequately staffed to handle urgent surgical procedures such as Caesarean operations without support from nurses not allocated to theatre duties. The surgical facilities do not include specially designed operating theatres; the operating facilities are simply set up in rooms which are grossly inadequate. There is a long waiting list which is continually growing longer and which indicates that a new theatre block, properly equipped and with double the present capacity -

Hon T.G. Butler: What are you reading from?

Hon NEIL OLIVER: These are my own comments.

Hon T.G. Butler: I thought they were.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: I know that this matter is only on the fringes of Hon Tom Butler's electorate but it has some relevance to his electors. When the manner in which people are elected to this place changes at the next State election, 240 000 people will vote for him so I suppose an issue like this may not be important to him. However, as a member of this House it is a very important matter to me. I am reading so that the points I make are accurate, correct and no-one can dispute them. If the member wishes to rise to his feet and dispute them, he will be running contrary to the medical and nursing people who are either in residence at the hospital, active users of it or are employed by it.

Hon T.G. Butler: I don't know, Mr Oliver.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: Following from my statement regarding operating theatres, there is a need to firstly upgrade them and double their capacity, which points to an urgent need to increase the number of beds at the hospital and an increase in hospital staff to keep pace with the real and urgent demand being felt in the community. It is all very well to put up a building and call it a hospital; it is important that provisions are made for that building to be adequately and properly staffed at all times.

Mr Deputy President, if you knew how many times I have been to openings at the Swan District Hospital on the Wednesday prior to by-elections or State elections over the last six years, you would be amazed. I can assure the House that on every Wednesday prior to a by-election or a State election, there was a performance at the Swan District Hospital which was just like a Gilbert and Sullivan play. The first opening, believe it or not, by the Minister for Health just prior to a by-election was of what was supposed to be an emergency department. It was a carport, with a drive round through it and curbing, which was to enable a patient to be removed from an ambulance by stretcher and taken to a room for emergency treatment. Either the Government bites the bullet and upgrades the Swan District Hospital to regional hospital status with expanded capacity or it accepts its own inadequacies and enables the hospital to be operated by the St John of God organisation or some other similar organisation. If the Government or the Department of Health is not prepared to give this department sufficient funds to undertake that service, it should let somebody else do it. The critical problem facing the Government is to admit that the community needs to come before ideological concepts of medicine. Disease and illness are not cured by ideology but by motivated people trained to cope with times of crisis in the health of individuals. Getting motivated people willing to meet such needs without delay is critical.

With a change in Government, greater care will be taken of the people in the region. A Liberal Party-National Party coalition Government would take immediate action to set up a competent team to study the situation, and to report within one month of the election. Any Government acting in a responsible way would insist on an urgent development program for the Swan District Hospital. Frankly, the situation is a disgrace which has been allowed to continue in this topsy turvy way, even though the Minister has made statements assuring the community that the service will be maintained. That promise has been broken twice. Not one member of this House would gain any satisfaction from knowing that the accident and emergency departments of the hospitals which constituents attend do not provide appropriate services.

I have alluded to the Estimates of Expenditure and the Loan Bill. Later I will speak on several other items as they relate to my electorate. I am surprised that we are debating the three Bills when we do not know whether the figures contained in the documents are accurate. Hon Max Evans has already spoken about the provisions to be made for the deficiencies of some Western Australian financial institutions and corporate activities that have gone sour. No significant provision has been made to absorb the losses which have been sustained by the Teachers Credit Society and the Swan Building Society. Where does the Government stand on the Rothwells situation?

We are fortunate to have the Minister for Budget Management in this House. But as a matter of good management, all these problems should be addressed. The subject was raised in *The West Australian* yesterday by the executive director of the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Inc) who stated that the losses cannot be carried over 12 to 15 years; that the Government should urgently address the manner in which it intends to fund the deficiencies.

Hon J.M. Berinson: That has already been explained to the House. The way in which the amount referred to by the Chamber of Commerce will be addressed has been indicated to the House.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: I am referring to what was said yesterday.

Hon J.M. Berinson: The executive officer referred to \$200 million, of which \$125 million applied to the Teachers Credit Society, and that has already been paid out. It does not require future provision. The balance from the State Government Insurance Commission is a matter that the SGIC can perfectly handle within its own resources without recourse to public funds.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: That is half right-half wrong. The R & I Bank has conveniently taken over the losses of the Teachers Credit Society.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Not conveniently, commercially.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: In Budget papers tabled over previous years, additional allocations of funds have been made to the R & I Bank. It will be interesting to see what amounts may be required after the next State election.

Hon J.M. Berinson: You are talking about \$35 million which was for Reserve Bank requirements and had no relationship to any of these matters.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: I believe that the Government cannot go ahead, in all honesty, knowing that provision should be made in the Budget for substantial doubtful debts.

Hon J.M. Berinson: But they are not doubtful debts. They are debts that have been paid off.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: We will not know that for some time. It is prudent management to make provision for some form of doubtful debts, not a write-off.

Hon J.M. Berinson: They are acknowledged debts and they have already been paid.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: The Minister for Budget Management says that and I hope that he is right but I believe history will prove him wrong.

Another matter I wish to bring to the attention of the House relates to the Mundaring Primary School. The school was not fully included in the current Budget papers, but the Government has now decided to charge ahead because of questions which I raised in this House in December 1987 and, secondly, because of my statement at a public meeting, backed up by the Leader of the Liberal Party, that if elected the Liberal Party would correct the situation at the Mundaring Primary School. I call that school the never never school - partly because the Government promised years ago that a school would be provided for the area. The promise was made again for 1987, for 1988, and yet again for 1989. Not only do I call the school the never never school, but also the walkabout school because I do not know where it will be placed.

Hon T.G. Butler: You are a card.

Hon Mark Nevill: A stand up comic.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: The Government has departed from normal policy. In 1982, the requirement was to start rebuilding the Mundaring Primary School, and new classrooms were

opened. The Government, together with the local authority, then became caught up with a private developer. The suggestion was that the private developer should take over the existing school site and exchange that site for land in another part of the shire away from the commercial area. He would then provide land for a primary school and would receive a subdivision of a semi suburban nature surrounding the school. That deal came unstuck so the school went walkabout again looking for another place. Ultimately, the school found another area which, it appears, the Government can obtain in order to release the existing school for further commercial development for which there is no head tenant. The Government is playing what one might call roulette with children. It has got into a micro WA Inc in Mundaring and is playing around with entrepreneurial activities and putting educational policies second.

Hon T.G. Butler: Tell us about the Middle Swan Primary School and the emissions from Midland Brick.

Hon N.F. Moore: Tell us about the findings of the people who check those situations.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: Mr Deputy President, during the past week my office has been inundated with letters and phone calls from people concerned about this matter. Some comments have been made in the local newspaper by a member from another House. I would be happy to show him the letters and put him in touch with the people who are ringing my office. With hindsight, this proposal was unwise. I said that the proposal hinged on getting a head tenant for the new complex, but there are no takers. As those who are experienced in the field could have said in the first place, the idea is simply not commercially viable.

It was found at a meeting that parents were very concerned about children travelling great distances, as is also apparent from phone calls I have received in my office. The normal education policy is that when a school starts to grow because of increased housing in its locality, the next step is to build another school in that developing area. This process has been followed by the Ministry of Education without any political interference virtually since the ministry began. However, in this instance the Government got in on the act and decided to get involved in a commercial deal rather than an educational project. A Liberal-National Party Government would modernise the existing school with all the requirements needed in today's educational system to deliver the best service possible and, at the same time, another school should be built where the majority of the children are coming from who are placing pressures on the existing school.

The shadow Minister for Education, Hon Norman Moore, and I met with parents who are very keen to see the school rebuilt within its own grounds, with a further school constructed at Stoneville where there are now over 550 children being bused either to Mt Helena Primary School, which is expanding, or to Sawyers Valley or Mundaring. The simple solution is the one that has been followed consistently over the years which is, I repeat, that when a school comes under pressure from increasing numbers and reaches a reasonable size, another school should be built in the area in which the expansion is occurring. It is as simple as that. It is not only logical or necessarily intelligent, it is also straightforward commonsense.

Another matter which has not been brought to the attention of this House, but which was certainly raised elsewhere last week, is the lack of justice that has been shown to local authorities in regard to their grants of Federal revenue. Local authorities are being deprived of revenue under a grossly unfair Federal Government give and take plan. The unfairness comes from a Federal decision to agree, after many years of lobbying, that councils should be entitled to receive rate payments based on Commonwealth bodies operating in their districts. Having agreed to this, the Commonwealth has reduced its grants to local authorities by an amount equal to 90 per cent of the rate payments. The unfairness strikes home when it is found that the give and take plan does not operate on a council by council basis but is applied to the total amount allocated to all local authorities. This means that councils with a large number of Federal bodies operating in their districts will get a big increase in rates and only an average reduction in their Commonwealth funding, while others, with few Federal bodies operating in their areas, will get little benefit but suffer the average deductions, ending up with less than that with which they started. I have asked our leader to consult immediately with the Federal Opposition members of the Australian Parliament to seek national action to have adjustments made on a council by council basis in the interests of

fairness. I trust they will seek the support of councils throughout Australia and I expect a successful outcome. This return to fairness is essential in our Federal-State system. Some local government authorities should not be deprived of their fair share of the cake purely because they do not have a large number of Federal bodies within their localities.

I support the Bill.

**HON T.G. BUTLER** (North East Metropolitan) [4.58 pm]: It was interesting to hear Hon Neil Oliver talk about the schools in his electorate with no reference at all to the Middle Swan Primary School, which is having difficulty with emissions from Midland Brick Co Pty Ltd.

Hon Neil Oliver: I will talk about that matter too.

Hon T.G. BUTLER: It is understandable that he does not want to speak about that because -

Hon Neil Oliver: I said I will talk about that matter.

Hon T.G. BUTLER: - one of the offenders in this instance is Midland Brick, and we all know that the owner of Midland Brick is the patriarch of the Liberal Party. It is left to others, like Mr Gordon Hill and me, to take up this matter on behalf of the school to ensure that the emissions are monitored and that corrective action is forced upon Midland Brick.

I read with some interest in the Press last week of the division between the former Leader of the Opposition and the present shadow minister or spokesperson for industrial development in another place. The former Leader of the Opposition attacked the Industrial Relations Commission and drew a sharp rebuke from the shadow spokesperson -

Hon G.E. Masters: "Spokesman" we call it.

Hon T.G. BUTLER: - for industrial relations, not only because he has perhaps blown the whistle on the Liberal Party's industrial relations policy, but also because he cut across the boundaries of the responsibilities of the shadow spokesperson for industrial relations and did not allow him to make the sorts of statements that he wanted to make. It was interesting to see that Mr Thompson was prepared to support, in some form, the Industrial Relations Commission backed up by -

The PRESIDENT: Order! It being 5.00 pm, I interrupt debate to take questions without notice.

[Questions taken.]

Hon T.G. BUTLER: I was drawing to the attention of the House a major division that has occurred in the Liberal Party on industrial relations between the shadow spokesperson for industrial relations and the shadow spokesperson for industrial development.

Hon G.E. Masters: We have spokesmen.

Hon T.G. BUTLER: Yes, members of the Labor Party have noticed that the Liberal Party has only one woman in the Parliament. The Labor Party prefers not to be as sexist as that. We prefer the term spokesperson.

Hon P.G. Pandal interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Members should remember what I said earlier today. My mood has not altered.

Hon T.G. BUTLER: I am pleased to hear that, Mr President.

The contradicting statements are of some concern to the Labor movement because in the unlikely event of the Liberal Party becoming part of a coalition Government at the next election -

Hon A.A. Lewis: Without a coalition Government the Liberal Party will be in.

Hon T.G. BUTLER: It may not be in Government. However, in the unlikely event of it happening it is of some concern to the Labor movement that we may return to the situation which prevailed prior to 1983 in respect of industrial relations. We would again see the Industrial Relations Commission rendered absolutely useless as it was in 1982. It seems to me that the shadow spokesperson for industrial development may well have blown the whistle on the Liberal Party's policy. He claimed that something had to be done about the

Industrial Relations Commission. Members should remember what happened in 1982 - the commission had all its powers stripped from it and it did not have the ability to conciliate disputes simply because the Government of the day did not believe in conciliation. The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Barry MacKinnon, has said that under a Liberal Government the Industrial Relations Commission will be safe and that we would know more about that at a later stage. Perhaps the Liberal Party has had to tone down its policy in the light of what was said by the shadow spokesperson on industrial development.

I advise members what would happen if we returned to the scene that prevailed prior to the 1983 elections. At that time legislation was passed aimed at weakening the position of the trade union movement. In the 21 years in which I was a trade union official the Labor Government was in power for only three of those years and that was from 1971 to 1974 - the Tonkin Government. It was only during that time that there were really meaningful negotiations between the Government and the trade union movement. The same could be said about the Federal situation. Only during the course of the Whitlam Government were there any negotiations between that Government and the ACTU. That situation has carried over into the present day scene and the trade union movement has played a tremendous role in the recovery of the economy of this country. The trade union movement had the ability to sit down with the Federal Government and negotiate the whole range of complex wage systems which we have seen presented to the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission in recent times. It has resulted in a decline in wages, in real terms, and has brought about the ability of the Government to bring the economy of the country back on track. It would be a pity if all the hard work to date was to no avail. I, for one, would not want to return to the situation where we did not have conciliation in the industrial relations scene.

The Liberal Party, through Mr MacKinnon, has stated that some agreement has been reached with the trade union movement on junior wages. However, we have heard no answer to the question of what has happened to the voluntary contracts system. We know that that policy is held dear to the heart of the Liberal Party and that it is anxious to introduce the system. The undertakings given to the trade union movement with respect to there being no great opposition to junior rates of pay fall a little flat when we consider that the voluntary contracts system enunciated by the Liberal Party simply means that there will be no conciliation and arbitration provisions within these agreements. They will be signed agreements and the workers will be expected to adhere to them. They will have no negotiating strengths at all because they will be outside the system and the protection of the trade unions.

In recent days the Trades and Labor Council indicated its surprise at the change of attitude of the Liberal Party as seen in the statement by Mr Hassell. It is showing a great deal of concern in that regard. Under these circumstances, the Liberal Party must come clean on its industrial relations policy. It should tell us what we can expect in the unlucky event that the Liberal Party becomes the next Government. It should tell us whether we would then see a return to the situation of the emergency legislation of 1974, when the biggest procession of workers ever gathered marched upon Parliament House. The legislation went through both Houses of Parliament, but because of the efforts of the trade union movement it was never proclaimed. Had it been put into practice there would have been tremendous upheaval and confrontation in Western Australia that would have benefited nobody.

Hon A.A. Lewis interjected.

Hon T.G. BUTLER: Hon Sandy Lewis just expressed what I believe to be the situation within the Liberal Party. By way of interjection, he said that it would not worry him because it does not affect him. That seems to be the policy of the Liberal Party.

Hon A.A. Lewis: That was totally misquoted and taken out of context. I said something in an aside to Hon Robert Hetherington.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon D.J. Wordsworth): Order! There will be no interjections. Hon Tom Butler will not call for them from other members, or comment on them.

Hon T.G. BUTLER: With respect, Mr Deputy President, I have not called for or solicited interjections from Hon Sandy Lewis. He just makes them at will. One comes to accept them and deal with them as they come along. If dealing with them offends Hon Sandy Lewis, so be it.

I would not like to see a return to the situation that produced the 1974 emergency legislation. Nor would I like to see a return to the sort of situation that produced section 54B of the Police Act. That section was put into the Police Act solely to inflict further penalties on the trade union movement. It was exercised only against the trade union movement. Some outrageous and rather cynical attempts were made by the then Government to put it into practice. Laurie Carmichael and Jack Marks were arrested for holding a meeting in a paddock alongside the Totalisator Agency Board in Karratha, for crying out loud! The meeting was in contravention of section 54B. Their arrest amounted to an infringement of civil liberties. Section 54B was introduced for a specific purpose. Forrest Place was out of bounds for meetings of the trade union movement, any political party or any other body, after farmers came from all over the place and threw things at Gough Whitlam. The Liberal Government at that time decided that it did not want to be exposed to the public in such a manner, so it took the opportunity to impose a bar on political meetings in Forrest Place. The late Paddy Troy took on the Government and held a meeting of about six or seven people outside the post office in Forrest Place and was duly arrested. The case was defended and was thrown out of court because there were no provisions within the law that prevented that sort of meeting being held. Section 54B was rushed into the Police Act to take care of that situation and to put into the Police Act something that everybody believed had been there anyway. It was written into the legislation that more than three people holding a meeting without permission were in breach of section 54B. That must have been the greatest infringement of civil liberties of all time. We would be looking forward to such a situation if by some stroke of misfortune there were a change of Government at the next election.

Hon P.G. Pendal: Rubbish!

Hon T.G. BUTLER: It is true. The whistle has been blown on it by Mr Hassell.

Hon P.G. Pendal: What is your evidence?

Hon T.G. BUTLER: Let us just look at what Mr Hassell said. He called the Industrial Relations Commission weak. He almost called for its abolition, although not in so many words. He brought upon himself the wrath of the shadow Minister with responsibility for industrial relations. Prior to 1983 the powers of the Industrial Relations Commission were placed in the hands of the then Minister for Labour and Industry, Hon Gordon Masters. Anyone wanting an increase in award rates had to convince Hon Gordon Masters. The day that Mr Masters would agree to giving a worker an increase in wages, penalty rates or anything of that nature could be regarded as a significant day. It would merit being made a national holiday. That is the sort of situation to which Mr Hassell would like to return us. He would like to take away the powers of the Industrial Relations Commission. It would be a very sad and sorry day if that were to occur.

Since the advent of Labor Governments, wage packages have been worked out federally. We have come up with some very sensible propositions through negotiations between the very responsible trade union movement and Government. The trade union movement has taken into consideration the economy of the country when working out its demands. Unfortunately, the Liberal Party, at Federal and State levels, has opposed each and every one of those wage increases. What does that indicate? It means that we shall again return to the 1983 situation in which legislation was introduced to freeze wages. Once again the responsibility for wage increases will lie with the Minister and the Government.

Hon P.G. Pendal: We will not cut civil servants' pay, like you did.

Hon T.G. BUTLER: That is not an accurate statement. The Government did not pass that legislation, the Parliament did. I recall that Hon Phillip Pendal was among the members who voted for the legislation.

Hon P.G. Pendal: You introduced the legislation.

Hon T.G. BUTLER: Ian Thompson was the only member of the Liberal Party who did not vote for that legislation. Hon Phillip Pendal is reflecting on a decision made by the Parliament, and he is as responsible for that legislation as any other person.

Hon P.G. Pendal: You cut the civil servants' pay.

Hon T.G. BUTLER: So did the Liberal Party. The member should not sit in his seat looking so saintly with a halo around his head; he too was responsible.

Hon P.G. Pandal: You cut their salaries by 15 per cent.

Hon Fred McKenzie: By 10 per cent.

Hon T.G. BUTLER: Did Hon Phillip Pandal vote against the Bill?

Hon P.G. Pandal: No, we cannot vote against a money Bill.

Hon T.G. BUTLER: I do not want to pursue this matter any further; I have made my point. We should be concerned about a whole range of matters, including the fact that part VIA of the Industrial Relations Act remains in force and prevents any decent sort of agreement being reached between employers and unions. Despite the desire of unions and employer organisations to remove that part of the Act, it has not been possible to do so because of the weight of numbers in this place. Hopefully, that situation will be improved after the next election.

HON E.J. CHARLTON (Central) [5.33 pm]: The first matter I wish to briefly comment on relates to a statement made today by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics predicting a rosy and positive future for the agricultural industries in Australia. When statements such as that are made, it is time to take a close look at the future of agriculture in this country. I warn all those associated with the rural industries to be alert about the future of those industries. These types of statements are obviously based on a projection of figures as a result of a movement in those commodities in the preceding 12 months. I am the first to acknowledge and accept with a great deal of satisfaction and pleasure that there has been an increase in grain prices worldwide in the last 12 months. In addition, the following events have occurred: An increase in wool values to Australia; the potential for the beef market to improve; as a consequence of those things, the sheep meat market has improved; and also horticulture has improved. All of those things are very much dependent on what happens in other parts of the world and, therefore, it is irresponsible to make five year projections.

It was stated today that the reason for this optimistic outlook was the North American drought; I remind members that the so called drought reduced grain tonnages in the United States from 57 million to 50 million. That may be significant in relation to the amount that goes on the world market, but in itself it is not a major reduction. Also, just as easily at any time in the next two or three years the reverse situation could apply. All that is necessary is a change of acreage plantings in the United States. A great deal of discussion has taken place about the various programs currently in place and proposed changes which would not only allow, but also encourage, a higher rate of production. Certainly, the grain traders in the United States are very much in favour of that course of action. They do not want to increase the world price, but they want to increase throughput.

Governments are often inclined to take notice of recommendations and prophecies made by professionals in these areas, but they are on very thin ice if they attach a great deal of significance to many of these reports. Although I acknowledge the standing of the organisation which made the forecast, I warn the Government, individuals and organisations that it is extremely dangerous to predict events five years ahead in an industry as volatile as the rural industry. After all, this industry does not just contend with economic aspects, but also with the weather which plays a significant role in its profitability. Currently grain growers in most areas of Western Australia are obtaining high yields, but some areas of the State are suffering because crops which appeared to be high yielding have been damaged by frost or too much rain. Unfortunately, reports tend to make appraisals covering the State as a whole, but they do not provide a completely accurate picture for all areas. It is important to remember when reading articles in the Press - as we all do frequently - about any industry which is doing well, that many people in that industry, whether it is a primary or secondary industry, may not be doing quite as well as indicated. I reiterate that the statement made today by the BAE should be treated with a great deal of caution.

I wish to lend my support to the Minister for Water Resources, Hon Ernie Bridge, for his proposal to bring water from the north of this State to areas in the south. Such a scheme would benefit Western Australia and Australia as a whole. I have said ever since becoming a member of Parliament that there has been a total dereliction of responsibility in this area because for 20 years no meaningful extensions have been made to the comprehensive water scheme throughout this State. No action was taken until Ernie Bridge became involved, and we applaud him for what he has done.

It is also important to note that the National Party has given a commitment that at least \$20 million will be spent on an ongoing program so that the people of this State can look forward to having reticulated water wherever they may be and at some time in the foreseeable future. That would be unlike the past, and currently when there is no time frame within which people can look forward to having the water connected. For too long we have seen the cost benefits of water in strictly dollar terms and it is time that we all realised that one cannot put cost benefits in relation to the allocation and distribution of water throughout the State in dollar terms because water has a value that cannot be measured in such terms. A number of people chose to go out and develop the State in the expectation they would make a contribution not only to their own lifestyles and incomes, but also to the benefit of the State as a whole, and it is a national disgrace that national and State Governments have allowed the present situation to continue.

It was stated today that a situation is developing in Australia where our road system is breaking down - and the same terminology could be used here - because it is too easy to direct funds elsewhere rather than into the isolated areas even though the people using those roads are the heartbeat of the economic viability and future of Australia. I applaud what Ernie Bridge has done because I believe the initiative in relation to this matter has come from him. I have seen how he has operated in his department. That is something that all members should support, not only to the extent of \$4 million or \$5 million, as has been the case in the past year or so, but to increase that amount fivefold as a very minimum and, as I said initially, get serious about the pipeline from the north, whether from the Ord River or somewhere else.

Water is available in the north and it is absolutely unbelievable that in the driest continent in the world, of which Western Australia is the driest one third, we are poking around the fringes and talking about bleeding some more water from the underground aquifer around the metropolitan area. There is much talk about conservation and the Greenhouse Effect, and about the activities in this Parliament by way of various pieces of legislation dealing with such important issues, but we never seem to get down to saying that while they may be important there is nothing more important than getting water across the outback of this State. We are not merely talking about the towns that currently do not have adequate supplies of water, and we should be looking five to 100 years ahead.

What happened with the implementation of the goldfields water scheme before the turn of the century? That is now chickenfeed. There is no new technology needed as it is already available. There are unemployed people across the State and nation whose labour could be harnessed to implement some labour intensive proposition to instal a new water scheme over a few years. The future benefits flowing from such a scheme would be something that all Western Australians would accept gleefully and appreciate, yet we still seem to be puddling around - if members will excuse the pun - with two or three year programs which are immature and negative and which make one wonder what we are all about in relation to this matter.

I turn now to the police situation, particularly in country areas. This subject is highly topical. I heard the comments of Hon Philip Lockyer earlier today in relation to this matter. I will comment about something a little different. There are too many police tied up controlling traffic. Some people ask immediately, "What do you want to do, let the number of deaths on the roads increase?" No-one wants to see that, but there are too many police officers inside motor vehicles and not enough of them out trying to deal with criminal activities occurring in this State.

This morning I heard the Group Manager, Western Zone (WA and Northern Territory) of the Insurance Council of Australia Ltd, Mr Reg Trigg, talking about current levels of unlawful use of motor vehicles. Over 30 vehicles are stolen each day in this State. As a consequence, policy holders are suffering. We cannot say that this matter is covered by insurance and therefore everyone will be okay because at the end of the day there are still two problems - the financial problem and the effects of people stealing cars. The point I make in relation to the police is that they are frustrated because if they apprehend these people - and there are many they do not apprehend - they find that the car involved is burnt out in a plantation or has been run off the edge of the road and pulled to pieces.

This seems to occur because the people involved have nothing to do. A lot of the young people involved are Aborigines, so there has to be a reason for this happening. We must



apply ourselves to finding the reasons why these people are in this situation. The National Party was successful with amendments it put forward during this session to increase penalties for the unlawful use of motor vehicles, but the fact is that there are police driving up and down highways instead of doing other things. I managed to come in contact with a couple of them today who were from heavy haulage. I was not overloaded, but there was a problem because they seemed to have a multioperational vehicle in which they were carrying radar.

I have been having ongoing consultations with Ministers of Transport since I have been here about the annual pilgrimage of heavy haulage policemen into the wheatbelt to have a go at farmers trying to get their crops to the local receiving point. I have suggested that local government authorities should be given authority to issue permits for farmers' trucks to carry excess loads during harvest time, which is a period of about a month or six weeks and which would allow them to cart their extra load in a legal way. I have been howled down by a number of people about that, including people from the Department of Transport and from the Main Roads Department. They say that such a carrying of excess loads would affect the roads, and all that sort of bulldust. It has nothing to do with that at all, because everyone knows that during the summer greater weights can be carried than during the winter, so that argument does not hold water. This is just a way of gaining revenue from a situation which presents itself annually. During the past two to three weeks - and this will happen during the whole harvesting period - officers have pulled up people who have trucks licensed for 12 months which come onto the roads for no more than two months of the year; the rest of the time they are sitting in the shed producing revenue for the Government from their licensing fees. Yet as soon as these people poke their noses out the door, along come the people from heavy haulage, who pull them up, weigh their load, and find they are a tonne overweight. It has been argued that if farmers are to be allowed to carry an extra load, other people involved in cartage operations should also be allowed to do so. However, that argument is not relevant because those people operate either as contractors, who use their trucks to gain an income as a result of their cartage operations, or as owner operators, who are rewarded for carting their own produce. They do this day after day, month after month and year after year, and they cannot be compared with the farmers I am talking about, who use their vehicles for only a few weeks once a year to cart produce.

I do not support the Main Roads Department or the Police Department carrying on in this fashion, and if we are not prepared to change the law then it is time that those personnel were directed towards concentrating on more meaningful tasks where they would be doing something for the population of Western Australia rather than going up a gravel road near the highway and trying to pick off farmers and fining them \$50, \$200 or \$300 a time for carrying an extra tonne of wheat. There is no better time than now for this to take place because for the last week a wheel has not turned in a lot of farming areas because of the heavy rainfall. When these farmers get going again, they will need to get their produce into the receiving points as quickly as possible so that they can maximise the benefits for themselves and for the nation as a whole. It is time that all of us, particularly those of us who live in rural areas and understand the situation, put on the pressure to relieve these people of their white vans and their scales and put them into other areas which could be of more benefit to the community.

I would like to comment also on the Government's current action, through the Ministry of Education, of doing away with a number of preschool operations in country areas. As a result of the changes to the programming of the operations of these preschool centres, we are finding places throughout the State which have had their preschool teacher taken away from them. Two areas that have been brought to my attention are Buntine and Latham. We often hear the Minister for Community Services telling us what this Government is doing for the family and for education. Last week we debated a Bill dealing with education and the operation of primary schools, but we did not hear anything - as we said at that time - about what would be the involvement of parents in high schools. We hear talk from the Government all the time about the improvements it is making, yet we have now the situation where preschool centres are being closed and teachers are being taken away to become part of the small primary school with which they are associated. I believe that the parents in those areas have good reason to be totally upset about and opposed to what has been taking place, because they have been disadvantaged. It is time that the Minister in particular and the Government as a whole said, "Well, we have got this grandiose plan that will be better for

everyone, but we must look at what its effect will be on areas which have only 20 or 30 children." These people's needs must be respected because of their contribution to society, in both family and monetary terms. It is ironic that this operation has been called the RIP scheme, because if one were to look at what is happening to these operations, one would think that the people concerned will end up hoping they will rest in peace. I do not remember what RIP stands for - Hon Norman Moore might know - but it is another new fangled idea that the Government has brought in.

Hon P.G. Pendal: Rascals in Power!

Hon N.F. Moore: Temporarily!

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: Whatever it stands for, I bring to the attention of the Government that these parents have a crisis on their hands. The Government should not be obsessed with implementing across the board a policy which is obviously detrimental to isolated and small communities. The Government has promoted a number of initiatives over the last 12 months which have reached the headlines of the newspapers, such as child care centres, changes to the "Better Schools" system, changes to the housing policy, pegging of interest rates, extensions to the freeway, and electrification of the railways. These policies appear to be very good on the surface, but they do not count in the rural communities that I am talking about; in a lot of cases they have proved to be detrimental; they have not improved the quality of life, education or health of the people. One example is the move by the Federal Government to change the formula by which pharmacists operate. We have seen a number of pharmacies closing down, and when the pharmacy closes down it does not become a viable proposition for the doctor to stay in that area because many of the patients will travel to the next town, so the next thing is that the area also loses the services of the doctor. I recognise that this Government has tried to address that problem by taking it up with the Federal Government, and that the Minister for Health has said he will promote the implementation of the Kamien report, which we all support.

I have given just a few examples of where people in metropolitan Western Australia can see that there have been improvements, yet people in isolated communities have been adversely affected. We have now before the Parliament a reserves and revestment Bill, where the same thing has happened. We have also before the Parliament a Bill covering the mineral sands project, where the people of Muchea have not been taken into account. The Government, in implementing a new policy, gets on side the people who are affected by that policy, such as the teachers, the health organisations, and the nurses' training operations in the metropolitan areas, but the hospitals in many country areas do not have sufficient nursing staff, and we are finding that teachers do not want to live in isolated areas. I know of one high school, which is only 100 miles from Perth, which has not had a resident principal for about 15 years. I have heard that next year the principal at Kambalda High School will travel home to Perth every weekend. The people in these areas are not receiving the benefits that everybody down here believes they are.

*Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 pm*

HON N.F. MOORE (Lower North) [7.30 pm]: I take this opportunity afforded to members to comment on issues affecting people in my electorate. Having an electorate which covers half of Western Australia means that I have an interest in aircraft, and I was especially interested in the answer to a question in this House the other day. It was a very long answer to a very long question about the Government's new toy, the Kingair, it has on charter for five years. When we were in Government, the Premier and his Ministers used aircraft to travel in my electorate fairly frequently, because that is the only way to get around if one has only limited time. When a charter was necessary, the Minister concerned would charter an aircraft from a private company for the duration of the trip, and that would be the end of it. But here we find, at a time which is virtually election time, this Government deciding to take out a five year contract over a Kingair aircraft, and to guarantee the operator of that aircraft \$122 500 per month for five years. That is the minimum amount to be paid. It will also pay \$1 750 per hour to operate that plane. I have been in a Kingair, and it is a very nice aircraft. It is very suitable for flying around electorates like mine, where many airstrips are not constructed of bitumen.

Hon Graham Edwards: It was very suitable when it was used at the weekend to get some equipment and people down to Cocklebidly.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I was pleased that that was so.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: It takes a life raft, does it not?

Hon Graham Edwards: It was very efficient when it was used at the weekend.

Hon N.F. MOORE: It would not have been very difficult to hire an aircraft to do that job; a number are available for hire. It seems to me the reason for the Government taking this aircraft on a five year contract is that it sees it as being useful for carting Ministers and their advisers, ALP candidates, the Press, and ALP members of Parliament on trips around the country.

Hon Mark Nevill: I have not been on it.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Then the member should talk to somebody, because his colleagues, Hon Tom Stephens, who is the ALP candidate for Northern Rivers, and Hon Jim Brown have been on it. It seems to fly with great regularity into those parts of Western Australia which are difficult to reach by car.

If we look at the contract of \$1 750 per hour, that is a lot of money. The minimum monthly fee is \$122 500. The minimum amount the contract is worth is \$1.47 million per annum, or \$7.35 million for five years. That is quite a tidy sum of money, and the person who operates this aircraft has been able to achieve a very fine contract. I have no argument against the company involved; if one is good enough to negotiate this sort of contract, one deserves a pat on the back, because it demonstrates a good deal of business acumen. But I am critical of the Government finding it necessary to enter into this sort of contract, particularly, as I said by interjection the other day, in a pre-election environment.

Since the Government has had this aircraft - brought out at a cost of \$60 000 from America; so an additional \$60 000 was paid to get it here - I have seen it in several parts of Western Australia, and heard about its activities on a number of occasions. One day I arrived in Geraldton on a regular passenger service by air to find that this Kingair had just arrived in Geraldton carrying the Minister for Education and Hon Jim Brown on their way to the opening of a school at Northampton. Presumably the aircraft took those members back to Perth after that function. Flying time to and from Geraldton I would estimate at about two hours, and at \$1 750 per hour that comes out at \$3 500. That was just to enable the Minister to open a school when there is a regular air service to and from Geraldton every day of the week. In fact there is usually a choice between Ansett and Skywest, and the price of a ticket to Geraldton is probably \$120 or thereabouts. For the Minister and the member to go by regular air service would have cost in the vicinity of \$400 or \$500 as opposed to the \$3 500 it cost, according to my estimate, to use the Government's Kingair.

The weekend before last the Minister for Transport, Bob Pearce, decided it was necessary to undertake a tour through the Gascoyne and Murchison areas to find out just how good or how bad the roads are in that part of the State. I could have told him in one word had he asked me; it would have saved him a considerable amount of trouble. But he took a trip from Perth to Carnarvon, from Carnarvon to Coral Bay, from Coral Bay to Meekatharra, down to Cue, Mt Magnet, Sandstone, Yalgoo and back to Perth. My estimate is that that trip would have taken six flying hours, which, at \$1 750 per hour, would work out at about \$10 500 for the Minister's weekend of travel.

I might add that in the last State election the Leader of the Opposition was given a charter allowance of, I think, about \$10 000 for the whole election campaign.

Hon A.A. Lewis: Six thousand.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Thank you, Mr Lewis; \$6 000 for the whole election campaign, which enabled him to fly around in single engined aircraft - Beechcraft Barron, Cessna 310 and the like - at great discomfort at that time of the year, and at considerable expense to other members on top of the \$6 000 we were permitted to spend. At the same time, the Government was flying its Ministers around in Citation jets and a whole variety of exotic aircraft to all parts of Western Australia, ostensibly on Government business but clearly electioneering on behalf of the Labor Party.

Here we have, in a pre-election environment, the Minister for Transport finding it necessary for the first time to talk to local authorities in the Murchison about their roads, and spending, in my estimation, \$10 000 on chartering an aircraft. He also found it necessary to take with

him Hon Tom Stephens, who is not the member for that area but who hopes to be after the election, and at the present time he cannot fly around that part of the world without paying for it himself, so he found a seat on board this aircraft. The Labor Party candidate for Northern Rivers, who always seems to be able to find a seat on an aircraft somewhere, whether it is the flying magistrate or the flying Minister -

Hon Mark Nevill: What about the flying nun?

Hon N.F. MOORE: Perhaps the flying nun was there too; everybody else seems to have had a trip. He was obviously canvassing for votes for the forthcoming election.

Hon H.W. Gayfer: Was it a three or a four seater aircraft?

Hon N.F. MOORE: I think the Kingair is a six seater, and those who have been in one will know that when it is equipped with six seats it is very comfortable and leaves room for the cocktail cabinet or whatever else is needed to sustain one for the duration of the long flights to and from remote parts of Western Australia. It is more comfortable than the Cessna 340, a 182 or a 210 that Mr Lockyer and Mr Maslen have acquired for themselves to get around; their aircraft is a single engine craft that is not pressurised and rather uncomfortable in the summer, to say the least. Here we have a taxpayer funded Kingair to fly, in great comfort, the Labor Party candidate to the area to try to win votes for the next State election. Without doubt it is a rot. The Government should not be using aircraft in this way. It is a disgraceful waste of money; the \$7 million spent over five years is an extraordinary sum of money and clearly the intent of the contract is to make it easier for Government Ministers to get into electorates like mine, Northern Rivers and Eyre to try and shore up its election prospects, which I must say are pretty minimal at the present time.

Hon G.E. Masters: Did you know that there is an equivalent aircraft available for \$1 000 an hour with no minimum charge? It is a Beechcraft Kingair.

Hon N.F. MOORE: No I did not, but that is most interesting. I have not seen that one but it is considerably cheaper and it is possible that it is not quite as luxurious. I am interested to know more about that.

Hon G.E. Masters: No birds!

Hon N.F. MOORE: Indeed.

As part of the trip made by Mr Pearce into the Murchison, he rang the local authorities before he was due to arrive and arranged lunch, breakfast and free drinks, and asked the authorities to pay half of the cost. Nobody was prepared to pay half of the cost because he, the Minister, was going to do it anyway and he was deciding who should be invited to the function. I was told that at Meekatharra a long list of people were invited by the Minister to a free lunch which was paid for by the taxpayer. In Cue there were free drinks in the hotel, and in Mt Magnet brunch was provided by the Minister.

Hon Tom Stephens: Do you want me to talk about the free lunch that you provided at Mt Magnet?

Hon N.F. MOORE: We paid for it!

Hon Tom Stephens: But nobody came. You ought to be embarrassed.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I am not embarrassed. There were people there; the member is a clod. We did not have the facilities to go into the town of Mt Magnet and say that this is the Minister for Transport speaking and I want you to put on a lunch.

Hon Tom Stephens: You invited the whole town and only 16 people turned up.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I will tell the member a story in a minute that will amuse him.

The shire wanted to know who was going to pay for the Minister's lunch, and ultimately it was the Minister for Transport who picked up the tab using taxpayers' money, which he has oodles of.

Hon Tom Stephens: Mr Moore, you are wrong.

Hon N.F. MOORE: How many people turned up to the free brunch? I was not invited. Who paid for the function?

Hon Tom Stephens: You are wrong.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I asked a question on notice about who paid for the luncheon, the free drinks and the brunch and the answer was that it was part of a normal Government arrangement, and that was all I was told. Perhaps Mr Stephens could tell me who paid, because I know that the local authorities did not, and I am sure that the local Labor Party branches did not because they do not exist.

Hon Mark Nevill: That is good news for you.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Six years ago the then Leader of the Opposition, Mr Burke, took a trip around Murchison-Eyre and put on free grog, free barbecues and everything needed at these functions in Mt Magnet, Cue, Meekatharra and then he went to Wiluna, Leonora and Laverton. I went along to the function at Mt Magnet and doubled the crowd, and I must admit that I drank more than my fair share.

Hon Mark Nevill: You are a freeloader.

Hon N.F. MOORE: It was an interesting occasion and I am sure that Mr Burke went away knowing that his chance of winning Murchison-Eyre was as slim as ever, which was proved to be right with the election result. The Labor Party still has no hope of winning that seat even though it is carting around its candidate for Northern Rivers at taxpayers' expense.

Hon Tom Stephens: Who carted your candidate around Northern Rivers over the weekend?

Hon N.F. MOORE: He is a member of Parliament. The Liberal Party candidate is a member of Parliament and he paid for the charter.

Hon Tom Stephens: Did he?

Hon N.F. MOORE: Yes. Who paid for Hon Tom Stephens on his trip around my electorate on the weekend before last?

Hon Tom Stephens: I drove my own car around your electorate to try and do the job that you should be doing. I found your constituents were pretty upset with you.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Did Hon Tom Stephens personally contribute to the \$1 750 per hour for the Kingair? I am sure he will answer that some time.

I understand that next weekend the Minister for Tourism is going to Carnarvon and Exmouth in the Kingair to launch the Government's policies for those places.

Hon Mark Nevill: Are you against progress?

Hon N.F. MOORE: No, I am against the spending of public money to pay for Ministers flying around the State more than they need to. I understand that the Minister will be visiting my electorate to tell of wonderful new schemes and then flying out again at great expense to the taxpayer. Not only is the Minister using the Kingair, but she is also filling it up with the Press to make sure she gets the coverage she thinks she deserves. The member for Gascoyne is giving the Public Service people a lift from Carnarvon to Exmouth because there is not enough room for them in the Kingair. The aircraft is clearly being used for Government propaganda purposes in a pre-election environment to try to shore up the Government's chances in the remote parts of Western Australia.

The Kingair is a \$7 million waste of money. It is a scandal and I guess that between now and the next election we will see it flying all over the countryside full of Ministers with their prawns, crayfish and the things that they carted around before the last election. The Labor Party wants to get its snout into the trough as it has done for the last six years.

Hon Mark Nevill: You are dying to get your nose in.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I am not interested in that sort of thing; we flew around in the cheapest aircraft I know when we were in Government and Sir Charles Court drove himself around in a Commodore car while Mr Burke had to have a valet! The attitude of the supposed representatives of the workers is that as soon as the Labor Party gets its hands on the public cheque book -

Hon Tom Stephens: Nothing is too good for the workers!

Hon N.F. MOORE: - it gets the biggest LTD motor cars for the Ministers and a car for the wife to go shopping in; an LTD I might add. The Labor Party gets the best executive transport available. I have seen Ministers flying up and down in Citation jets, and now the

Government has given itself a \$7 million present to fly around the remote parts of Western Australia.

Hon Graham Edwards: Does not the Leader of the Opposition have a chauffeur driven LTD?

Hon N.F. MOORE: The Government wants the Kingair to land at airstrips like Mt Magnet, Yalgoo, Cue, and all those places where people would not vote for it in a million years.

Hon Graham Edwards: It can be used at places like Cocklebiddy when there is an emergency.

Hon N.F. MOORE: We have already been through that. It is only necessary to look at Perth or Jandakot Airport, and talk to Mr Masters about the \$1 000 Beechcraft Kingair that is available, to see that there are dozens and dozens of aircraft that can be chartered or hired.

Hon Tom Stephens: Do you deny that you travelled in and out of aboriginal reserves in a VIP aircraft drinking out of china tea cups?

Hon N.F. MOORE: No, I will not deny that at all.

Hon Tom Stephens: Well, there you are then. You should be embarrassed because you are a hypocrite.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Of course I was embarrassed. If I had known that was going to happen I would not have gone. But I went with Hon Tom Stephens' colleague, the member for Kalgoorlie, and the then Federal Liberal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. I was absolutely astounded and disgusted at the way in which Federal Ministers get around, and I bet Hon Tom Stephens' current Federal colleagues do exactly the same thing. Would he walk back from Cundeelee?

Hon Tom Stephens: There we have it - Mr Moore drinking out of china teacups in his Aboriginal communities.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon N.F. MOORE: Yes, I could not believe it - it was extraordinary. But everybody should experience it at some time in their lives to know just how our Federal colleagues live compared with us. It was the most unbelievable experience. I will tell the House what happened. We hopped into a great big aircraft, and were flown around - the airstrip at Cundeelee had to be graded so that this thing could actually land there. We sat back in armchair comfort and drank and ate food off beautiful china crockery with silver cutlery - the whole bit; and Air Force people served us. We landed and hopped out, the Minister waved his hand to all the people, then we got back in and flew off again. That is how the Federal Government operates, and members opposite have the same delusions of grandeur. They want to do the same thing - that is why they have given themselves a big aircraft.

I want to get on to a few other matters. The question of the Great Northern Highway was raised today by my colleague, Hon Phil Lockyer, and I support all he said about that. I have been asking questions about this highway since 1979 when a promise was made to seal it, double width, from Wubin to Meekatharra as a result of the closure of the railway line. The last question I asked was, I think, in 1986 when I asked how long it was expected to take before the road was sealed to double width standard from Wubin to Meekatharra, and I worked out that from 1986 it would take 14 years at the then determined rate of expenditure.

Hon Mark Nevill: A lot of it has been realigned.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The member should take a trip on it some time. I dubbed the sealing of that road the Meekatharra 2000 plan because it had certain similarities to a few other plans that the Government has.

Hon Mark Nevill: I'll tell you what, it needs one.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I am told now that, as a result of Mr Pearce's and the Government's sudden interest in this road in this very close pre-election situation, they had to fly around to have a look, and they tell me Mr Pearce actually drove down the road. No doubt it was a Government car and not his car so he would not have felt quite so bad when the car went over the bumps and the rocks were thrown up against the windscreen. However, I am pleased that the Government is now taking notice of the condition of this road. It is a disgusting road; it is very dangerous between Mt Magnet and Meekatharra. In parts there is

about a six inch drop from the edges of the bitumen to the edges of the actual road and it is totally unsatisfactory, bearing in mind that the traffic on that road is considerable.

I have made the point before in this House that a road is like a chain - it is only as good as its weakest point. The Government is spending millions of dollars on a road between Port Hedland and Newman - a road, I might add, which is located on a route which was a compromise, and like a lot of compromises it pleased nobody. That road, through the Hamersley Ranges to Newman, is being sealed at great expense. When it is finished we will have a magnificent road from Port Hedland down to Meekatharra - a big, double width, super highway. From Meekatharra to Wubin there is a skinny, single width, bitumen road in poor condition.

Hon Mark Nevill: Only half of it.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Okay, only half of it; but the trouble is, it is in patches. So one cannot say that from Wubin to Paynes Find it is all double width. Stretches of it are double width, then it is single width for a while, then it goes back to double width. That highlights the problem of the weak link in the road. An enormous amount of traffic will be generated by this new way of getting from the Kimberley and the Pilbara to Perth. People will not now have to go up the coastal highway, or they can go up one way and come back the other. It will be quicker for people in the inland mining towns of the Pilbara and Port Hedland to get to Perth on the new highway. There will be an enormous increase in traffic, particularly large trucks, down that Great Northern Highway and it will put enormous pressure on the Meekatharra-Wubin section.

I support my colleague, Hon Phil Lockyer, who raised this matter again today; I raise it for about the twentieth time in the last six years. The Government has done virtually nothing about that road.

Hon Mark Nevill: That's not true.

Hon N.F. MOORE: It has done virtually nothing from Mt Magnet to Meekatharra, which is the most serious part, except for a couple of miles just south of Meekatharra; it has taken an extraordinary period of time to get a very small bit of sealing done.

Hon Mark Nevill: Tens of millions of dollars have been spent on that road.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I do not know where it has gone. The member should go and have a look some time and then tell me where it has gone because I cannot find any evidence of it; except, as I said, that bit down by the Bluebird Mine south of Meekatharra.

A very interesting and serious debate has been going on about road funding in Australia. While I do not often agree with the Mayor of Kalgoorlie, Mr Finlayson, he came out and attacked the Federal Government for its very poor record on road funding. He is the President of the Country Shire Councils Association and was writing in that capacity, and I must say I agree with him entirely. It is interesting that in today's *Kalgoorlie Miner* the new Federal Minister for Land Transport, Mr Bob Brown, wrote and attacked the Mayor, which I thought was a bit silly because the Mayor of Kalgoorlie is in fact a friend of the local member for Kalgoorlie and his colleagues up there.

Hon A.A. Lewis: Would this be the Federal member for Kalgoorlie - the bloke who is on the outer at the moment? Hasn't the Labor Party discarded him because he told the truth?

Hon N.F. MOORE: Yes, he is the fellow who crossed the floor. That is interesting and demonstrates quite clearly to anybody who is interested in these things that a person who is a member of the Federal Labor Party cannot have a different point of view from the Prime Minister.

The point I am making is that Bob Brown, the Federal Labor Minister for Land Transport, attacked Mayor Finlayson who said the Federal Government's record on road funding is abysmal - and the mayor is right. Anybody who goes around the country parts of Western Australia will know that the record of the Labor Government on roads is pathetic. Certainly not one new road in the electorates of Murchison-Eyre and Gascoyne has been started by this Government - not one inch.

Hon Tom Stephens: That is a condemnation of the local members of Parliament, surely. If that is how ineffectual you have been over the last six years, what an extraordinary admission to this House. No wonder the electorate needs a new member.

Hon G.E. Masters: You are a complete nut case.

Hon P.H. Lockyer: Do you know they call Mr Stephens the Minister's baggage boy?

Hon N.F. MOORE: Is that right? That is a compliment.

In the last six years not one inch of new bitumen road has been laid in the Murchison-Eyre and Gascoyne part of Western Australia.

Hon Tom Stephens: That is an untruth.

Hon N.F. MOORE: It is an absolute disgrace. When the Liberal Party was in Government it sealed the road from Leonora to Leinster; and from Yalgoo to Mt Magnet.

Hon Mark Nevill: It is all peeling up.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Okay, but it was done in a hurry because people wanted it.

Hon Mark Nevill: The road foundation is RS.

Hon Fred McKenzie: What about the road to Monkey Mia? You don't want to hear about that.

Hon N.F. MOORE: We were building new roads for people who lived in remote areas. Members opposite are not doing that, and people know it. People are arguing strongly about it. The Country Shire Councils Association has had a bellyful of this Government, as has the Royal Automobile Club. They reckon the Government is keeping all its money to spend on social security and those sorts of areas of expenditure - and that is what it is doing. It is putting hardly any money back into roads, people know it, and the roads are suffering because the Government is not spending the money it is taking out of the average motorist's pocket when he buys his petrol. The Government is not putting it back into roads and people are getting tired of it. The people who suffer most are not those who drive from Perth out to Midland, or those who drive from Perth City up to the end of the northern freeway. Those people do not suffer, because their cars go along bitumen roads. It is the people who drive around the bush on dirt roads whose cars are wrecked in a very short time who are saying it is about time they got their share, and they will get it when we get back into office.

The Labor candidate for Northern Rivers and his upper House colleagues have been seeking to score a point or two in Mt Magnet over the district high school situation. The problem there is that the school consists of three separate sites - the preprimary centre, the primary school and the high school annexe.

Hon Tom Stephens: And you have done nothing about it for six years.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Pardon? I am not the Minister. The member is a drip!

Hon Mark Nevill: They were complaining about that in 1978.

Hon Tom Stephens: This is the first time I have ever heard you speak about this in the Chamber.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Hon Tom Stephens was not here the last time I talked about it. I will give him a copy of my speeches about it and I will send him the correspondence the member for Murchison-Eyre and I have sent, which has been totally ignored by the Minister. If the Minister comes out in Mt Magnet now and says she will do something about it the people there will laugh in her face. They will laugh in the Minister's face and say, "Until you do that and we see it actually happen, you will have no credibility. You are just telling pre-election lies."

Hon Mark Nevill: What did you do between 1979 and 1983?

Hon N.F. MOORE: I will tell Hon Mark Nevill. Prior to 1982 the Mt Magnet school was located on one site.

Hon Mark Nevill: If you had not closed down the railway, they would not have had the third one.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I hope we will be hearing a speech from Hon Mark Nevill. In 1982 the Mt Magnet Primary School was located on one site; it was becoming overcrowded and had transportables. I convinced the Minister for Education - by walking around and knocking on doors, taking up a petition and presenting it to this Parliament and taking the Minister and the



Director General of Education, Dr Vickery, to meet with the parents and citizens association in Mt Magnet - to form a district high school in the town. Since the railway line had been closed there was a big piece of land in the middle of town, which was the ideal location for a new school. I convinced the Minister for Sport and Recreation to do a deal with the shire and the Education Department to build a grassed oval and a new district high school annex. That was put in place in 1982 and the school opened in February 1983. We then lost Government. That is what had been achieved until 1983, and that is what is still there now. The intention always was that the primary school site would be moved to the high school annex and a new school would be built on the old railway reserve site, adjacent to the new grassed oval, which is magnificent, and the other sporting facilities which have been made available in Mt Magnet. That was the sensible way of going about it. For six years you, Mr Deputy President (Hon P.H. Lockyer), the member for Murchison-Eyre, Mr Ross Lightfoot, and I have repeatedly argued with the then Minister for Education, Mr Pearce, to do something about it. I believe that the present Minister for Education, Carmen Lawrence, is actually going to look at it and presumably she will make a promise to the people of Mt Magnet.

Hon Tom Stephens: Not a promise.

Hon N.F. MOORE: She will not make a promise?

Hon Tom Stephens: It will not be a promise; it will be an announcement and a commitment.

Hon N.F. MOORE: That is wonderful. The people of Mt Magnet will laugh in the Minister's face and say, "When you have done it, we will believe you." Members opposite have had six years and have spent virtually nothing in remote areas of Western Australia. Members opposite should look at the Budget papers -

Hon Mark Nevill: I have.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Well, the member should look at the allocation for the Murchison-Eyre region, because if one is not an Aboriginal one gets nothing. All the capital works spent in that area have gone on Aboriginal schools out in the desert; nothing has been spent anywhere else, certainly nothing in Mt Magnet, and now the Government is going to make a promise for the next election. How disgusting. We made a promise in 1983, which would have been honoured by now had we been elected. The promise that we will fix it still stands; we will fix it after February next year and the Government will not get a chance to do anything about its promises because its members will be sitting over on this side of the House.

Even more important than that, back in 1984 a mining company - Metana Minerals NL - said to the then Minister for Education, "We will buy the primary school site; we will give you a couple of hundred thousand dollars for that so we can divide it up into housing blocks because it is right in the middle of town. You can use the money you can get from that to build a new school." What did the Minister say? He said, "It does not fit in with our policies; we do not have the rest of the money."

Hon Tom Stephens: That is not true.

Hon N.F. MOORE: That is exactly what was said; I will give Hon Tom Stephens the correspondence if he does not believe it. The member is being told lies if he does not believe that. The Minister for Education missed a very good opportunity to get some money from that mining company to pay for the new school, so the people up there will not have a bar of Hon Tom Stephens. If that member comes flying into the town in the Government's Kingair, trying to get the shire to pay for his free lunch and promising some things he has had six years to do something about and has done nothing, they will laugh at him and tell him to get lost. When Hon Tom Stephens brings along the Labor candidate from Carnarvon, flying him around in the Kingair, putting him on the ground, showing him to the people and putting him back in the plane again, they will laugh because that person will not get off his backside and go around knocking on doors or asking people what their problems are, and do all the things everybody else has to do. All he does is put his photograph in the newspaper and he expects people to vote for him.

Hon Mark Nevill: He has you worried.

Hon N.F. MOORE: He does not have me worried at all.

Hon Doug Wenn: Why are you carrying on?

Hon N.F. MOORE: Because I want people, including Hon Doug Wenn, to know that they have a dud on their hands. Members opposite should not get carried away by thinking they are going to win that electorate.

Hon Tom Stephens: You have not said a true word. He has not even been in the Kingair.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Of course he has.

Hon Tom Stephens: He has not. Don't tell untruths.

Hon N.F. MOORE: He is going up to Exmouth this weekend in it. He goes around with the magistrate at Government expense, to do some duties he has to do out in the electorate.

Hon Tom Stephens: He is a clerk of courts and is entitled to travel with the magistrate in accordance with his duties.

Hon N.F. MOORE: He probably is entitled to travel with him, but when he gets there - well, he probably would not knock on doors because that is beneath his dignity -

Hon Tom Stephens: He has you rattled.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The question of Cue is also of some interest because this Government has done two things in Cue since it came to office: Firstly, it fixed up the Gentlemen's Club because when Brian Burke drove through on that rather funny trip he made before the last election when nobody turned up at his keg except me, he promised that the Government would fix up the club. He promised the shire he would fix it up and to give him his due, he did so. It is really good; the shire has moved in to a great old restored building.

Hon Mark Nevill interjected.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Okay, the Government has done three things. Thirdly, the Government closed the Mines Department office. The Murchison is booming; more mining activity is going on there now than probably has occurred in its entire history. When one flies over it at night it looks like St George's Terrace - there are lights from one end of the Murchison to the other; mining companies are operating everywhere, as are prospectors and exploration companies, and they will continue to operate until the gold tax starts to bite. There is business going on and there is a lot of activity. So what does the Government do? It closes the Mines Department office in Cue, making people travel to either Meekatharra or Mt Magnet. That is the sum total of the Government's interest in what is happening in that part of the world.

I notice in the newspaper that there is some prospect of the Leinster mine being reopened. If that happens, it will be magnificent. As members know, Leinster is a very pleasant town which has been in mothballs for a number of years because of the economic circumstances surrounding the nickel industry. I seem to remember that on a couple of occasions in the past there has been talk of reopening the mine, but nothing has happened. I hope that the talk at this time is not simply pre-election talk designed to give people some degree of hope that the mine will open and that the talk does not eventually fade away once the election has been held, because it would be a tragedy if this mine were not reopened. As you know, Mr Deputy President, it is a magnificent operation. One of its problems is that perhaps it was too magnificent and too much money was spent on its infrastructure. It was a Rolls Royce when perhaps what was needed was a Holden.

Hon Mark Nevill: I would not have called it a magnificent operation.

Hon N.F. MOORE: All right, Hon Mark Nevill would not have called it magnificent but then he has his own views about things. The company did things in the most expensive way; it treated its workers in a way which many people would regard as being somewhat extravagant. However, Leinster was a very happy and delightful town, and many people were distressed when the place closed down. It was a very sad place during its final weeks. Now there is some hope, with Western Mining Corporation buying into the operation, that it may be restarted. I hope this is not just pre-election talk designed to boost the flagging fortunes of a Government but is a reality and there is some hope that in the very near future this mine will be reopened.

Hon Mark Nevill: How would it boost our fortunes?

Hon N.F. MOORE: It would indicate to the people in a funny sort of way that the Government was actually doing something.

Hon Mark Nevill: There is hardly anyone in the town.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I am talking about the perception created in the general community. The Government is desperately trying to get some projects off the ground; it has had a casino led recovery for the last six years. It would be very nice for David Parker to get up and say, "Leinster will be reopened; it will provide X number of jobs and X amount of dollars to the State's Treasury." That is nice stuff if the Government is trying to convince people it is doing something about the development of Western Australia. As I say, I hope it is not just talk. If it is Western Mining Corporation which is making the decision, that is fine; it will make the right decision as it usually does because, as Hon Mark Nevill knows, it is a very competent company. I hope sincerely, as I am sure do you, Mr Deputy President, that Leinster gets going again very soon.

The last thing I want to talk about tonight is this business of reserve land out in the central reserve. About a month or so ago I received a letter from the Shire of Laverton advising me that it was the Government's intention to create certain A class reserves for the use and benefit of Aborigines in the central desert area. The Department of Land Administration had written to the shire asking for comments on the proposed increase in the size of the central reserve. If members look at a map of Western Australia they will notice that the central reserves cover an enormous area; however, the current Minister for Aboriginal Affairs intends to increase the reserves even further. The department wrote to the shire stating the Government's proposal and asking for the shire's view. The shire did not support the creation of the additional reserves as it felt that there was no need for additional land for Aborigines because the Cosmo Newberry Reserve, which runs to millions of hectares, had been abandoned. The Cosmo Newberry settlement was big enough to warrant the provision of a school, but at the moment no-one lives there, so the whole reserve is hardly being used at all. With so much land available, the Laverton Shire asks why the land is not being put to use instead of the Government's creating another reserve.

Before the shire's letter to the Department of Land Administration had even been delivered, the shire received another letter stating that the Executive Council had decided to do certain things. That letter lists approvals for a variety of class A reserves in the central desert area. I found out, as did the shire, without much notice, that the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Bridge, was going out into the desert to officially announce the handing over of the reserves. Being a little concerned, as was the shire, I telephoned the Department of Land Administration to ask whether these reserves were the same as the reserves which were the subject of the shire's correspondence. I was told they were. I was also told that the normal procedure would not be abided by; the department was told by the Minister not to wait for any responses; Cabinet had decided that the handing over of the land had to be expedited as a matter of urgency - to put everything aside, to excise the land and hand it over. The shire was very angry about that and has written to me, and to the Minister. The shire is very annoyed that its views were first of all sought and then not considered by a Government which is desperately trying to shore up its electoral prospects.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs had decided that he had better get out and give some land to the Aborigines; he had better look like he was giving some land rights. The Government is creating as many reserves as it can as quickly as it can without going through the normal processes; decisions are being made by Cabinet, and Cabinet is directing the Minister to do all these things. The Department of Land Administration cops the flak from the local authority but in fact the department is being told what to do. That is not good enough. I have telephoned the Minister's office to ask for a list of all land which has been given to Aboriginal communities since 1986 when the then Premier Brian Burke said he would resign if land rights were introduced in Western Australia. For some reason an answer could not be provided because the information would take a long time to collate. I do not know how much land is involved because I still do not have an answer although five days have passed since I asked for the list. If it takes five days to collate the information the list must be a very long one.

I suggest that we have de facto land rights in Western Australia. We knocked out the land rights Bill in this House so that people could not get land by right and - even though Brian Burke said, "If land rights are brought in after the next election, I will resign" - the Government has found a way around that situation by creating reserves and 99 year leases, and in that way is providing land rights to Aboriginal people. Of course, the problem is that

the control of the land is in the hands of the Aboriginal Lands Trust which is controlled by a group of Aboriginal people who are perhaps these days city dwellers and who use the land in whatever way they deem fit. The people who actually live in the area have no personal control or direct interest in the land in an ownership sense. Maybe we should ultimately look at providing land for Aboriginal people to use to build their own houses, or run some stock or whatever they wish.

Hon Tom Stephens: That is what we are doing.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Not by individual ownership. The Government does everything by communal ownership. The Government does everything by State ownership through the Aboriginal Lands Trust. The member assumes - I guess it is the Communist or the socialist in the member, or whatever it is - that Aborigines do not want to own anything. Community ownership is socialism. If that is what the member wants for Aboriginal people he should say so. Many Aboriginal people whom I know would not mind a little land to own freehold. There is a huge amount of land in the central desert.

[Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.]

Hon N.F. MOORE: The huge area of land which is being given over to reserves for the use and benefit of Aboriginal people is really for the use and benefit of the Aboriginal Lands Trust and nobody else. Regrettably, that is the path down which we are going.

Hon Tom Stephens: The title was given to community organisations. It is not fair to say it was given to the Aboriginal Lands Trust.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The member knows as well as I do that many communities do not handle their affairs very well. We have had instances of that and suggestions have been made about different communities and the different people involved, and the activities of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, the sacking of its head - all the sorts of accusations and suggestions about the way in which Aboriginal communities are being managed - so to hand over land to Aboriginal communities is no different from leaving it in the hands of the trust. I suggest to Mr Stephens that one day he start to think about Aboriginal people as people who might like to have some land of their own by freehold title. They can then own something to pass on to their children. That is the way to go instead of having huge tracts of land which virtually are meaningless. If the member visited Cosmo Newberry - as I am sure he will when it becomes part of his electorate - he will find no-one there. The only interest in Cosmo Newberry Reserve is Aubrey Lynch's interest in the mining rights and mineral potential.

I am very concerned that the wishes of the local authorities have been totally ignored in this matter; that it appears the Government for its own purposes is rushing through the granting of the reserves, is sending the Minister out to hand them over to get as much kudos as possible. Very large areas of Western Australia are being put into the hands of the Aboriginal Lands Trust and Aboriginal communities on 99 year leases which is virtually freehold title anyway. I support the legislation.

HON A.A. LEWIS (Lower Central) [8.18 pm]: Members would be horrified if I did not start my comments with a little cruise around my electorate.

Hon Mark Nevill interjected.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: Hon Mark Nevill has suggested that I travel by Kingair and do it the comfortable way, as he and Mr Stephens do.

Hon Mark Nevill: I am trying to hurry you up.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: That would be extremely nice but all my parliamentary career, like Hon Mick Gayfer, I have had to drive around the electorate and I will do so in this case.

I have some questions which I would normally ask the Minister for Budget Management at the Committee stage but in the light of glasnost, and greater communication, I will ask the questions now so that the Minister will be able to respond at the end of the second reading debate.

The first thing I would like to discuss is education. It was interesting to hear Hon Norman Moore talk about problems concerning education in his electorate. While he was speaking I was meditating about my electorate and the problems with education in Lower Central. I came up with a somewhat frightening list.

There has been a need for years for an upgrading of the Donnybrook High School. The toilets have been a problem for something like 16 years, so that problem has concerned not only this Government. The previous Government started to build a junior primary school which was meant to be the start of a reorganisation. There was a plan to extend the sportsground and join it to the convent next door but, under this Government, those plans have been dropped. I suppose one can understand why. Donnybrook has a 66 per cent Liberal vote, and has had a magnificent member for 17 years or more.

Hon G.E. Masters: Yet you have not spent a penny on the toilets.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: Mr Masters was a member of the previous mob, so he should not get too smart about that. The plans were gradually going ahead but we had to get the Donnybrook Hospital first. Some members have heard about that before and I will not get on to that subject.

I move now to Collie. There have been some small improvements in Amaroo. This Government, in answers to this House, said that it would not build a gymnasium at the high school because it would be too costly. That was before the last election, then three months before the election everything changed. I could give a list of the things this Government can give away from its slush fund. It has so much money, as it keeps telling us. According to the Minister for Budget Management, the sum of \$500 million or \$600 million is a mere drop in the ocean for Rothwells, Teachers Credit Society and things of that sort. I thought I would go with a shopping list around my electorate.

Fairview school now has eight transportables. Nothing has been done by this Government. Wilson Park school has had an R & R program but still needs more rooms. The Collie High School still has work to be done on it. The School of Mines is going well, but more could be done with that. More work could be done with Curtin University of Technology on research into coal at Collie. It is very good that the Liberal Party's policy makes some constructive suggestions about such research. That policy could be a winner in Collie. I have virtually got down on my knees to successive Ministers for Education and asked for an administrative centre for the Bridgetown school. At the moment Bridgetown is using the library and the janitor's storeroom as an administrative centre. That is not good enough, and something should be done about it. At the Pemberton school nothing has been done again. That school has been in a hideous state of repair for four or five years. The Government let it fall away until before the last election, when it applied a coat of paint and said that would hold it together. There has been a decision made as to where the new high school in Pemberton will go but, in this Budget, there is not a bob allocated towards building it. If a child dies or is electrocuted in that school, the Government will be responsible. The wiring in the manual arts section is horrific. There are cords running through drains, and in the middle of winter Pemberton is a reasonably wet place. A decision needs to be made about Northcliffe school. The Government said it would spend \$600 000 on it, and that is great, but only \$80 000 will be spent this year. The Government has said it will spend \$600 000 on the Boyup Brook school, but only \$80 000 this year.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi interjected.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: It is a superb place, Mr Piantadosi, I quite agree. Nice people come from there too.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: They had a good representative.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon P.H. Lockyer): Order!

Hon A.A. LEWIS: They have had him for long enough to see whether he is good enough. The Government is doing everything this year, education-wise, on the never never.

Hon John Halden: No.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: The Government is claiming this spending in its Capital Works Program -

Hon John Halden: You don't know the rudiments of budgeting.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: Hon Bill Stretch gave the answers to people like Hon John Halden. Some of us run businesses and we do know something about the rudiments of budgeting.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: Even though it is second hand.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: This Government does not understand budgeting, which is a great pity.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: Just like previous Governments have not either.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: This is the second time I have been in Opposition and each time I have seen the capital assets of this State run down because of expensive programs put up by socialist Governments - programs that do not work, yet they pay people like advisers and others huge amounts of money. If these advisers are so good and are worth that amount of money why is the Government in so much trouble?

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: What trouble?

Hon A.A. LEWIS: "What trouble?" says the gentleman in front of me. The Government is in a lot of trouble; he should go out and ask the public. The public reckon the Government is wasting quids. The interesting thing is that the Government is paying these high priced people, yet is it taking their advice? If their advice is the advice which has got the Government into trouble, they should be sacked.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi interjected.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: Why should such people be hired? They cannot have it both ways.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: It is just as well you are retiring.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: It is very lucky for some people in this place that some of us have a little bit of memory. Hon Tom Butler, before the dinner suspension, started talking about Forrest Place, the farmers and Gough Whitlam. That shows what gilgies and scaredy-cats the ALP members are. The demonstration for Gough Whitlam was about one-tenth the violence of the one Bob Menzies had.

Hon Mark Nevill: Rubbish!

Hon A.A. LEWIS: The member was not there, and would not know.

Hon Mark Nevill: I was there.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: With Bob Menzies?

Hon Mark Nevill: Yes.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: I am glad the member changed his politics in the middle, because Gough got him.

Hon Mark Nevill interjected.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: I will check the member on that. He would have noticed that someone was standing at every metre of the cable to prevent its being cut. There was a need to protect the cables in the Menzies era, something which is not needed now that the ALP is in power. The Liberals do not cut cables, therefore protection is not needed.

Hon Mark Nevill: I don't know whether Menzies used a microphone.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: Go back to sleep. If the member does not think he used a microphone he is referring to the pre-war years, and I do not think the member is that old.

Hon Mark Nevill: I will have to check your facts.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: My memory is fairly good about these things. Admittedly I am getting on. I wish the youngsters of this House would show a bit of decorum and respect for their seniors. Members of the ALP have never shown any respect for their seniors.

Hon Tom Butler said that section 54B was introduced because of Gough Whitlam's shenanigans in Forrest Place. Section 54B was introduced because the waterside workers would not load sheep. You, Mr Deputy President (Hon P.H. Lockyer), will remember pastoralists, graziers and farmers going down Stirling Highway to Fremantle to load the sheep. They did a pretty good job of getting the sheep on board with no confrontations. If Mr Butler had approached his old mate, Mr Dans, he would have had it explained to him very quietly by his comrade that that was the reason for the introduction of section 54B because no-one has made more speeches in this place on that section than Hon Des Dans although, dare I say it, not all of them were accurate. However, they were good speeches nonetheless.

Any of us who had the opportunity to attend Expo in Brisbane were amazed at its success. I

pay special credit to the Western Australian pavilion and especially to the executive officer of that pavilion, Mr Len Hitchen, who did a superb job. The pavilion was acknowledged as one of the two best at Expo. Many of us believe that the Queensland pavilion was probably better, as one would expect, but our pavilion was certainly the next best. It was a magnificent exhibition and I wonder why, having spent so much money on it, the Government does not bring it back to Perth and place it on exhibition at the showground or some other appropriate venue so that all Western Australians are reminded of their heritage and the things that are important to Western Australia. We should all remember that Mr Hitchen was allowed only a short time to put the whole thing together because this Labor Government, as with all Labor Governments, was slow off the mark in becoming involved; because there was a conservative Government in Queensland it did not want Expo to be a success. I believe that slowness in getting started prevented the exhibition from being an even greater success.

That reminds me of how Bob Hawke attends football finals or the races and always wants to be on a winner. That little man is childlike in the way he trips around. I was near where he was on Saturday and I could not see him. He was surrounded by both male and female journalists, none of whom was very tall, and it was impossible to see him even though he was wearing built up shoes.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: That is a bit unkind; you would make four of him.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: I agree with the member that I would make four of him mentally.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: Physically, too. You are all out of proportion.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: Physically I would make a little more than four of him.

Hon John Halden: Why don't you get back to the subject of your speech; we are sick of this drivel. It is absolute drivel.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: If the member filled his mouth right up he could then spit properly.

I believe Len Hitchen would appreciate the support of this House because he did a magnificent job for which I congratulate him.

Hon John Williams: He did the same magnificent job in tourism.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: He did, but an ALP adviser got his job when he was moved sideways. He had a genuine public concern for the Governments he served, but would not play the dirty tricks that this Government wanted him to play. That is the hearsay evidence that I have of what happened to him.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: That would be right.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: I do not like to make those sorts of allegations, but if members asked Mr Hitchen, he would probably tell them the reasons for his removal.

Hon John Williams: All of his staff were also removed.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: That could be right, too.

Mr Deputy President, you would probably frown at me if I did not mention forests: Was it not interesting to read in Friday's *The West Australian* Mr Rick Humphrey's statements about how the Forest Industries Association had misquoted the Australian Conservation Foundation. I believe members of both Houses would have had a bit of a laugh at what he said because he is now lobbying in Canberra and complaining about how he has been misquoted. After reading it I wondered whether his tongue would swell because he has made a number of statements about the forest industry that were only partly true and his excuse for making those statements was that he is a lobbyist. However, when something unacceptable is said about conservationists by the Forest Industries Association, he cries crocodile tears. I hope he had a new handkerchief to wipe those tears away while he wrote that Press release because it was one of the most amusing things I have seen in the Press for years.

While we are talking about environmental matters, I take exception to the Federal art and sports magazine *Ecofile* telling only one side of the story and trying to damage the Queensland Government's record on World Heritage listings. Members in this House keep saying that we need to take more interest in world heritage listings. It is extremely interesting that the Federal Government has created world heritage listings, but has left the

States to manage them without providing funds to do so. Major problems could be created in this area.

I turn now to the Consolidated Revenue Fund and to the section headed "Attorney General, Minister for Budget Management, and Corrective Services". I notice that the Parliamentary Counsel's office employs 20 people and that the actual expenditure by this office in the 1987-88 financial year was \$910 000 - \$45 000 for each employee. One need only talk to an Opposition backbencher to realise how difficult it is to obtain the services of the Parliamentary Counsel if he requires the drafting of amendments. At one stage the Opposition was left without any assistance from the Parliamentary Counsel and some assurance should be given by the Government in order that the Opposition receives a far better deal in the future. If there are 20 people employed in the Parliamentary Counsel's office at least one or two of them should be assigned to the Opposition to help draft private members' Bills. I am not complaining because I was able to have my Bill drafted, but members will note from the Notice Paper that it is a simple Bill.

Hon Tom Helm: We will fix it next year.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: Fortunately the Labor Party will not be in Government next year and it will be a shock to an honest young man like Hon Tom Helm when he finds himself in Opposition.

The next item under Division 18 - Crown Law - to which I will refer is Corporate Services. Last year the vote for this item was \$1.491 million and the actual expenditure was \$1.664 million. This year the estimated expenditure is \$1.992 million - an increase of over 20 per cent. I wonder why the Minister for Budget Management has allowed one of his departments to blow out to that degree. An interesting point is that when we move on to Division 19 - Corporate Affairs - and to the item National Companies and Securities Commission, we find that the actual expenditure in the 1987-88 financial year was \$288 000 and the estimated expenditure this financial year is \$290 000. I ask the Minister whether this is the area in which he and the Treasurer anticipate employing an extra 10 officers. A comment was made about the employment of 10 extra officers and when I made the comment that those officers would not start work until February the Treasurer and the Minister were flummoxed. They were of the opinion that they would obtain 10 officers immediately. I ask the Minister to explain to the House the reason for the blowout in the Corporate Affairs Division.

I refer now to Division 20 - Public Trust Office - and specifically to item 6, Maintenance of Plant, Equipment, etc. The actual expenditure by this office in the 1987-88 financial year was \$47 000 and the estimated expenditure for this financial year is \$186 000 - nearly four times greater than the previous year. I ask the Minister to explain the reason for the increase in this item.

Division 21 - Registrar General's Office - shows that last financial year the expenditure for Services and Contracts was estimated at \$203 000 and the actual amount expended was \$202 000. This financial year the estimated expenditure is \$115 000. I ask the Minister why there has been a decrease in this item.

I ask the Minister the reason that the income of the Law Reform Commission is only one third of last year's income. These are the sorts of things I have picked up from the Budget and which make strange reading. Division 23 - Legal Aid Commission: The estimated income from the Federal Government will be \$1.7 million greater than the actual amount received last financial year. However, there has been an increase of 20 per cent in the estimated expenditure by the Legal Aid Commission this financial year compared with last financial year.

Hon E.J. Charlton: The Government may need a bit more after the Fremantle Prison riot.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: I suppose that would come under the Legal Aid Commission and that may be the reason for the increase, but I would like the Minister to explain the reason to the House.

I turn now to Division 24 - Miscellaneous Services - and ask the Minister the reason for the decrease in the estimated expenditure for the Anzac Day Trust. Last year the estimated expenditure for this item was \$230 000 and this year the estimated expenditure is \$180 000. I also ask the Minister the reason for the decrease in the estimated expenditure for the



Australian Music Examinations Board, which last financial year spent \$72 000 while this year the allocation is \$66 000. This financial year there has not been an increase in the estimated expenditure for the Australian Red Cross Appeal and I ask the Minister the reason for that because allocations have been made to other appeals which do not seem to be as important as the Red Cross Appeal. Last year a vote of \$213 000 was granted to the National Safety Council of WA and the actual expenditure was \$413 000. An allocation has not been made this financial year. I ask the reason why an allocation to the Restaurant and Caterers Advisory Committee has not been made this financial year when last year the actual expenditure by this committee was \$56 000. I ask the Minister to explain the actual expenditure of \$4.9 million by the Totalisator Agency Board last financial year especially as there was no provision for estimated expenditure. I ask whether the payment of \$35 million to the R & I Bank last financial year was in addition to the assistance provided in the Bill which was passed in this House.

Is not LandCorp a subsidiary company of the Western Australian Development Corporation? If so, is the \$2.4 million being put into LandCorp overcapitalising WADC? The propaganda machine of the Government tells us that LandCorp is making a lot of money. Why then does it need \$2.4 million? Why did it want \$1.953 million last year, provision for which was not made in the Estimates? Why did the State Energy Commission pay \$581 000 last year and why is there an estimate of \$593 000 this year for board services and registration fees? I thought the SEC was a totally separate item. Why does this item come under Miscellaneous Services? Why does the Government expect the Western Australian Meat Marketing Corporation to lose \$200 000 this year when there was no expenditure on it last year? Why are scholars' fare concessions less this year than last year? The item Act of Grace Payments is a very interesting one. Last year the vote for Act of Grace Payments was \$200 000. I do not know to whom all these act of grace payments are made. They are certainly not made to members of Parliament. Last year's expenditure was \$2 972 826; the estimate for this year is \$2 050 000. I hope that the Minister for Budget Management will tell me why.

Hon J.M. Berinson: The details have been provided in response to a question on notice by Mr Evans. Most of them were refunds of stamp duty arising from our agreement that certain mining transactions should not be subject to stamp duty.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: Did that cost us \$5 million?

Hon J.M. Berinson: It cost the great majority of that.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: We will find out what the rest of it is.

Hon J.M. Berinson: It is already in *Hansard*.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: The mining parts are?

Hon J.M. Berinson: No, all the ex gratia payments.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: In *Hansard*? The Minister may tell me at what page. Why is the Crime Research Unit item under Miscellaneous Services?

Hon J.M. Berinson: There is nowhere else to put it.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: Police?

Hon J.M. Berinson: It is not a police expenditure. It is an endowment to the university to establish a crime research unit.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: Education?

Hon J.M. Berinson: It is not education either. It is a crime research unit located at the university. It will be the subject of a special trust fund held down there.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: Is this the money for the special trust fund?

Hon J.M. Berinson: That is right. I had the pleasure of handing over the \$3.8 million yesterday.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: That is only peanuts for this Government.

Hon J.M. Berinson: It is a great deal of money for very important work.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon P.H. Lockyer): Order! The honourable member should direct his questions through the Chair.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: Certainly, Mr Deputy President.

The next item I refer to is EventsCorp. I thought EventsCorp, like LandCorp, was a subsidiary of WADC. An estimate of \$1 699 000 has been made for EventsCorp. We must be going to have another procession or another rock concert. With LandCorp also getting \$2.422 million, WADC is picking up gratis about \$4 million. I bet that that figure is not shown in its books. The brilliant entrepreneurs running WADC are being paid more than the Prime Minister. They have already had a couple of licks over a couple of Budgets for WADC, good hefty licks, and now, because they are such good managers they want another \$4 million! We heard about all the huge profits they have made for WADC, but \$4 million is only peanuts to this Government, as we have heard time and again; it does not make a blight on any Budget of this Government because we are so rich.

I would like to know what the \$15 million estimated for the item of Information Technology - Equipment Purchases and Systems Development is for because it seems that it is hidden in this item for some reason.

Hon J.M. Berinson: No, it is not hidden there. That is a global sum to be distributed to the various departments and authorities on the eventual recommendation of DOCIT.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: The Minister has explained that one. Last year no amount was budgeted for natural disaster payments and other relief measures. However, expenditure last year was \$3.2 million. That item has always been budgeted for year after year, but now it is not. Why not? Why are we up for \$3 million for superannuation for universities and colleges of advanced education? Surely that item would come under the Education Department or TAFE? Why does it come under Miscellaneous Expenditure?

It is interesting reading to see that last year expenditure on the WA Teachers Financial Society Ltd was \$18 797 056. Is this not the mob that was going to cost us only \$4 million? An amount of \$25 million is estimated in this Budget for the same item. As I understand it, another \$105 million is involved as a result of a deal with the R & I Bank. Figures originally given by the Government without proper audits are fairly rubbery. Hon Max Evans has talked about them before.

I move on to the Taxation Division and the items appearing under Other Services. The vote for stamp duty last year was \$1 145 000. The expenditure was \$4 330 614. The estimate for this year is \$2 349 000. The Minister said the stamp duty to mining companies came out of something or other.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Stamp duty refunds.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: The Minister said they came under Miscellaneous Services and they came out of the item, Acts of Grace Payments.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Ex gratia.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: There is another stamp duty payment of \$2.3 million - double the amount for last year. Why?

I now refer to the item Financial and Material Assistance in the portfolio of the Minister for Community Services; the vote has been cut from \$6.3 million to \$5.39 million, even though this item exceeded the estimate last year by \$800 000. I hope the Minister in reply will explain the reason.

Turning to Consumer Affairs, under item 5 - Education and Information Services - the vote last year was \$29 000 and this year it is \$173 000. I would like to know why. Today I asked two questions which conformed with Standing Orders about the reduction in grants to sporting and recreational bodies.

[Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.]

Hon A.A. LEWIS: I asked a question about what would happen to sport and recreation bearing in mind that subsidies and grants to sporting and recreational bodies are dropping. It seems that that process has started already, in that the vote is reduced this year by almost \$200 000 from an amount of \$1.3 million.

My final point relates to salaries and allowances in general and the mess the Federal Government has made of the whole issue. The cover story of the *Business Review Weekly* of

25 November states that the average salary paid by 40 Australian companies to their top five executives is \$135 000 per annum; in other words, \$30 000 more than the Prime Minister of this country is paid. As Hon Mick Gayfer says, they are the cheapest paid executives in the world. Let us have no more of this nonsense about the salaries of members of Parliament; I am able to make these comments because I shall be leaving politics. I was a businessman before I became a member of Parliament and after 11 years in Parliament my salary reached the level I was earning in private enterprise. I just reached that figure when the Burke Government decided to cut salaries by 10 per cent. I was not very impressed, and some members may recall that I voted against the move. It is crazy for members to undersell themselves. Of course, there may be some people in this place - I will not name them - who cannot earn the same salary or conditions in the outside world. However, the great majority of members on both sides of the House could earn more in private enterprise than they earn as members of Parliament. As a body the members should stand up for their rights. I am eternally grateful to the Prime Minister for moving the Federal pay dispute to the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. What will the Prime Minister do if the commissioners suggest that members should be paid double their present salaries? I think there will be a lot of diving for cover, and it seems to me from the way the commissioners have written to the Prime Minister that they feel members should be paid more. It will not affect me, but I honestly believe all members of Parliament should be paid adequately for their labour. Now that elections will be held every four years each member will be subjected to a final review of his performance every four years. That does not happen in any other job, and it creates a great deal of uncertainty which is particularly difficult for young married men with families. I was lucky that my family were off my hands when I became a member. All members of Parliament should give serious consideration to setting up an informal rights and privileges committee to look after the members in this place. I believe that Ministers are probably adequately paid, but certainly backbench members - the cannon fodder who will sit on the back bench forever - will be in trouble all their lives. I offer one piece of advice to members: At all times consider this aspect of being a parliamentarian.

I support the Bill.

**HON MARGARET McALEER** (Upper West) [9.09 pm]: In the middle of rather frenzied end of session activities it is hard to remember that we are coming to the end not only of this Parliament, but also of an era in the Legislative Council. While I look forward hopefully and with interest to the possibility of representing the very large agricultural region and the great variety of places and people in it, I am conscious that this is to the surprise and bemusement of many of those electors because even now the extent of the changes to our electoral system have not been appreciated by very many people in Western Australia. When one thinks of their reaction to the Federal referendum one supposes that the changes are far removed from the changes to the Parliament they wished for. I expect, whatever the outcome of the next election, that I will very much regret the loss of my relationship with the Upper West Province, a relationship which has been a personal one even though the representative of the area who is the member of the Legislative Council cannot have quite so close and intimate a relationship with their constituents as does a member of the Legislative Assembly. I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to electors of Upper West Province for the chance they have given me to represent them over the past 14 or 15 years.

In that time there have been many significant changes in the electorate. It is not my intention to canvass all those changes at this point, but in the last three years, for instance, Geraldton, which this year became a city, has benefited greatly from the Government's unstinted efforts to shore up the electorate for the benefit of Hon Jeff Carr. It has benefited from a prospective marina which the town currently looks forward to, and to a prospective crematorium. I mention this not in the spirit of levity but to take this opportunity to refer to the efforts of Mr Charles Phillips who has been the long time Chairman of the Cemetery Board in Geraldton and who has been trying ever since I have been in Parliament to obtain a crematorium for the town but previously has always been defeated by lack of an acceptable number of people. However, whether we have in fact quite reached that number of people, or whether it is part of the benefits that the Government is bestowing on the town, he is about to reach his great ambition and is able at the age of 70 to continue in his office as chairman until the middle of June next year, by which time he hopes the crematorium will be established.

There have been other benefits in my region: Just recently the marina for which the people of Jurien worked for so many years was finally opened. I also acknowledge with appreciation the provision on a much smaller scale of money which was, nevertheless, just as much appreciated and of water supply to the towns of Bindi Bindi and Miling, which again was fought for by the local people for many years.

There have been other more disquieting changes in the province over the years. As we all know, the long years of bad seasons, low prices, inflation and high interest rates have reduced the population year by year so that one now sees it shrinking steadily while, at the same time, the Government rationalises its services. This brings a shiver of apprehension to almost every country person in Upper West Province as in other provinces in the country.

We know now that the Government has for all this time had millions of dollars up its sleeve. We know this because it has been able to speak with equanimity of how it will deal with the losses occasioned by Rothwells, the Teachers Credit Society and other misfortunes which have befallen companies in this State. All the time it has had a great deal of money, one must suppose at its back, it has been economising in the remoter parts of the country to the tune of only thousands of dollars when the effects of those economies was out of all proportion to the amount of money it was saving. I will come back to that matter in a moment.

I would like to reflect briefly on one item of Government revenue - stamp duty. In 1987-88 the estimated stamp duty was \$302 million and the actual stamp duty received was \$432 million-odd. The difference between the estimate and the actual revenue was a \$130 million surplus. The estimate of stamp duty for 1988-89 is \$454.5 million, which is only \$22 million above the receipts for last year. It will be interesting to see whether the estimate is any more accurate this year than it was in previous years. We know, for instance, that the price of housing has escalated in the past few months, not only in the city but also in some country areas. The price of land, including the price of farmland, has increased steeply, which will help to increase stamp duty revenue.

It is not all good news, as the Government would have us believe - that the economy is bowling along and that this means more business. I believe that stamp duty adds to the difficulties of many people - those, for instance, who are trying to buy those houses, or land for houses - and it feeds on inflation and is itself inflationary. Like payroll tax, although not so obviously, it is a tax on employment because it is taking money out of circulation.

Stamp duty has often been resented in the country, in particular in the case where arrangements have to be made between the younger and older generations in one family to transfer farmland from parents to children, particularly in the case where the younger generation has not only built up the value of the property in question but also is absolutely necessary to its running.

I want to mention a particular instance of the application of stamp duty and to query the Minister for Budget Management again about the way in which the State Taxation Department is applying the rules. This is a case that I mentioned to the Minister for Budget Management at the time and discussed with him. It concerns a constituent who bought a new truck. I forget the exact figure, but let us say that he bought it for \$54 000 which was a price discounted from \$70 000. The price was reduced by the dealer for some reason, perhaps because the particular line of truck was turning over too slowly, or perhaps because it was a discontinued model, I am not sure which. The reduction was a genuine one right across the board. The point is that my constituent had to pay stamp duty on the original price even though it was not being charged, so although he had a bargain in the reduced price, the cream was taken off that bargain by the extra stamp duty he had to pay. The Minister for Budget Management assured me that that was the correct way of assessing stamp duty in that case. I am questioning whether, in fact, that was an example of a new way of interpreting stamp duty assessments, or whether it was the application of a rule which had not been used for many years and which the Government in its anxious quest for more money - which it often pretends it is not bleeding from taxpayers in every possible way - was applying using extra pressure to make stamp duty yield greater revenue.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I can assure Hon Margaret McAleer that everything that goes on in the State Taxation Department is strictly at the independent discretion of the commissioner. The rule that has been applied has always been the rule. The department is now enforcing it more closely than it has in previous times, but that is on the initiative of the commissioner.

Hon MARGARET McALEER: I thank the Minister for Budget Management for that. I suppose that in such cases, while not reflecting on the independence of the commissioner, he does perhaps take his colour from the attitude of the Government.

Before leaving the question of taxes altogether, I point out that the estimated total tax take in 1987-88 was \$917.5 million, but it was in fact \$1 070 million, so there was a surplus of \$100 million. In 1988-89, the estimated receipts are \$1 172 million, and there is already a \$100 million surplus, so we may expect the actual revenue to again be much larger. The two most important components of taxation are stamp duty and payroll tax.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I do not think you can assume the same sort of increase this year above the estimated amount, because last year was the start of the property boom, and that was taken into consideration in this year's projections.

Hon MARGARET McALEER: I would have thought from my reading of the newspapers that the acceleration of the property boom has been greater in the last few months, and as the Minister explained the other day, the Estimates are prepared very early in the year, so the rapid rise in housing prices could not have been taken into consideration.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I think that was well in place by May.

Hon MARGARET McALEER: I note that in August there was a large rise. I forget the actual percentage, but it was a marked increase.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I should make it clear that I will not complain if the outcome is as you suggest.

Hon MARGARET McALEER: I can see that, and this is a windfall for the Government, but when the actual receipts so greatly exceed the Estimates year after year, the Government should take measures to tailor the estimated receipts to the ability of people to pay taxes.

Hon G.E. Masters: I do not think they can afford to do that this year.

Hon MARGARET McALEER: I suppose that is true.

I want to refer again to the Government's economies in country areas. I take as an example the way in which the Government is dealing with small country schools. Earlier this evening, Hon Eric Charlton talked about the Rural Integration Program - the RIP program - by which preprimary pupils are to be integrated into the primary schools. This will mean that while children who are older than four will be taken into the primary schools, the four year olds, who up to this time have been permitted to join them in preprimary centres, are to be left outside the school situation, and may, if circumstances permit, be formed into playgroups. The school at Latham, to which Hon Eric Charlton referred, is in my province, and the school at Buntine is nearby, so I have an interest in those schools. Latham and Buntine are districts which have large farms, and because the population is not very great, there is not a great number of children. The distances to the town are very long for those parents who have to bring their children to school. It is not possible for the people in these districts to form playgroups for the four year old children because their mothers are for the most part helping their husbands, and the playgroups require the presence of a number of mothers on one or more days of the week.

There are other factors which make this concept inappropriate for this area. In the class into which the over four year old children at Latham would be integrated, there would be a range of ages from eight years old to four years old. The children in question have brothers and sisters who would also be in that class, and one can imagine that when the four and a half to five year old children first come into that school, the first people they will be seeking to disrupt will be their brothers and sisters in the same classroom. It will not be possible to give a preprimary program to those youngsters, because such a program consists of singing, dancing, going outside, and playing with paint and other messy objects, yet there will be only one teacher, with perhaps an aide. If those children are sent outside the school with the aide to look after them, he or she - and it is nearly always a female - will not be able to take legal responsibility for those children because the teacher who remains inside has that responsibility. In the case of Latham, there is already a good setup in the town hall for a preprimary centre. A large kitchen has been adapted for a schoolroom. It is full of equipment that the parents have bought with their own money. There is a large stage area with a piano for dancing and singing. There is a very secure and well equipped playground.

There is a large storeroom for the equipment. If the preprimary children are transferred to the primary school, which has only two classrooms, there will not be any storage areas, nor places for the children to shelter from the heat of summer or the cold of winter. There are undoubtedly places where such a program could operate successfully, but Latham is not one of them.

Latham shares a preprimary teacher with Buntine - they have two days each - and it seems to be rather a poor economy to deprive both schools of that teacher. I believe that Buntine has not received notice of such a deprivation, and that seems even more extraordinary when we consider that it has only half a teacher because it shares the other half with Latham. Mr Reg Tubby and I spoke to the Minister about this subject a fortnight ago, and she was sympathetic and interested. Since then, we have had a meeting with the Latham people. About 40 people attended that meeting, which was a great number when we consider that there are only a few parents in that town; so we could see that all of the people of the district took an interest, and they felt very strongly about the matter. There were also some representatives from Buntine, who came to see what the problem was. I have not yet heard from the Minister, although I have written to her. This is very much a case in point where one must tailor the rules and regulations to the circumstances. There is no point in depriving people in such areas of a service which they gratefully value and which they believe is important for their children. I hope the Minister will give proper consideration to the plight of these parents.

I suppose that every country member will be familiar with the annual raid on primary school transportable classrooms. That often occurs early in the year when it is discovered that a school has a larger enrolment than was expected, and the divisional superintendent looks around the district to see which school does not have high enough numbers and does not deserve an extra classroom, and decides to take that transportable to where it is required. At the end of this year we have had two instances of the snatching of transportables or demountables from small schools, one of them at Binnu which is at the northern end of my province, far beyond Northampton, and another very small school. The parents felt very strongly about the matter, and they petitioned the Minister. As a result of representations made to her, a compromise has apparently now been reached. The transportable will now be moved at a cost of \$15 000, and in its place the parents will put up a lean-to which will cost \$16 000; the Ministry will contribute \$8 000 and the parents will contribute the other \$8 000. This seems to me an unreasonable solution, and I am sure the parents will find it very unsatisfactory as well.

Another instance I want to bring to the attention of the House is the removal of a very old demountable from a small school at Gillingarna, which is south of Moora. Three years ago the department set its sights on this old demountable. It is an old style building, about 25 years old, which is not truly transportable, but the department threatened to remove it. After considerable persuasion by the parents and citizens' association the then Minister, Mr Bob Pearce, relented and directed the department to leave the demountable. The school consists of only two classrooms, and in all the years it has had the demountable it has built into it a great deal of equipment. It is used as a TV room, for the library, for storage, and for extra lessons, and the school has tried to give the children dancing, and music lessons and things like that in it so that they can have extra advantages. The school has become entirely dependent upon this extra demountable which, if it does not fall to pieces in transport, will be unwelcome as a classroom in any other school it is sent to, but is cherished where it belongs.

When I made inquiries today at the Ministry of Education about the progress of the parents' requests to leave the demountable, the answer I received, which was secondhand, was that the parents could not expect anything to be done; they had been notified that the demountable would be taken, and once that notification had been given, like the laws of the Medes and the Persians, it would remain firm. I find that surprising, because if Mr Bob Pearce was able to countermand its removal earlier, I cannot see why Dr Carmen Lawrence cannot do the same again, with the same good reasons. In fact she has better reasons than Mr Bob Pearce had, because the numbers in the school are now actually growing.

I bring these instances, which may seem small to the House but are important to the people concerned, to the attention of members, because it is important for any Government which may be in power to consider its attitude to small country schools. If these schools are to be continued, it is unreasonable not to support them and try to improve them. If we continually

cut away at any small benefit or improvement in their accommodation or facilities, it will lower the standard of education. Without these facilities, country children cannot be provided with education of an equal standard to city children. The parents are just as keen that their children should have advantages as any city parent could be. There is no reason to be so extraordinarily cheese paring.

Before I conclude, I was reminded by some remarks of Hon Neil Oliver tonight of my own remarks in a previous Budget debate more than a year ago. It was occasioned by Hon Joe Berinson's lack of replies to Budget speeches, and also to members' lack of facility in examining Budget papers. I was pleased to notice in last weekend's *Sunday Times* that Professor David Black himself had taken up the cause of estimates committees for one or other of the Houses, and perhaps both. He outlined at some length the idea of estimates committees, and made a strong call for some such committee to be established in our own Parliament. He said -

Reform of this kind is long overdue, especially at a time when the parliamentary institution has lost so much credibility in the eyes of those it is meant to serve.

I know that many people have made this call; I am only repeating my own words. I strongly urge this Government, if it remains in power, or another Government if it should come to power, to consider how necessary it is for Parliament to have better facilities than it already has for examining the finances of the State. With those words I support the Bill.

**HON J.N. CALDWELL (South) (9.36 pm):** I know the Government has a lot of business to do as yet, according to the Notice Paper, so I will not hold up the House. I shall first discuss education, especially agricultural education, which I have had the opportunity to examine over the past 18 months as a member of a committee of this House. During that time we looked at various agricultural education facilities in Western Australia and in the rest of Australia and New Zealand. I would like to comment tonight mainly on Western Australia.

Muresk College was the first institution we visited. It appeared to me rather run down. The paint was falling off many buildings, it looked rather old and shabby, and the facilities did not look very appealing. On our further travels we saw many other agricultural schools, and they appeared in quite good condition. I mention in particular Gnowangerup Agricultural School, which was run with great authority. It appeared in absolutely tip top shape, and money was being spent on that school. It was gratifying to see the type of students being turned out. They were well sought after in the community and always had jobs to go to. Many agricultural colleges have perhaps been given too much land to look after properly, and that may be one of the problems with Muresk. While all the graduates are of a fairly high class, they do not have a lot of time to go around doing farm work because they are studying the academic side of agriculture. In many ways parts of that establishment appeared to me to be run down. I believe a major injection of capital should be put into the Muresk Institute of Agriculture to brighten it up and make it look as if it is an establishment that people will want to attend. If it is not, students will probably go elsewhere in Australia. Quite a number of Western Australians do go to various other institutions in the Eastern States. I feel sure we have the capacity to educate those people here, so we should make the facilities as attractive as possible.

Also in our travels we looked at various agricultural schools of a minor nature in the cities. They are struggling to exist because, inevitably, they find land is not available on which to put their animals and because of this they have a lot of trouble existing. It was also very apparent that some of the children we saw had no idea of anything about farming - for example, where their butter or milk came from. I suggest to the Government that farm schools such as holiday camps be established inland, near where the agricultural industries operate. I believe the town of Tambellup has a feasibility study under way to look into this, and I only hope the Government puts money into this project because many children in the cities would love to go down there and see how agriculture is performed - for instance, the shearing of sheep, the rearing of pigs, and so on.

Last weekend I had the privilege of going to a book launching in Katanning. I believe you were also there, Mr Deputy President (Hon D.J. Wordsworth). The person responsible for this book launching, Mr Ross Anderson, is a member of the Great Southern Development Authority. I compliment him on the wonderful job he has done. He has been the editor and collector of stories from around the Katanning district and the book is called *A Century of*

*Stories of Katanning.* It was rather gratifying that when he advertised for 100 stories various people and communities in the town got behind the idea and he finished up with around 160 or 170 stories to print. That was too many. They were supposed to be short stories and I guess some of them were edited out because they were far too long; but over a period of three years he managed to get the book completed and it is a wonderful tribute to him. I think the Australian Bicentennial Authority put \$7 000 towards the preparation and launching of the book, and the Katanning Shire Council contributed some \$20 000 towards it. All in all, it was a wonderful contribution by all the people in Katanning and it was great to see the community rally around this project. I have not yet read the book, although I did purchase a copy last weekend.

Only last year the area east of Katanning, and other areas as well, were in the grip of a terrific drought. During that time Hon Emie Bridge saw fit to extend the water supply scheme out to Nyabing and Pingrup, which was very gratifying. I am sure the people of that area rejoiced - in fact, I am sure they over-rejoiced because this year they are practically drowning, but not due to the water pipe, which has not been put in yet. The floods have devastated their roads. I believe one major road in Pingrup is still two metres under water - it is quite incredible. A lady who came here the other day to put in a submission for the kindergarten at Pingrup said that during the week she had taken her children down to have a swim in the lake, and the lake happened to be in the middle of the road. Members can imagine that this has caused a great deal of concern to the residents because when they go to town, or cart their wheat or grain, or do anything at all by road, they must travel long distances around these trouble spots. Where there is water two metres deep it is practically impossible to fix that part of the road, but I only hope the Government comes good with a plentiful supply of funds so that the problems this group of people is facing can be alleviated. As has already been discussed here tonight, road funding should be a high priority for such a large State as ours. Although some of our major roads are quite creditable - in fact, the road from here to the town of Albany which I traverse every week is quite a good road - the roads that link the highways are neglected and they are the roads that mean most to country people.

My last subject has also been mentioned tonight; that is, the police, and in particular random breath testing. We all know that random breath testing is in force now. I certainly know because I have been pulled up twice in the last two or three weeks. It is also noticeable that the police seem to be completely wasting their time by doing their job in the wrong part of the day. On both occasions I have been pulled up it was two o'clock in the afternoon and I know many other people who have been pulled up at that time. I know in most country areas the police are short staffed and it is ridiculous for them to be devoting time to random breath testing at two o'clock in the afternoon. I do not know whether they have caught anybody, but I suspect they have not made arrests at that time of the day.

I also noticed in last night's *Daily News* that some 97 break-ins occur in Western Australia every day. I am very concerned, as the National Party was when random breath testing was brought in, that the police may spend more time than they should in carrying out random breath testing rather than in other areas of law enforcement, especially break-ins. In many country towns we have seen an escalation of these offences over the last two or three years and I urge the police to put in a little more time walking around the streets and making their towns safe, as Hon Eric Charlton said. It is also very noticeable for people in the country that the greatest detriment from random breath testing is suffered by the local clubs and hotels. This is what we feared, and it has come to pass that many of the clubs and hotels are in severe financial straits. They have had to put off their managers and a couple of them in town are now doing the bar service on a voluntary basis, which possibly means removing the bar managers from those establishments. That means the premises are vacated at night; hence the extra break-ins. It all goes to show that because of random breath testing life in the country is not as pleasant as it used to be. I for one cannot say that if random breath testing has saved one life it should not have been introduced. I cannot say that because I only hope it has reduced the road toll. However, we have looked at the road toll recently and random breath testing does not appear to have done a lot of good. The road toll has increased again this year and we are averaging four or five deaths each weekend, which is rather appalling. I hope that during the Christmas period the road toll will decrease.

I made a trip to the Eastern States three years ago and when in Melbourne I hired a car. I was going down the street towards the City of Melbourne and from my right side flashed a car which my car hit fair in the middle. Not a lot of harm was done to the individuals but



quite a lot was done to the two cars. The other person involved got out of his car and proceeded to abuse me very hotly.

Hon H.W. Gayfer: That's a bit horrific, when he was on your right.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: Yes. I could not get through to him because he could not speak English.

Hon Graham Edwards: That figures in Melbourne.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: After a long time I realised he was actually Greek -

Hon G.E. Masters: That is unusual in Melbourne!

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: He used various types of language to me - some in Greek and some he had picked up in Australia, which I dare not use here. It was some time before he calmed down enough for me to say, "Here is my driver's licence; where is yours?" I showed him my driver's licence, which was then two and a half years old. It was creased from being folded and one could not read my name or the number on the licence. He whipped out his driver's licence and it happened to be in a plastic folder. It had his name on it, which I could not pronounce, but I could see from the photograph on his licence that he was the person whose car I had hit in the middle. After a long period of consultation we wrote down one another's names. I mention this because I was pleased to see the legislation dealing with drivers' licences go through here last week; that will enable people to have their photographs on their drivers' licences. I am pleased that drivers' licences will be plastic cards and not pieces of paper which, when folded and placed in wallets, are impossible to read. I have found this out when driving a little too fast down the highway of recent times.

After that accident, I swapped cars because my hire car was no good any more. I went on my way to New South Wales and it happened that we stopped at a town called Deniliquin, which was not large. It had a population of about 5 000, similar to some country towns in Western Australia. Nearby was a small town called Wakool. My son was jackarooing on a station nearby; he was involved in many things going on in that district. The town had a population of around 100, but it had a couple of cricket teams, with a junior team as well, it had a football team, and there were golf, bowls and tennis clubs around which revolved a tightly knit community. I cannot actually think of a similar community in Western Australia. I dare say there will be fewer such communities in the future because as I said before if one goes into a country pub to have even a squash - when one is travelling - random breath testing is the first topic people raise. They give one quite a hammering by asking, "Why have you guys brought in random breath testing? It is wrecking our communities." It is hard to explain why and the only answer I can give is, "If it saves your life, would you accept that as being gratifying?" It was interesting to note that there was hardly anything I could see promoting the harmony which existed in the community of Wakool, but in the local sports club there were half a dozen poker machines. It is not for me to suggest that Western Australia should resort to that. I think the Government has to look at everything very closely in order to help country communities. Perhaps the Government will have to inject some funds into sporting clubs in country areas to help them carry on. In my home town of Katanning, where 5 000 people live, there is only one football club.

Hon Graham Edwards: What happened to the Wanderers?

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: They are still going. Hon Graham Edwards belonged to another club but it is struggling now; I think he should come back and coach it in order to generate some interest. I believe that funding is one of the major factors for these clubs and the social life which revolves around them. It is sad and appalling that random breath testing has had this effect on country communities. I support the Bill.

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan - Minister for Budget Management) [9.57 pm]: I thank honourable members who have spoken in this debate. In accordance with our usual practice I will ensure that the comments are directed to the Ministers directly concerned, and those issues will have their consideration.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*Committee and Report*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

**APPROPRIATION (GENERAL LOAN AND CAPITAL WORKS FUND) BILL***Second Reading*

Debate resumed from 29 November.

**HON MAX EVANS** (Metropolitan) [10.00 pm]: I support the Bill. I have carried out research into the General Loan and Capital Works Fund and find that the fund is created by section 7 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act and credited with capital receipts from the Commonwealth Government, loan repayments and borrowings by the Western Australian Treasury Corporation and the Loans Act. Credits are received from other sources such as the State Development Fund. The fund is subject to annual appropriation by Parliament but it does not represent all capital expenditure by the State public sector. Through enabling Acts, Parliament has authorised a number of statutory authorities to undertake capital works outside the operations of the General Loan and Capital Works Fund. Where circumstances arise in which it becomes necessary to expend funds in excess of an appropriation, or where it is necessary to undertake works or services not provided for in the appropriation, the Treasurer - in the case of an excess in a vote - or the Governor - in the case of new works or services - may approve the provision of supplementary funds. Where such funding is approved it is provided from the Treasurer's advance authorisation; but as required by the Treasurer's Advance Authorization Act it is a charge against the relevant General Loan and Capital Works Fund account for the year, pending subsequent appropriation by Parliament at the end of the year.

The reason I am making these comments is that we have been told the Government will pay the Teachers Credit Society an amount of \$125 million - less \$18 million already paid, leaving \$107 million. We have been told that part of the amount will come from underspent capital works. My research has shown that the amount will come from the Treasurer's advance account and will require an appropriation or the consent of the Governor in the case of new works or services. As the payment is not for new works or services it will be drawn from capital works. Can the Minister for Budget Management explain how the amount of \$107 million will come partly from capital works and partly from Consolidated Revenue?

**Hon J.M. Berinson**: That is not right; about \$80 million is to be paid.

**Hon MAX EVANS**: The \$25 million will come out of CRF.

**Hon J.M. Berinson**: An amount of \$43 million has been paid in terms of last year's and this year's allocation; an additional \$80 million is to be found, not \$107 million. The \$107 million relates to the R & I Bank's purchase of assets.

**Hon MAX EVANS**: I obtained the figure of \$107 million because the total debt was \$125 million, and the Government budgeted \$18 million last year and needed to appropriate \$25 million this year. I included the \$25 million as part of this debt; in other words part of the debt is paid out of CRF, and part out of the General Loan and Capital Works Fund which will come from the Treasurer's advance account.

**Hon J.M. Berinson**: It does not really work like that. The total is paid but at the end of the year there will not be a deficit on that account because there will be \$30 million less spent on capital works. This year some capital works were budgeted to be paid for out of CRF; not all capital works this year were to be paid out of loan funds.

**Hon MAX EVANS**: Mr President, I believe every word the Minister says but I am becoming more and more confused about Government accounting. The first year I entered this place I found that we are told that the books balance even with a surplus of \$1 million - and that is irrelevant because money is moved from one fund to another and capital works can be paid out of Consolidated Revenue in the same way that Consolidated Revenue items can come out of capital works.

The underspending against the fund reflects in the main the delays in project commencement during 1987-88. Nevertheless the carryover funds of \$71.77 million are fully committed to

projects approved in the 1987-88 Capital Works Program and will be submitted for appropriation to finance works in progress during the 1988-89 financial year. The \$71.77 million carried forward is by far the largest amount carried forward in recent years. The average amount carried forward for the last three years has been around \$5 million.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Never, not on capital works.

Hon MAX EVANS: Capital works over the last few years has been less.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Are you talking about cash brought forward?

Hon MAX EVANS: Yes.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I thought you were talking about commitments brought forward.

Hon MAX EVANS: No, cash brought forward. This year it was \$71.7 million. I am worried when that notion of accounting is used by persons who are responsible for the finances of the State. It has been said that an underspending has occurred and that amount will be spent on TCS but nothing will be affected next year because of delayed expenditure. A dollar cannot be spent twice; if it is spent this year on TCS, it will not be there next year.

Hon J.M. Berinson: That is right.

Hon MAX EVANS: But that is not the way it is put. The Premier said tonight, "Don't worry, Rothwells will not cost anybody anything." If the Government does not raise the taxes, I agree with that; that is the Government's decision. To say that this will not cost anybody anything is nonsense. An amount of \$88 million from the State Government Insurance Commission is tied up with Rothwells at the present time - we have lost all of that. Normally it would be paying half of SGIC's profits to Government revenue - and so \$44 million will not be paid as a dividend. To say that has a nil effect on State revenue is wrong. The Premier should not make statements in this way. He must think that the people of Western Australia are illiterates in financial matters if he believes they will accept that the losses do not affect anyone.

Hon J.M. Berinson: The Premier is saying that any losses by SGIC can be absorbed by SGIC's own profits.

Hon MAX EVANS: Goodness gracious, the Minister must think I am green.

Hon J.M. Berinson: And the Premier will not increase taxes or charges.

Hon MAX EVANS: The money is lost, and cannot be spent again.

Hon J.M. Berinson: That is right, but that does not require increased taxes or charges.

Hon MAX EVANS: But the Government does not have the money to spend on something else. If the money is spent once it cannot be spent a second time; that is simple.

Hon J.M. Berinson: The same could be said about the extraordinary profits that SGIC made - if that had not been made, it would not be available. But it did make the profit and part has gone to absorb these losses, or will go to the extent that the losses firm up.

Hon MAX EVANS: The Government is down \$20 million from the SGIC since the end of August; the profits have dropped to \$118 million and are decreasing at a fast rate.

Hon J.M. Berinson: How does that compare with the historic results?

Hon MAX EVANS: It is very good. Only \$2 million was made during the six months previously.

Hon J.M. Berinson: And the 10 years before that?

Hon MAX EVANS: Losses were made before that.

Hon J.M. Berinson: That is right, so it is still a mile ahead.

Hon MAX EVANS: Yes. But the Government has not realised the situation with the BHP shares dropping from \$7.25 to \$6.80.

Hon J.M. Berinson: And how many are still being held at that price?

Hon MAX EVANS: I was trying to check on that today. Perhaps the Minister could tell me.

Hon J.M. Berinson: No, I could not.

Hon MAX EVANS: Only about \$3.9 million of shares have been sold at \$8, so the Government still has a lot on hand. Only a small proportion of the shares were sold; others are at a put option to sell but we do not know the price of those. So not everything is rosy.

Hon J.M. Berinson: No-one says that everything is rosy but it is nowhere near the picture that your leaders have been trying to paint.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I suggest the conversation between the two members is not the way to conduct a debate.

Hon J.M. Berinson: You are too polite.

Hon MAX EVANS: The Minister is most distracting, and I have been trying to inform him because he makes statements which I think should not be made by a person who is responsible for the finances of the State. The statements have been completely irresponsible.

In the Treasurer's annual statements we see under Contingent Liabilities - Rothwells, \$150 million; Swan Building Society, \$3 million; and TCS, \$105 million. However, a new liability which was not there before has been introduced. It is a contingent liability under the Western Australian Development Corporation Act 1983 gold facility agreement and totals \$110 million. I presume that has been transferred across to Gold Banking Corporation which involves the drawing down of loans from the Reserve Bank to put it into the market. I assume the guarantee of \$110 million has been made to the Reserve Bank of Australia in respect of the dealings of Gold Banking Corporation which has a capital sum of only \$25 million. The contingent liability of the Western Australian Diamond Trust totalled \$20.8 million which, in the previous year, totalled \$40 million. I think that decreased because dividends were paid. There is still a contingent liability in respect of the Northern Mining Corporation - WA Government Holdings Ltd - of \$10 million. Therefore, all is not rosy in respect of the accounts and the fine Budget situation for this year.

Increased revenue has created a buoyant position for this Government. Stamp duty, and conveyancing and transfer fees have increased by \$107.5 million. That has come about partly because of a turnover in properties but also because valuations of properties and mining tenements have increased. Of that \$107.5 million, \$11 million came from the sale of properties to Warren Anderson and Kerry Packer. The total revenue over budget was \$152.7 million, an increase of 14 per cent. Territorials have increased by \$21.8 million, an increase of nine per cent. In the end, there has been a total increase of approximately \$243 million.

Hon Fred McKenzie: More than enough to pay for Rothwells.

Hon MAX EVANS: Do I have to repeat myself about money and finances for the honourable member and tell him that he cannot spend the same dollar twice? That revenue increase from business undertakings is very good, but the Government also managed to lift expenditure by the same amount.

Hon J.M. Berinson: You know a huge proportion of that - I do not have the exact figure, but something in the order of \$80 million - was for the new superannuation fund which will be of very great future benefit to the State.

Hon MAX EVANS: I concede that.

Hon J.M. Berinson: And do you know that \$35 million, a huge dollop, went to increase the capital base of the R & I Bank? So it is not as though we are dealing there with recurrent expenditure.

Hon MAX EVANS: This year the Government took the amount allocated to the R & I Bank out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, but last year it was taken from the Capital Works Fund. In other words, the Government spent the whole of its income which, today, is normal for most people.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Hang on; be fair. The increased superannuation payment could not have been anticipated in advance of the new superannuation scheme being put in place.

The PRESIDENT: Order! This sort of thing should happen only in the Committee stage, not in the second reading debate. There is a proper time for the member to ask questions, and that time is not now.

Hon MAX EVANS: I think some of the Minister's thoughts about financial matters are a little off beat. The Capital Works Estimates for this year total \$1.377 billion which includes Government borrowing approvals totalling \$22.9 billion, Commonwealth Government general purpose grants of \$22.9 billion, Commonwealth specific purposes grants of \$93.5 million, allocations to the Western Australian Treasury Corporation totalling \$139.5 million, loan repayments totalling \$21.5 million, allocations to the State Development Fund of \$3.6 million, and short term investment earnings totalling \$29.8 million.

The comments earlier about where the funds come from were interesting. I would have thought that short term investment earnings should go into CRF, but these short term investment earnings have been placed in the Capital Works Estimates. There is no consistency in the way the Government handles money. An amount of \$159 million of the short term investment earnings went into CRF with \$29.8 million being placed in capital works. A further \$10 million left over will come out of the CRF and go into Teachers Financial Services.

The balance of the funds carried forward from last year totalled \$71.8 million, borrowings by State authorities totalled \$54 million, other Commonwealth grants totalled \$98 million, internal and other funds totalled \$419 million, giving a total of \$1.377 billion. The Government has changed its method of borrowing through the West Australian Treasury Corporation over the last three years. The estimates for Capital Works for 1988-89 total \$1.377 billion of which 43 per cent will come from borrowings. In 1987-88, 51 per cent came from borrowings; in 1986-87, 41 per cent came from borrowings; in 1985-86, 45 per cent; and in 1984-85, 61 per cent. The figure was very high in 1984-85 because \$710 million of the total Capital Works Program of \$1.165 billion was borrowed to pay for the North West Shelf gas pipeline.

In 1988-89, the State Energy Commission was allocated \$235 million or 17 per cent of the total expenditure; in 1987-88, \$200 million or 18 per cent; 1986-87, \$312 million or 25 per cent; 1985-86, \$257 million or 21 per cent; and in 1984-85, \$481 million or 41 per cent. The pattern of spending has changed from expenditure on capital works, including the North West Shelf project, to being more widespread on other items.

Programmed capital expenditure on educational facilities and related activities amounts to \$106.6 million, an increase of \$38 million on the previous year. Expenditure on primary and secondary schools will total \$51.9 million, which expenditure includes \$23.3 million towards the cost of completing works which commenced last year and \$28.6 million which has been allocated for new projects. This is indicated by funds for delayed works which the Government can use for other funding. The estimated cost for the electrification of the railways project is \$173.6 million with expenditure this year totalling \$49.8 million.

Members opposite keep telling the House that we still have the money and that we are making other money. An amount of \$125 million has been allocated to pay for the Teachers Credit Society debacle. The total amount allocated to health under these estimates is \$122 million. The loss incurred by Teachers Credit Society is equivalent to the total capital expenditure by the Health Department for two years.

Hon Garry Kelly: The total capital expenditure?

Hon MAX EVANS: Yes, and the capital expenditure for the Health Department includes hospitals, nursing homes and clinics.

The Swan Building Society incurred a loss of \$15 million and the total vote of the Police Department for capital expenditure over the last two years was only \$11.5 million. We know that department is under-resourced, yet an amount of \$15 million has been lost by the Swan Building Society. An investigation was not undertaken into the Registrar of Credit Unions and Building Societies to ascertain the reason Teachers Credit Society was permitted, for four years, to trade in such an adverse way. Eventually it resulted in a major loss by the Government. The R & I Bank never reported that matter on Teachers Credit Society to the Government. It reported on a number of shortcomings within the system including the way in which money was raised, lack of capital, size of loans and interest paid; and, at one stage, it provided development loans of up to \$5 million which would have been the total capital of the TCS at that time. The registrar did nothing to prevent these things from occurring. I hold the registrar and the Minister responsible for the losses which finally resulted in the Government having to carry the losses.

An amount of \$175 million has been borrowed from the State Government Insurance Commission by Western Australian Government Holdings for the proposed petrochemical plant, yet there is no tangible asset. By comparison an amount of \$175 million was spent by Homeswest last financial year. It illustrates the magnitude of money involved in capital works - money which is no longer available to the Government.

Hon Garry Kelly: Are you saying that it is not being spent this year?

Hon MAX EVANS: I am saying that the spending power has been lost. If a person draws \$10 000 from a bank and loses it, he cannot purchase what he intended to purchase.

Hon Tom Stephens: If the Government had that money would you like it to spend it or would you like us to reduce Government charges.

Hon MAX EVANS: It has nothing to do with that. The Government must be more responsible for what it is doing with capital expenditure. The Government should be consistent in the way in which it documents the Consolidated Revenue Fund Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure and the General Loan and Capital Works Fund Estimates of Expenditure. The United Kingdom Budget's CRF figures and General Loan and Capital Works Fund figures are documented for each department on the same page. I suggested last year that the Government consider a similar system. The relationship between the two funds should be documented. This would allow the Government to plan and project the movement of cash for future years and it would not be locked into the current year. I again suggest to the Minister that he give consideration to providing more consistency with documenting the expenditure of money in future years and, if possible, to consider a system similar to the UK system.

The supplement to the Capital Works Fund estimates states -

The capital works program of the Main Roads Department and the major tertiary institutions are not included in these figures although capital expenditures by these bodies play a significant role in the provision of community assets and provide important inputs to economic activity in the State.

The capital expenditure for the three tertiary institutions in this State was not very great last year, but the Capital Works Program of the Main Roads Department totalled \$200 million, which included Commonwealth and State grants. The Main Roads Department is a major department and it should be included in the overall Budget. I have spoken to officers from the Main Roads Department and they do not know why it has not been included in the overall Budget, but they are of the opinion that it probably has something to do with other grants. After all, the State Energy Commission, the Water Authority and Homeswest are included in the overall Budget and I can see no reason why the Main Roads Department should not be included also. The department is backed by the State and it is not even a statutory authority like the SEC.

I support the Bill.

HON G.E. MASTERS (West - Leader of the Opposition) [10.26 pm]: I support the Bill before the House, but I wish to make reference to two or three matters this evening which are of importance.

Law and order is a problem area for our community, in particular, the problem with the theft of cars. Random breath testing was mentioned in another debate earlier this evening. I guess it was the opinion of many people that the introduction of random breath testing would resolve many of the problems in the community by reducing car accidents. It has not eventuated and everything I forecast when I strongly opposed the Bill seems to have happened. Indeed, literally tens of thousands of people are being stopped on the roads and I understand the hit rate is about one in every 100 people. In other words, for every 100 people tested under the random breath testing program the police are actually charging one person. Members are aware that the random breath testing program has been implemented for a trial period and the Parliament of the day will make a decision about whether it will continue at the conclusion of the trial period of 18 months. The reason I have mentioned random breath testing is that, having frantically turned from one attempted solution, we now have to look at other methods of dealing with the difficulties occurring on the roads.

The issue that has become serious and which is reaching terrifying proportions is the theft of

motor vehicles. The behaviour of the people, mainly young people, who steal cars can only be described as insane and reckless. They steal cars on a regular basis and drive them through red traffic lights and crossroads at tremendous speed. I know that injury and probably death have resulted from this behaviour, but sooner or later there will be an accident that will really bring the seriousness of this issue to the attention of the community. For example, a number of deaths may occur because of one person driving in a reckless manner. Members need only read the reports in the Press, particularly the *Sunday Times*, to understand what is happening. I will refer to some of the reports because, although the Government has said it will address the problem, we have to draw the attention of the courts to our serious concern. The Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mr Taylor, has announced increased penalties, but the courts are not applying them. Something is wrong somewhere. If the Parliament is not able to introduce penalties and see them applied, we have to keep making a fuss in this place until someone takes notice. It is no good waiting until seven or eight people are killed in one accident as a result of what is happening. Just recently the *Sunday Times* ran a series of articles which it is worth taking notice of because of the serious nature of the issue. An article in the *Sunday Times* of 27 November this year states -

A car is stolen in Perth every 50 minutes.

Children, some with 60 car theft convictions, are making a laughing stock of the Childrens Court.

I emphasise that we are saying that they are making an ass of the law and they are not dealt with properly in the Children's Court. The article continues -

Aboriginal leaders say the same court is letting young Aboriginal offenders off with a "slap on the wrist".

It continues -

In 1986-87, 1052 youths under the age of 18 appeared in the WA Childrens Court on car theft charges.

Five children aged 10 or under appeared, along with 16 aged 11, 20 aged 12, 71 who were 13, 136 aged 14, 210 aged 15, 316 aged 16, 228 aged 17 and 20 18-year-olds.

It seems unbelievable that many of the youths stealing the cars and driving them in a reckless manner are only 10 years old. One could not imagine that they would have any understanding of the threat they pose to the community by driving at anything up to 200 kilometres per hour, but that is exactly what is happening. The article continues -

A high percentage of the offenders are usually between 14 and 17 and Aboriginal males.

The article also states -

Lake Gngara community leader Ken Colbung admitted to fighting a losing battle against constant offenders who treat the judicial system "as a joke".

He said: "I don't think the penalties are harsh enough, so if a child cannot be held responsible, then we must start to penalise the parents.

"The parents are not listening because the courts are weak.

The article then describes a 15 year old boy who was involved in a crash. It states -

Mike is just 15 and an experienced car thief with a long list of convictions for various offences.

It has taken seven months for him to steal about 30 cars from homes and car parks . . . He is now on probation and if he offends again, he will be sent to Longmore Juvenile Detention Centre.

But the prospect of spending six months in Longmore is of no concern to Mike. He's been there four times before.

And he said the Childrens Court was just an inconvenience. "After all, they've let me off nearly every other time," he said.

That is the sort of attitude of the young people who steal cars. Another article in the 27

November edition of the *Sunday Times* reports a Government spokesman as having said that the hands of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mr Taylor, were tied, even though stiffer penalties had been approved recently in Parliament. We are not blaming the Minister of the day. The Minister, even if a little late, has introduced increased penalties. The article also said that even though Parliament made the penalties, it was still up to the bench to impose them. The article said the police say it will take the death of an officer or a member of the public before something is done.

The article again deals with 15 and 16 year old youngsters who take cars for joy rides. I could go on quoting these newspaper articles by the dozen, but I do not intend to delay the House unduly by going through them chapter and verse. I just refer to another typical example which re-emphasises the seriousness of the situation. An article in the *Daily News* of 16 November 1988 states -

A juvenile crime wave in the form of a 14-year-old boy hit Perth's streets over a four-day period.

A senior police officer today described the youngster as "a hardened criminal and he is not even five foot high".

The boy has been involved in:

A stolen car chase which saw a blind man's legs broken when the bus shelter he was sitting in was stuck by one of the vehicles involved.

A two-car drag race along Albany Highway where the car the 14-year-old was driving careered out of control into a car yard causing \$50,000 damage to new vehicles.

A \$20,000 jewel break-in where a stolen car driven by the boy was crashed through the front window of an Inglewood jewellers and a similar raid on a nearby boutique where \$2300 in clothes was stolen.

The article goes on to say that the police were furious that the boy was released on bail on Monday and was then involved in a robbery early on Tuesday. He did all that damage and was involved in a crash, yet two or three days later he was at it again! The article continues -

He was released on a \$20,000 personal surety to his mother by the Childrens Court even though police opposed it.

That is another example of the courts doing the sort of thing to which I referred earlier. To continue -

His mother was also charged with unlawfully driving a car which she allegedly used to get to the court to pick her son up.

The son had done all that damage, yet was released on bail only to appear in court on a similar charge again two days later. His mother arrived to bail him out in a stolen car! That demonstrates the seriousness of the situation.

Hon J.M. Berinson: What is your suggestion in such a case, Mr Masters?

Hon G.E. MASTERS: The courts have to apply much stiffer penalties.

Hon J.M. Berinson: We do not know from what you read what the penalty is. He does not appear to have come up for sentence yet.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: I will give the Minister some examples in a moment. I am just quoting the newspaper articles. I am not criticising the Government or the Minister, because I could quote the increased penalties introduced by the Minister and the Government. However, it is all very well our talking about increased penalties; it is all very well this Government, our Government or any other Government saying that the penalties should be applied; but the courts must understand the seriousness of the situation and the concern in the community, reflected by members of Parliament speaking in this place. We have to keep talking about it and make the courts understand the community is deeply worried about what is happening.

Hon J.M. Berinson: One of the ways we can do that is through the Children's Court legislation which will be introduced tomorrow.



Hon G.E. MASTERS: That is fine, but in the meantime these things are happening day in and day out. All members would either know someone who has had a car stolen or would themselves have had a car stolen. I read that a car is stolen in Western Australia once every 50 minutes and that there are more than 60 convictions every day. I do not know how much longer the police can continue to deal with this activity. Dealing with these problems puts a drain on police manpower. People who have had their cars stolen face many difficulties. We should not forget that insurance premiums keep jumping up as a result of car thefts. Recently, the wife of a friend of mine had her car stolen. It was found two days later with its brakes burned out and its tyres wrecked. It was battered around very badly. It was weeks before my friend's wife got the car back. In the meantime, she used public transport, I suppose, but the inconvenience was great. The car stolen was a Commodore, a make favoured by car thieves, and it was stolen at five o'clock in the afternoon. Whoever stole the car probably got a slap on the wrist. If someone caught these youngsters in the act, grabbed them by the scruff of the neck and gave them a damn good boot up the backside, he would have ended up in court.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Do you think that would solve the problem?

Hon G.E. MASTERS: It would have made me feel better, but it would not have solved my problem. The police have had a gutful of the courts and the lack of activity. If the parents are not to be held responsible in any way, then perhaps some of them condone it. I gave an example a moment ago.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Surely you have come across cases where the parents cannot control the child?

Hon G.E. MASTERS: I agree, but there are cases in which the parents do not seem to worry about what is happening. I will give an example of why I have raised these matters.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I direct members' attention to the fact that the reading of newspapers in the Chamber is not permitted.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: I was about to quote from it.

The PRESIDENT: Read it when you quote from the newspaper.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: I was talking about the grave problem in the community today and was giving examples to the Leader of the House of the concerns of the Police Force about the lack of effective action taken by the courts. I have here some criminal history recording charge sheets. I will not quote the names but I was interested in reading these charge sheets. One young fellow born on 12 January 1972 had his first conviction on 28 April 1982, at the age of 10 years, for eight charges including stealing and receiving. That young person carried on with his activities and at the age of 11 years on 8 November 1983 -

Hon Tom Stephens: How do you come by charge sheets like that?

Hon G.E. MASTERS: I was handed them or they were put on my desk. Is the member saying that I should not have them?

Hon Tom Stephens: I just wondered how you came by them.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: They were put on my desk. Is the member saying that this is not a serious matter?

Hon Tom Stephens: I think it is extraordinary that you should have those records.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: Extraordinary or not, I have them. This is a serious matter. At the age of 11 years this boy was stealing motor vehicles and was put into the care of the former Community Welfare Department and given six months on each charge. A month later, on 29 December 1983, he was at it again - reckless driving, unlawfully driving a vehicle, failing to stop, and not having a motor driving licence. He was then put in the charge of the CWD until he reached the age of 16 years. On 10 July 1984, just a few months later, he was convicted again of reckless driving, unlawfully driving a motor vehicle, and breaking and entering. He was again placed under the control of the CWD until he reached the age of 16 years. He was also put in Longmore under strict custody. On 24 April 1985 - bearing in mind he was under the control of the CWD until he reached the age of 16 - he was again convicted of unlawfully driving a vehicle. By this time at the age of 12 years he had become a hardened criminal. On 24 July 1985 he was put into the charge and custody of the CWD for the third time.

Hon J.M. Berinson: From what you have read, I do not think he was put in the custody of the department.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: The charge sheet says that he was given detention in custody for three months. It is stated on this sheet that he was to be in the charge of the Community Welfare Department until the age of 16 years and he was sentenced to a period in Longmore under strict custody.

Hon J.M. Berinson: But not until he reached the age of 16 years. He would have been under the department's general supervision but subject to periodic terms.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: That is the point I am making; he was in the charge of the department until the age of 16. I could go through chapter and verse indicating time and time again that he was under the control of the CWD until the age of 16, but within months, weeks and sometimes one day of committing a crime he was out and repeating the offence. On 24 July 1985 he was convicted of unauthorised use of a motor vehicle and sentenced to strict custody for six months. A day later he was unlawfully driving a motor vehicle. He may have been under the control of the department then and it caught up with a later offence. I indicate to members the number of charges by showing how long this charge sheet is. Members can imagine the frustration of the police with the CWD from the time this boy was 10 years old and first convicted.

Hon Tom Stephens: Your solution would be to give him a kick up the backside.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: Hon Tom Stephens should not be silly. I am saying the Government, the Minister and the Parliament have said this must stop and stronger penalties must be applied. Those penalties have been introduced and yet the courts are still not applying them. I said that if I caught a youngster and gave him a boot up the backside, I would be the person facing charges in court.

Hon Tom Helm: Transport them to England!

Hon G.E. MASTERS: I think we brought some of them to Australia. I am surprised that Hon Tom Stephens is suggesting that I am being unfair. The last charge on this sheet is dated 9 August 1988, when the boy was 16 years of age. He was convicted of unlawfully driving a motor vehicle and given strict custody for four months - reference is also made to a three months' concurrent term. What the devil are the courts doing? I have three more similar charge sheets, one involving a youngster born in 1977. They go on and on. I have another sheet which relates to a person born in 1958, who is now 30 years of age. Again, a massive list of charges is recorded against that person, most involve stealing vehicles. These people are put away for a while and then get out again and repeat their offences. It must be stopped. The police spend a lot of time writing out these charges, the offenders go into court, are given a slap over the wrist, and go out the next day and commit similar offences.

Hon J.M. Berinson: You are not suggesting that this is happening to people at the age of 30?

Hon G.E. MASTERS: On 23 May 1988 he was charged with unlawfully driving a motor vehicle, having no driver's licence, reckless driving, and stealing, for which he was sentenced to one month, four months and three months cumulative. So he was 30 years of age and had been doing that week after week, month after month, and that is the point I am making. I do not know what we will do about this. I do not know that there is an easy answer. I am not sure that stiffer penalties will solve the problem. I am saying that this is becoming such a serious problem in the community that neither the police nor the public know how to deal with or cope with this problem. We could perhaps put institutions in remote areas and make the little so and sos go there and keep them under control in those remote areas in a sort of reform school for months at a time. Even then I am not sure that would help.

Hon Tom Helm: If you exercised that approach, where would it get them? They would come out hardened criminals. What is the point?

Hon G.E. MASTERS: It seems to take them only two days to become hardened criminals.

Hon Tom Helm: What are you suggesting?

Hon G.E. MASTERS: I repeat that Hon Tom Helm's Government and Minister introduced stronger penalties and some responsibility being placed on parents, and the courts are not

applying those wishes and laws that have been set down, or the penalties set down by the Minister and supported by us, because we supported that strongly. We are saying that the courts should at least be firmer and make a stronger stand.

Hon Tom Helm: Is Hon Gordon Masters suggesting we tell the magistrates to do certain things in certain circumstances?

Hon G.E. MASTERS: My speech is intended in a small way to make an impact in this Parliament and to ask the bench, not direct them, and the justices to consider the matter as one of a much more serious nature than they appear to have done in the past. If stiffer penalties can be applied they should be applied.

Hon Tom Helm: Has Hon Gordon Masters asked them, or their association, about this matter?

Hon G.E. MASTERS: I am doing that here. I hope the media report this. I say that they must take notice of the newspaper reports as there are a lot of them appearing, and of public concern. They must surely be taking note now of the complete frustration of the Police Force, who have better things to do. I am saying to members that it will not be long before a number of people are killed in a serious accident because of a 10, 11 or 12 year old child driving at 200 kilometres an hour. It might be women and children, Hon Tom Helm's wife, or my wife; that is the seriousness of the matter.

I commend the Government for introducing stronger penalties. I am not criticising the Government. I am saying that the courts must take note of public concern. We have to look at other measures. Maybe the Minister will come up with some stronger measures, or maybe our side will. If offenders have to be shut away for a longer period than at present to save the public from mutilation and death, so be it, because one cannot tell me that the system is working at the moment when I can show honourable members charge sheets yards long for youngsters not yet 16 years of age.

Hon Tom Helm: The systems do not work. Long periods of incarceration do not work, either.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: Something has to be done.

Hon Tom Helm: Hon Gordon Masters says magistrates should do something, does he?

Hon G.E. MASTERS: I will not argue with Hon Tom Helm. I am sure he agreed with his Minister's increasing penalties, but the courts must apply those penalties. We must think of other ways of doing this. It seems that the Department for Community Services and the Children's Court are not doing the job well enough. I could go on and on, but I am sure that the Minister does not want me to do that. A headline appeared in the *Sunday Times* of 4 December 1988, "Juvenile courts 'a bloody joke'". A former Children's Court magistrate was reported as saying it was a joke and making suggestions about how these matters could be addressed. Hon Tom Helm does not seem to be taking this matter seriously. However, if he leaves this place tonight and finds his car wrapped around a tree in Kings Park he will change his mind dramatically.

Hon Tom Helm: Hon Gordon Masters is not saying what his people will do. He is just saying that what is going on is not good enough.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: I will repeat myself once more, and that is all. I am saying that this Government and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services introduced stiffer penalties. A report appeared in a newspaper in which Mr Taylor was reported as saying that these penalties were being introduced to try to make the law more effective in relation to these people. I support the Minister, and members in this House supported him, but the courts do not seem to be applying those penalties. We are saying that they should take note of the Government and the Minister and that is one of the courses of action I suggest be taken.

I will now briefly go over two or three issues that I will not have a chance to address later. I will comment on the gaming laws applying in Western Australia at this time and the broadening of those laws so that young people are now allowed to gamble. I know that is only on bingo, but members may recall that some 15 years ago we started this move towards more and more gambling outlets and gambling in the community on bingo. I was concerned to read in a newspaper, I think last week in *The West Australian*, the following -

BINGO.

Did you know?

That gaming laws have changed?

Once again people from 12 years  
and over are allowed to play bingo

SO

For a good family night out try . . .

I am saying that 12 year olds are now able to go along to bingo nights. Bear in mind that the regulations provide that unless special arrangements are made the game of bingo commences at 7.30 pm, so this is saying that 12 year olds can be taken by their parents to spend three or four hours in bingo places when they should be home in bed at 9.00 pm or 10.00 pm.

Hon Tom Helm: It is better than their stealing cars.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: It is all part of it. When one starts allowing youngsters like this to go to what are modest gambling nights that is a start. They will be allowed into other gambling areas very soon and we will see a general move towards allowing young people to gamble under the age of 17 or 18 years, whatever it is. I was astonished and could not believe that. I called on the attendants here to get me the regulations and I read them thinking that they had never been discussed in the Parliament. I do not think it has ever been the intention of members of Parliament when dealing with gambling laws to allow the 12 year olds to be involved, even if it is only in bingo.

The other matter I will address to the Minister for Budget Management, who is handling the legislation, deals with the Capital Works Program. I would like him to explain to me why the money allocated year after year under the Capital Works Program for community services and corrective services has been underspent. I think it is a bit of a fraud when this happens. I will give an example to explain my position. The Department of Corrective Services Capital Works Program in 1985-86 was allocated, and approved by this Parliament, \$8.97 million. The actual expenditure for that year was \$1.89 million. I am not expecting the Minister to go into these figures as I am talking about the general principle involved here. As the actual expenditure was \$1.8 million there was a saving, if you like, of \$7 million which was not spent.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I do not know the particular case, but it would be most unlikely for that to be a saving. The much more likely possibility is that the \$7 million was carried forward into the following year because the building program was behind schedule.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: I accept that point. We can see if we look at 1986-87 that the Government had allocated \$8.68 million for capital works. We must bear in mind that the Government probably came in here with trumpets blaring when it announced that proposed expenditure, and that would have been marvellous had not the Government carried over \$7 million from the previous year, so the Government was in fact going to spend only an extra \$1 million. The Government spent only \$3.75 million of that estimated \$8.68 million expenditure in 1986-87, so it again saved just under \$5 million. The Government has said it could not get all of the work done, so when we come to the following year -

Hon J.M. Berinson: In some cases we may have stopped work. For example, there was to be a new work release centre at West Perth, which was approved, but it was abandoned when we decided to move instead to having community correction centres.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: That may be the answer, but it seems strange that the Government could carry over 79 per cent of the approved expenditure one year, and in the following year carry over another 57 per cent, until we get to 1987-88 where the Government allocated \$27.675 million, and spent only \$16.185 million, which amounted to a saving of \$11 million. So in the three years I have mentioned, there was an approved expenditure of \$45.38 million, yet the Government spent only \$21.832 million, so it underspent by \$23 million. The Government can say that has been carried over, but in 1988-89 it has allocated \$41.2 million.

Hon J.M. Berinson: That is mainly for Casuarina.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: Sure, but if we take the money the Government should have spent over the last three years, and which was approved by this Parliament -

Hon J.M. Berinson: What is the point?

Hon G.E. MASTERS: The point is that every year Government Ministers have come into this place - and we certainly would not if we were in Government, but this Government has - and told us what marvellous people they are and what a great job they are doing because this is what they are going to spend, but they have not spent all of the moneys allocated. It really is a fraud because if \$8.9 million is allocated, and the Government underspends by \$7 million, yet says in the following year that it is going to spend \$8 million, that is really an expenditure of only \$1 million above what it spent the previous year.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Are you saying we do not spend enough?

Hon G.E. MASTERS: I am saying the Government is really being quite cheeky in the figures it is producing to this House. The Minister knows exactly what I am getting at.

Hon A.A. Lewis: When you see the Government's estimates of its losses in Rothwells and the Teachers Credit Society, you can understand how the Minister for Budget Management does it, because those figures are always out by a few hundred percentage points.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: Yes. We now have an allocation of \$41 million for this year, but \$23 million that was approved by this Parliament has been carried over. We asked the Minister what the Government was going to do for the next two or three years to meet its commitments for its bad investments. The Minister said that it was not always possible to spend all the money allocated to capital works, and it is often the case that the money is underspent. I am saying that because the Government has to meet these commitments, we surely ought to have some idea about whether the Government will spend this \$41.2 million on corrective services or whether there will be another underspending to the tune of perhaps \$20 million which will be used to bail out the Government and to pay off the commitments that it has to meet. The Government has come forward with a Capital Works Program and has produced glossy papers to say what it will spend, but the Minister has now admitted that a lot of that money will not be spent because many of the capital works projects will not be completed or even commenced.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I did not say that. I said that the amount projected to be spent was unlikely to be reached.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: We are saying the Government is not going to spend all the money which has been allocated to capital works.

Hon J.M. Berinson: That is right.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: The Minister has said that will be for a number of reasons. I believe one of the major reasons is the Government will have to spend the money on something else.

Hon A.A. Lewis: It is called creative accounting.

Hon J.M. Berinson: You are putting the chicken before the egg. We would not be putting aside money had not the building program fallen behind the original projections. It was not a matter of suddenly deciding to drag the project back.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: We know and the Minister for Budget Management knows that the greater part of the money for capital works being dealt with under this legislation will not be spent, not for the reason that the planning is not completed but because the Government has to meet some of the bad debts that have accumulated.

Hon J.M. Berinson: That could not be correct on the history you referred to. You have gone back four or five years and have seen this underspending on capital works. We did not have this special expenditure in those previous years.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: It is a deceitful way of producing the Capital Works Program if the Government brings in a program worth \$27 million, makes a big song and dance about it, and gets \$27 million worth of publicity, but then spends only \$16 million and saves \$11 million. We are now at the stage where the Government has a bill for this year of at least \$85 million. I believe the Government is proposing to meet that bill by holding back on its Capital Works Program.

Hon J.M. Berinson: That is not true. You are making it sound as though it is a deliberate holding back, but the history you have given, going back over the past five years, indicates that is not what has happened.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: The Minister was asked a question by Hon Max Evans about how the Government was going to fund the payment of its \$85 million debt. The Minister said it will be met in part because the Government cannot fulfil its capital works commitments. I believe the Government will deliberately hold back on some of its capital works projects.

Hon J.M. Berinson: You are wrong.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: I am right. If the Minister is saying the Capital Works Program will in the main proceed as planned and there will not be any special moves made to delay capital works to pay for the \$85 million debt, which the Minister has admitted must be paid this year - the Minister did say in his statement that it was \$85 million -

Hon J.M. Berinson: It cannot be more than \$85 million. The thing is paid off.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: Only two days ago the Treasurer was quoted in a newspaper report as talking about other debts that need to be met this year.

Hon J.M. Berinson: No; he was not.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: He was. I cannot get it for the Minister now, but I will read it tomorrow in chapter and verse.

Hon J.M. Berinson: You are confused.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: The Minister would like us to be confused.

Hon Tom Stephens: We know you are confused.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: Look at the member - he has spoken up! I am accurate. I am quoting the Minister's own figure of \$85 million. It is likely to be much more.

Hon J.M. Berinson: No; it will be about \$80 million.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: Who cares, says Mr Berinson, whether it is \$80 million or \$85 million - it is only taxpayers' money!

Hon Tom Stephens: You multiply every figure by five.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: I have raised these matters because they are important. I emphasise that a great deal of the Capital Works Program we are now talking about will not proceed for the reason I have already mentioned. The Minister has said it will. At the end of the year we will see for ourselves that what I have said is absolutely correct. The traffic problem and the issue of stolen cars need to be addressed. I am not criticising the Government for that, but somewhere along the line this matter must be taken in hand and people in the community protected.

HON N.F. MOORE (Lower North) [11.10 pm]: I comment on the Capital Works Budget and make it quite clear that in my view the Government has created some misconceptions in the promotion of its education budget. If we take the trouble to look back over the years at the amount of money spent on capital works by various Governments, we get a very clear indication of the pork barrelling associated with this Budget.

In 1985-86 the estimated expenditure on primary and secondary schools was \$49.2 million, and the Government spent \$51.7 million. That was the last pre-election period. In 1986-87 the Government estimated it would spend \$46.1 million and it spent \$47.6 million, a reduction on the previous year of some \$4 million. In 1987-88 it estimated it would spend \$41.9 million and in fact spent \$41.8 million, a reduction of a further \$6 million on the previous year. The amount spent in 1987-88 was \$10 million less than the amount spent in 1985-86 in actual dollars on primary and secondary school capital works. That is a reduction in actual dollars. I have not taken the trouble to take the inflationary factor into account, but if we accepted that inflation was 10 per cent per annum, we would be looking at another couple of million dollars less than was spent in the last pre-election year.

Hon Tom Stephens: The Government must have been carried forward by your demand for less capital expenditure in those years.

Hon N.F. MOORE: If that is the excuse I would like the Government to say so, instead of running around the countryside saying what a wonderful Budget this is and how much money it is spending on schools.

Hon A.A. Lewis: They are doing that all the time.

Hon N.F. MOORE: We will probably need to bring in a new Budget to pay for it. In this Budget for 1988-89 we see that the Government is proposing -

Hon J.M. Brown: An absolute commentary on -

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon John Williams): Order!

Hon N.F. MOORE: We now see in the Budget for 1988-89 an estimated expenditure of \$51.9 million, an increase of \$10 million in actual dollars on the previous year's expenditure. The amount estimated to be spent this year on capital works for primary and secondary schools is exactly the same in actual dollars as was spent in the year 1985-86; \$51.9 million as opposed to \$51.7 million three years ago. I have not made any allowance again for the effect of inflation, but quite clearly the amount allocated in this year's Budget for primary and secondary schools is less in real terms than was spent three years ago.

That is a scandal. When we walk around, or drive or fly around, as some people do, we will find everywhere in Western Australia schools bulging at the seams. There are transportable classrooms by the thousand all over Western Australia, there are children in classrooms in wet areas, libraries have classes in them constantly, and the situation is generally unsatisfactory in many Western Australian schools. The Government comes out with a Budget this year and proclaims the first billion dollar education budget, and then includes a mere \$51.9 million for capital works, which is exactly the same amount as was spent three years ago. This is not good enough. I suggest members go to the schools in their own electorates and have a good look. They will find that what I am saying is correct.

Hon J.M. Brown: I went to Northampton. Miss McAleer went as well.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I know; I talked about that earlier. If Miss McAleer had gone to that opening, that would have been fine, because she is the local member. It is reasonable for local members to be given a lift in an aircraft with the Minister, if one is going to a function in his own electorate, but this is not in Mr Brown's electorate.

Hon J.M. Brown: How stupid can you be, you peasant!

Hon N.F. MOORE: The honourable member was carted up to Northampton with the Minister for Education -

Hon J.M. Brown: I enjoyed every minute of it.

Hon N.F. MOORE: - to a school which is not in his electorate -

Hon J.M. Brown: At the invitation of the principal of the high school.

Hon N.F. MOORE: - and at the expense of the taxpayer.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon N.F. MOORE: Mr Brown is the one who wears the badge.

Hon Tom Stephens: You are a peasant.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! I warn Hon Tom Stephens yet again. I said earlier today that it was going to be a long day. I understand we have at least another six items on the Notice Paper to be dealt with, and I warn members that if they keep on interjecting we will be here till sunrise. I am prepared for that. I will take action on it.

Hon N.F. MOORE: It is my belief that if members of Parliament are to fly around at Government expense to places other than their electorates for purely electioneering purposes, as Hon Jim Brown clearly did, they should make a contribution to the cost of the aircraft.

Hon J.M. Brown: You are misleading the House.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon N.F. MOORE: The member cannot tell the House that he went to Northampton for any reason other than to win some votes.

Hon J.M. Brown: You are lying again.

*Withdrawal of Remark*

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! I ask Hon Jim Brown to withdraw that remark; it is unparliamentary.

Hon J.M. BROWN: With deference to you, I withdraw, Mr Deputy President.

*Debate Resumed*

Hon N.F. MOORE: I regret I did not hear that comment, but I shall be interested to read *Hansard*. I reserve my comments to the member for another time.

Hon J.M. Brown: Oh, you are threatening!

Hon N.F. MOORE: I am, yes. I am getting a bit sick of the honourable member.

Hon J.M. Brown: Oh, grow up!

Hon N.F. MOORE: The member is an absolute nonsense!

Hon J.M. Brown: I have an awfully long list against you.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Talk about making threatening comments! I am sure we will hear about it during the election campaign, Mr Brown.

Hon J.M. Brown: It is a waste of time.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I am suggesting to the honourable member, as a person who took a ride on the Government's new aircraft to go electioneering, like anybody else who goes to somebody else's electorate, he should pay for it. At \$1 750 an hour, that will be very expensive. The honourable member is now under orders to go outside the Chamber.

When we look at the Budget, and at the \$51.9 million being spent on schools, which is exactly the same as was spent three years ago, we find an allocation of \$2.8 million for Government offices in Mandurah, of which \$1.21 million is to be spent this financial year. Last week I went to Mandurah, and a couple of weeks before that I went on another trip to look at the situation in the schools there at the request of local people.

Hon Graham Edwards: Is that not what Mr Brown did?

Hon N.F. MOORE: I paid my own way. I did not go in the Kingair, or as the Minister for Education does, in a helicopter; I drove my own car at my own expense. That is my argument. Mr Brown can go to Northampton any day of the week, as far as I am concerned, if he pays for it, in the same way as I pay when I go to Broome, Derby and other places in my new electorate.

The Government is prepared to spend \$2.8 million on Government offices in Mandurah, for which people find it difficult to comprehend the need, yet the schools in Mandurah are bursting at the seams. The Mandurah Senior High School has 21 demountable classrooms. That is absolutely disgusting! Somebody described it as Stalag 13. That is what it looks like. Those 21 demountables are all lined up at the senior high school. The Government is building a new high school at Coodanup which will take up the natural growth at Mandurah. The senior high school will be stuck with those 21 demountable classrooms for ever, by the way things are going. The primary schools are bursting at the seams. We have already made a commitment to build a new school at Falcon. We made that commitment at the last election, but it has still not been built so we have repeated that commitment. The people in that part of Mandurah deserve decent educational facilities for their children. We find the same problem developing at the Dudley Park School.

Hon C.J. Bell: It is an absolute disgrace!

Hon N.F. MOORE: Mr Bell is quite right. The Dudley Park School is bursting at the seams. There is a desperate need for a new school in that part of Mandurah, and there is nothing in the Budget to cover that situation. Quite obviously the Government is taking the seat of Mandurah for granted. It seems to have the view that it is now a safe Labor seat so it can treat it with contempt; but let me tell the Government that the people of Mandurah are very angry at the way in which they are being taken for granted and at the lack of money in this Budget for the educational needs of the people. They are also very angry that the Government sees fit, as it did in Bunbury, to spend a whole heap of money on Government offices.



Hon C.J. Bell: Like the Taj Mahal.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Yes, like the Bunbury Tower. They will have a big tower so that people for miles around can see what the Government has built - a monument to its rash use of taxpayers' funds.

We look at the Budget also in respect of the maintenance of school buildings. Everywhere I go I am told about the very poor level of maintenance being provided for Government schools. Once again, if we look at the Budget we find that in 1985-86 the Government estimated that it would spend \$13.7 million on school maintenance, yet it spent \$14.2 million.

[Quorum formed.]

Hon N.F. MOORE: We find that \$16.14 million was expended in 1986-87 - an increase of \$2 million on the previous year. In 1987-88 it was estimated that the Government would spend \$15.97 million but in fact it spent only \$13.04 million; that is, \$2.9 million less was spent in 1987-88 than was budgeted for. In fact, the amount spent was something like \$3 million less than was spent the previous year. In 1988-89 the estimated expenditure is \$14.7 million. That is an increase of \$1.7 million on the previous year but, as I said, in the previous year \$2.9 million less was spent than was estimated; so the amount of \$14.7 million which is budgeted to be spent in 1988-89 is virtually the same as was actually expended in 1985-86, which was \$14.2 million. So all we have for school maintenance in this Budget is an increase of half a million dollars over 1985-86. That is in actual dollars; if we take into account the inflation factor it is a reduction in real terms.

Again, it is not just a reduction in capital works for new buildings for primary and secondary schools; it is also a reduction in real terms for maintenance. All members who go around the schools will know that most of them are in dire need of some form of maintenance. There are schools with leaking roofs, and schools obviously in need of painting. I have seen schools where the windows fall out and they have had to put wire netting underneath the windows so they do not fall on anybody. I know of schools where the windows have been bolted closed so that people do not try to open them and have them fall out in their hands. People have a whole range of complaints about the state of our school buildings. One thing the former Premier, Sir Charles Court, said has always stuck in my mind: He said a Government must never neglect the maintenance of public buildings because if it does it places an increasing burden on future generations of taxpayers. It is absolutely vital that we maintain a proper standard of maintenance for all Government buildings and it is really quite incredible that this Government is now spending less on maintenance of school buildings than it spent three years ago. It is just not good enough; the Government is burdening the future generations of taxpayers with an increasingly serious problem in respect of the condition of our schools.

Earlier tonight I mentioned that the seat of Murchison-Eyre had done very badly under this Government. I have been through the capital works budgets for the last three years and extracted items of expenditure in that electorate. It indicates quite clearly that this Government has no concern for the people in that part of the world. In 1986-87 the Government spent \$947 000 on capital works in the seat of Murchison-Eyre; of that total, \$750 000 was spent on central reserve schools. So virtually all except \$200 000 was spent in the desert on Aboriginal communities. In 1987-88 the Government spent \$753 000 on capital works in Murchison-Eyre, of which \$336 000 was spent on central reserve schools.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: Are they part of Murchison-Eyre?

Hon N.F. MOORE: Yes, but they probably spent more in Hon Sam Piantadosi's suburb than they spent in Murchison-Eyre.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: Why are you separating one from the other?

Hon N.F. MOORE: I will explain it in a minute. The Government also spent \$210 000 on the Wiluna school; so of the \$753 000 spent in 1987-88, \$550 000 was spent on Aboriginal communities or Aboriginal schools. Therefore for those two years the vast majority of funds allocated - 75 per cent - was spent on Aboriginal communities.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: Are you anti Aboriginal?

Hon N.F. MOORE: In the current Budget the total amount allocated to Murchison-Eyre is a

measly \$355 000 for an area which covers about one third of Western Australia, and of that total \$60 000 is for a special Aboriginal program - we are not told exactly what it is, that is all it says in the Budget. The sum of \$50 000 has been allocated for the Wiluna Nursing Post and the bulk of it - \$245 000 - for the Wiluna Police Station. Virtually all that money is being spent in some way or other on Aboriginal related capital works projects.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: They are part of Murchison-Eyre.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I know they are.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: Talk about the total amount of money spent in Murchison-Eyre.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Aborigines are a minority of people in Murchison-Eyre and it seems to me that this Government has a blinkered view of the needs of that part of Western Australia. I have already talked about the closure of the Cue Department of Mines office at a time when the mining industry is booming. This Government has spent virtually nothing on roads and has spent the vast percentage of its capital works budget over the last three years - about \$2 million in total - on Aboriginal related activities. This Government should get rid of the blinkers, stop giving away large amounts of land, stop thinking that the only people who live in that part of the world are Aborigines, and start to realise that lots of people need lots of things in that part of the world. Murchison-Eyre, the Murchison region of Western Australia and the north eastern goldfields are all areas which have been sadly neglected. They are experiencing enormous growth because of the goldmining industry and it is time they were provided with the sorts of facilities that people in the metropolitan area take for granted - things that Hon Sam Piantadosi would just assume are normally provided in most communities.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: What are they, Mr Moore? You are telling the story.

Hon N.F. MOORE: They are town halls, police stations, halls, proper schools - the whole bit.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: Where are the police stations?

Hon N.F. MOORE: I presume there are police stations in Hon Sam Piantadosi's electorate. Hon Sam Piantadosi has bitumen roads, buses and the whole lot in his electorate, yet the people who live in these isolated parts of Western Australia, and who produce an enormous amount of export income, get virtually nothing in return. We can talk about bus services in Kalgoorlie when we get to that piece of legislation; the Government expects people in Kalgoorlie to pay through their rates, but there is no way that Hon Sam Piantadosi's constituents would pay through their rates for public transport. I mentioned that before and by interjection a Government member said I needed to prove that Murchison-Eyre had been disadvantaged. I think I have by pointing out that in three years this Government has spent a mere \$2 million on that area, which covers approximately one third of this State -

Hon John Halden: With 6 000 people.

Hon N.F. MOORE: What is wrong with those 6 000 people? They are living in disadvantaged circumstances. Hon John Halden should get off his backside and get out there to have a look at people who are disadvantaged in this country - not the people he talks about in Wanneroo, the people who cannot have all the things they want right now and cannot have all the facilities Hon John Halden talks about here all the time. Hon John Halden should go up there and look at people who do not have basic things like bitumen roads. That is the sort of thing which should be done first instead of the things Hon John Halden wants to provide for his part of the State. People who live in those regions ought to get some sort of compensation and recognition of the fact that the facilities they have are not good enough. It is not good enough for this Government -

Hon Fred McKenzie: What percentage are Aborigines?

Hon N.F. MOORE: Probably 30 per cent.

Hon John Halden: Who were neglected for a decade and a half under your Government.

Hon N.F. MOORE: That is not true. This Government seems to think that all it has to do is throw money around. Aboriginal communities in the desert get together and say, "We will shift out from Warburton and form a little settlement"; the Government follows like a lap dog and says, "Would you like a school, an electricity system, a water supply system, a bitumen

road and would you like us to send out all your supplies every week?" The countryside is being scattered with new schools, new water and electricity supplies and the whole bit at great expense to the management. These settlements will go the same way as Cosmo Newberry; people will move out when they have had enough of them. All these very expensive capital works will sit out there doing nothing and will just rust.

Hon John Halden: You just said there was not a great expense in capital works. Make the story right.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The great majority of the money spent in Murchison-Eyre - 75 per cent of it - has been spent on those sorts of things.

Hon John Halden: One and a half million dollars; it is hardly throwing away money hand over fist.

Hon N.F. MOORE: What is Hon John Halden arguing? Is he saying more money should be spent out in the desert?

Hon John Halden: Yes.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: That is what you said. That was your argument as well.

Hon N.F. MOORE: My argument is that the towns of Murchison-Eyre -

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: You did not say that.

Hon N.F. MOORE: All right. Let me qualify it: The towns of Murchison-Eyre deserve some consideration.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: Make up your mind what you mean.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The towns of Murchison-Eyre and its people, including the Aborigines, deserve consideration, which they have not had. This Government has virtually ignored them and when one looks at the figures it is there for everyone to see.

Several members interjected.

Hon N.F. MOORE: We have heard before the stupid argument that if a region does not get any money, it is the fault of the representative. It actually means that the region is a very safe seat for one party or the other. In such cases the region gets nothing; for example, if one goes to Cannington and talks to people at the Cannington Senior High School, which desperately needs a new library, they will tell one they do not have their library because the school is in a safe Labor seat. That is one of the reasons an electorate does not get money. Regions get money only if they are marginal and usually only if the Government holds the seat. Members opposite know darn well that Murchison-Eyre is not a seat in which the Government will do any good. We will always win it so there is no point in the Government spending any money there. With the new seat of Eyre one would think, looking at the figures, that it is a safe Labor seat. I might add that is changing dramatically as the days go by and as the Labor candidate for that area begins to be revealed for what he is. People are now starting to say it is not a safe Labor seat at all; it is in fact very marginal and it would not surprise me in the slightest if the Minister for Agriculture loses his seat, if he does not resign in the meantime.

Hon Tom Helm: It would be a big loss.

Hon N.F. MOORE: To whom?

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: Why should he resign?

Hon N.F. MOORE: If he has been involved in activities he should not have been involved in, he may find it necessary to resign. He threatened to resign a while ago if his mate, Graeme Campbell, were expelled from the party. Interestingly he said "expelled"; he said nothing about his being suspended. It is a pity he did not say suspended because it would have been interesting to see whether he was prepared to do what he promised he would do.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: If you are going to smear the Minister, you should substantiate your allegations.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I suggest that the Minister's activities in respect of a range of financial deals are cause for concern among the people of Eyre.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: Substantiate them. What are they?

Hon N.F. MOORE: The people in that electorate are interested to know to what extent the Minister was involved in various financial deals and what affect the Minister's persuasive tongue had on the activities of the R & I Bank. They are interested to know all those sorts of things. They have not been given any answers, as I have not been. However I can tell members that the people think there is something a bit smelly about this, and with the Government's WA Inc activities, with the Rothwells activities, and its general lack of financial ability, it is time for a change. The people who have seen the neglect the Government is prepared to heap on them are now saying it is time to get rid of Mr Grill. As I said before, I would not be in the slightest bit surprised if his parliamentary career ends at the next election.

The Capital Works Budget is a disappointment, particularly from the aspects in which I am interested. It is disappointing particularly in respect of education. I pointed out quite clearly that the amount of money allocated this year is less than the previous past amount, which was at the last election, in actual dollars, so in real terms it represents a significant decrease. If Hon John Halden went into his electorate and told his constituents there had been an increase in the amount of money spent on schools, he would be telling lies because it is not true. I have demonstrated clearly that \$51.7 million was the last highest amount spent in 1985-86.

*Withdrawal of Remark*

Hon JOHN HALDEN: The honourable member made a comment, when pointing directly at me, in regard to my going to my electorate and telling lies. I think that is probably unparliamentary.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon John Williams): That is for me to decide but I adjudicate that it is unparliamentary and I ask Hon Norman Moore to withdraw those words.

Hon N.F. MOORE: On a point of clarification -

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There is no point of clarification.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I am unaware of the need to withdraw it. I simply said that if he were to say something, he would be telling a lie.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I rule that is unparliamentary.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Very well, I withdraw.

*Debate Resumed*

Hon N.F. MOORE: If the member were to go to the schools in his electorate and clearly and honestly explain to them the budgetary situation, he would have to say to them, "In 1985-86, we spent \$51.7 million on Capital Works in primary and secondary schools", because that is what the Budget papers say. If he were being equally as clear in his explanation he would have to say that the Government has allocated, in its \$1 billion Budget this year, \$51.9 million, an increase of \$0.2 million dollars in actual money. Being an intelligent man, the member would have to acknowledge that there has been some inflation for the last three years. Let us work on eight per cent - in fact, make it one per cent if members opposite want to stretch the truth a bit - and in real terms we see there has been a reduction in the amount spent since the last election was held. Even though it is an increase on last year's expenditure, it is a reduction since the last time we had an election. The people out there are entitled to say to Hon John Halden, as they do in Woodvale and other parts of his electorate, "We are sick to death of schools bursting at the seams. We want more than just platitudes and half baked promises; we want to see some schools built." They do not want to hear the Minister say, "I will give consideration to the inclusion of your school in the 1989-90 Budget" or "Your school is a priority for the 1989-90 Budget." We all know what that means; we have heard those words for years and years. Until these things are written into a Budget, people do not get the money - and people do not believe the assurances given to them. I have seen the letters sent by the Minister for Education to dozens of schools because they send copies to me. The letters state that the Minister is mindful of the problems at the schools and will give consideration to including them in the next year's Budget subject to the availability of finance. I have seen dozens of examples like that including - for Hon Jim Brown's benefit - a letter to the Esperance Senior High School on whose behalf I have made some representation. Maybe the member should take some credit for that too.

Members opposite who visit schools in their electorates and endeavour to describe the Capital Works Budget in schools as something special should realise that it is nothing special at all. It is a downright disgrace considering that the population of schools is growing, and enormous numbers of children are experiencing education in transportable classrooms which are unacceptable. The children are undertaking studies in wet areas, using libraries for normal classes when they should be used for libraries or resource centres. This is not good enough, and I have no doubt that when people vote in February, or whenever the elections take place, the Government will be judged accordingly and will be tossed out as it deserves.

**HON C.J. BELL (Lower West) [11.42 pm]:** Following up on the comments made by Hon Norman Moore, I will highlight the deficiencies in expenditure on education in the Mandurah area. The deficiencies are scandalous. I do not say that lightly because the situation should be exposed. Over the last five years I have outlined the problems in the Mandurah area, which is the fastest growing region in this State, apart from an area in the northern suburbs. In terms of growth, schools in Mandurah face the same problems as the rest of the town; yet during the past five years only four classrooms have been built at primary schools. This year we expect the much wanted high school to come on stream but that will cater for only the growth in present student numbers, not for the overflow. Hon Norman Moore commented on the 21 transportable classrooms in the Mandurah High School; that is, an increase of two transportable classrooms over the last year. Conditions in the area must be the worst in Australia and yet no funds have been provided to alleviate the gross overcrowding in schools there. Students have nowhere to go during inclement weather; they are packed in like sardines as they attempt to access the canteen facilities during breaks.

The Government promised that a school would be built in South Mandurah in 1990, but that is too late because it should have been provided in 1989 if the Government were honestly endeavouring to address the problems in this area of rapid growth. The Dudley Park School was built to accommodate 540 students; this year the student population has increased to 800, and by 1990 that number will increase to 1 000. However, no firm proposal has been made to do anything about that situation. Preschool facilities are a shambles. Many Mandurah children will not have the opportunity to attend preschools next year.

TAFE in Mandurah is a joke, although endeavours have been made to camouflage the deficiencies. The CYSS centre apparently will become a TAFE centre, but the facilities at the CYSS centre were not approved because the toilets did not meet the shire's requirements. The Government intends to place some transportable classrooms around the facility and call it a TAFE centre but the inadequate toilet facilities will remain. Since the announcement of the new TAFE centre, the demand for courses has been spectacular. The number of unsolicited approaches to the centre for courses for next year has absolutely astounded everyone but to all intents and purposes the facility will be useless.

I have outlined some of the problems in the education system in Mandurah. Insufficient funds have been made available to this rapidly growing area which requires proper attention - not the bandaid treatment which we are witnessing at the present time. My representations to the shadow Minister have been much more productive than Government members' representations to the Government for expenditure in this area. I look forward to the day when proper attention is given to Mandurah's educational requirements.

**HON NEIL OLIVER (West) [11.46 pm]:** I also wish to address my remarks to the education area. However, in examining the General Loan and Capital Works Fund, the Estimates of Expenditure and the supplementary document to the Capital Works Estimates, I have experienced some difficulty. Perhaps the Minister for Budget Management could give some assistance.

On 26 April this year, the *Daily News* ran an article headed "WA heads for boom times" in which mention is made of the construction of two new major defence projects. The article reads -

Mr Dowding also revealed plans for the construction of a marine support facility and a defence technology precinct at Jervoise Bay.

The first stage of the marine support facility, intended for commercial and naval vessels, will cost \$22 million.

The facility is aimed at boosting WA's shipbuilding and repair industry and will

include a ship lift and dry berth capable of handling vessels of up to 6 000 tonnes, and later vessels up to 12 000 tonnes.

Mr Dowding said that the defence technology precinct, of which the first stage should be opened by October next year, will enable the State to get a slice of Australia's \$3 billion-a-year defence market.

The precinct would provide a focus for a range of advanced technology facilities and equipment necessary for WA industry to participate in the lucrative defence market.

Perhaps during debate this evening the Minister could comment on this facility. I am unable to locate any reference to it in the Estimates or in the supplement to the Capital Works Estimates. The Press statement indicates that this is a State matter, not a Federal matter.

Another item to which I wish to draw attention is the need for a dam to be built at North Dandalup to service the metropolitan area. The first page of the *Daily News* of Tuesday, 26 April, refers to the construction of a major new dam at North Dandalup to service the metropolitan area. I cannot find any references to that in the water supply section or in the new works section of the Capital Works Estimates. They may be there but I am unable to find them. Other items are also announced in that article which are covered already in the Budget.

In the past four or five months I have visited many schools in my electorate and met with teachers on administration matters. They have raised concerns with me about the general standard of maintenance at some of these schools. I recall many years ago Hon Robert Hetherington returning from, I think, the Belmont Senior High School and raising a matter of urgency, seconded, I think, by Hon Fred McKenzie, in which he drew attention to the standard of maintenance at that school under the Court Government. We listened with great interest to that debate and I hope that Hon Robert Hetherington and Hon Fred McKenzie got some satisfaction with improved maintenance at that high school.

However, I am absolutely astounded at many of the safety infringements at high schools. I have spoken before in this House about the lack of maintenance at the Governor Stirling High School. I was asked to visit that school by the headmistress on the day she took up her position at the school. I was not sure whether the complaints she made to me in her telephone invitation were due to her lack of knowledge of the school. I doubted that her complaints could be justified. I visited the school at 8.30 am the following day to inspect the various matters she had raised and I could scarcely believe my eyes. Eight to 10 typewriters were plugged into one power point in the commercial business area where the girls are taught typing and commercial skills. Similar circumstances prevailed in the stationery room. I suppose those complaints could be regarded as minor because that high school is fortunate enough to have tennis courts and two or three squash courts. The laneway between the tennis courts and the squash courts is no more than 1.5 metres wide. Members know that squash courts have a glassed-in area at the rear of the squash courts which was, in this case, wired louvres. These louvres had been shattered by tennis balls and squash balls to the point where glass was hanging like stalactites above the small alleyway.

Later I visited the domestic science rooms. I leaned on a desk through which I put my hand because it was riddled with white ants. Unfortunately, the school is also badly designed, with most of the windows facing east or west. Many of the awnings protecting the windows have now been upgraded. However, at that time they were timber and, because of their state, provided little shelter. The standard of the shower block in the gymnasium area was well below an acceptable level. It had no ventilation in an area requiring ventilation. It was like walking into a disaster area. Other members have referred to doors hanging off lockers and matters of that nature, but these things are not dangerous for children. The design of the new library was such that one child had fallen through a glass window which was part of the entry to the library. Furthermore, the library was inadequately ventilated. I expressed my concern about the lack of maintenance at this school to the former Minister for Education, Bob Pearce, and I admit that action was taken the following day. However, that is not good enough. I do not believe that a member of Parliament should have to come to this House and complain before things are done. I believe that routine maintenance work should be carried out and that periodic inspections should be mandatory.

The manner in which the 1988-89 Budget papers are presented has led to confusion and even

misrepresentation. Some people took out full page advertisements in newspapers in my electorate announcing what was in the Budget for the various schools in that electorate. The members concerned have not withdrawn those statements, but they have not included them in recent advertising. All the expenditure referred to in this financial year's General Loan and Capital Works Fund Estimates will not be expended in the current financial year. It would be misleading the public to indicate, via the Press, that major rebuilding of high schools or primary schools will be undertaken this financial year. For example, the total expenditure for the rebuilding of some schools may be \$2.5 million, but only \$200 000 will be spent this financial year. Obviously the \$200 000 will cover the preliminary details which, no doubt, would include the design costs and possibly the presentation of tender documents.

Hon J.M. Berinson: The announcement indicates the commitment.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: The announcement may well indicate the commitment, but in this instance it was not presented in this manner. Is it not reasonable for members to reach that conclusion? But it is the wrong conclusion to reach because while it may be a commitment one must remember that anything can happen in an election year and the newly elected Government may have different priorities from the previous Government. It is misleading to say that it is a commitment because people may not see bricks and mortar on the sites involved this financial year. That is the conclusion which all people, without exception, reached. It is for that reason the members who chose to advertise these projects as works to be undertaken in their electorates this financial year have dropped those projects from their advertising for the forthcoming election.

I am disappointed with the progression of the construction of high schools. It has been the policy not only of the previous Liberal Party-National Party Government, but also of previous Labor Governments to progressively build high schools. Not one member in this House could say that is not true. A high school is constructed according to the planned construction program and it may take up to three years for the program to be completed.

I am disappointed that the Swan View Senior High School, which was commenced in 1977 when a Liberal Government was in office, was not completed until this year. The building program was delayed by this Government because of its containment of expenditure. The conditions under which the school operated during the period it was being constructed were totally unsatisfactory and it was to the detriment of the students of that school. It was extremely demoralising for the staff and the students. Some of the classes have been conducted from demountable classrooms. If the Minister were to inspect some of the demountables he would see the students using furnaces and other flammable instruments during the year, including the middle of summer. It is a crazy situation, but that is what is happening. It has taken nearly 11 years to complete the Swan View Senior High School. In fact, it took two generations of students to go through that school before it was completed.

I mentioned previously the proposed new primary school at Mundaring. A great deal of discussion has taken place regarding its proposed location. Recently I attended a public meeting at Mundaring with Hon Norman Moore and we made a commitment to the parents that if the Liberal Party were elected to Government the school would be reconstructed immediately. The Government has been unable to make that commitment although it promised a school in that area in 1986, 1987, 1988 and 1989. A former member for Mundaring, Mr Jim Moiler, promised a new school at Mundaring in 1974, but it did not eventuate. I am pleased to inform the House that under a Liberal Government four new classrooms were built. The Liberal Government honoured the promise made by Mr Jim Moiler although, at the time it honoured the commitment, he was not a member of Parliament. It is interesting that on examination of the Budget one is under the impression that the proposed new Mundaring primary school will be completed as soon as possible. The estimated cost of the school is \$2.5 million and the proposed expenditure this financial year is \$1.5 million. The parents of students who will attend the school are under the impression that the school will be completed well before the end of this financial year.

The program for the proposed Mundaring primary school is a departure from other programs which I have experienced during my term as a member of Parliament. The design of the school has been taken out of the hands of the Ministry for Education and has been undertaken by a private architect who happens to be the architect to the commercial developer of the present site. The parents of the school are not satisfied with the design. It is

my understanding that the policy of this Government is to endeavour, within financial constraints, to meet the needs of the parents. I cannot understand the reason the Government has departed from its policy in this instance. I have received the final enrolment figure for next year. The new buildings will include the construction of an administration block, a resource centre, toilets, a gardener's shed and 10 classrooms for a school which, on 1 February 1989, will have 14 classes. If that is called planning, I do not know what planning is.

Furthermore, I would be interested in some more details of certain activities listed on page 14 which have been brought to my attention by the presidents of P & C associations and by various headmasters. I said that during this debate, which is the only opportunity I have to raise these matters, I would try to get answers from the Minister. The estimated total cost for the Helena Valley Primary School is \$400 000. The Minister for Budget Management, by interjection, said that that is an indicator and that the proposed expenditure is \$200 000. The school has a declining population, but I understand that it is proposed to increase its capacity to six classrooms. The number of teachers at the school next year will be five. There will be five teachers with six classrooms. Let us pass over Koongamia Primary School to Bellevue Primary School, although Koongamia is an interesting school because it has a piano, but no music room. If a child is ill, the only place the child can be taken is to the gardener's shed.

Hon Fred McKenzie and I know the Bellevue Primary School well. It is a delightful little school, which happens to be one of the oldest schools in the State, if not the oldest school. I understand that it may be classified under the National Trust. The school is a disaster. It has five classes and four teachers. Years 1 and 2, 3 and 4, and 6 and 7 are combined classes. There is no resource centre. The libraries are in the corridor. There is no wet area and the preprimary school is in a demountable. The school has been promised another demountable and it has been on the waiting list all this year. Next year the school will have further increased numbers and it will require another demountable classroom. At this stage, no commitment has been given for that school to have two demountables. The school is not located in my electorate, but it is on the boundary and there are children at the school who live in my electorate. It is for that reason that I bring this matter forward.

There is a further very serious deficiency in the school. The room shared by the principal and his secretary also serves as the medical room for the visiting nursing sister. When children require treatment or testing it is necessary for the principal and the secretary to vacate the room. I asked a question in the House on the matter which, no doubt, Hon Fred McKenzie saw. The nursing sister refused to attend the school and work under those conditions. She withdrew her services, to the detriment of pupils at the school. Fortunately, she now attends the school on an emergency basis, but that is all. The Minister does not care if questions are asked in the Parliament and the story is run in the local newspaper. The local member, the Minister for Employment and Training, Gordon Hill, is very busily making certain that transportables are provided at High Wycombe.

Hon Fred McKenzie: The only school in your electorate that you have mentioned is Mundaring; the rest are in my electorate. I have had no complaints about them.

Hon G.E. Masters: Perhaps they have given you up as a bad job.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: The P & C association made representations to its local member.

Hon Fred McKenzie: They have not been to see me, any of them.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: The association could get no satisfaction; it could not get a meeting with the Minister for Education. Ultimately, when I asked a question in the House regarding the nursing sister, the association was granted an audience with the Minister, but the Minister gave no commitment whatsoever with respect to any future proposal for the school.

Hon Fred McKenzie: They have not been to see me.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: I am very pleased that Hon Fred McKenzie is taking an interest. I would appreciate it if he would join with me in leading a deputation to the Minister again. I would appreciate it if Hon Fred McKenzie could arrange for the P & C association to meet the Minister again to try to get some satisfaction with respect to the Bellevue Primary School, particularly in view of the fact that the Helena Valley Primary School has a \$400 000 estimated total cost for its capital works program while the Bellevue Primary School has one of \$150 000 or a bit more. That \$150 000 figure is to replace the existing toilet blocks. I



would be very pleased if the member would join with me in a joint approach to the Minister to get the priorities right. Funds should be placed where the need is greatest. The Helena Valley school should not be given as high a priority as the Bellevue school.

Hon Fred McKenzie: You've already been. Why should I take it up now?

Hon NEIL OLIVER: I will take up the matter with the member tomorrow.

Hon Fred McKenzie: Helena Valley happens to be in your electorate. You are doing very well out of a Labor Government. I have had no complaints from Bellevue.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: On page 15 of the General Loan and Capital Works Fund Estimates there is an amount of \$9.3 million estimated total cost - I understand that is called an indicator or a commitment - of which \$129 000 will be spent this year on extended care facilities at Armadale, Bentley, Osborne Park and Swan District Hospitals. I would be very interested to know what proportion of that will be spent at the Swan District Hospital and what that will ultimately lead to.

I raise another matter with respect to the present land situation in Western Australia. On the front page of the Wednesday 18 May edition of the *Daily News* is an article headed "3000 cheap home sites up for sale". The article states -

Three thousand housing blocks will be released by Homeswest over the next 13 months to prevent first-home buyers being locked out of Perth's surging real estate market.

The move comes amid fears that cheap land, particularly in the \$20,000 bracket, has all but dried up.

The first release of 745 lots will begin immediately.

Other plans include:

Setting up a special Urban Development Unit to ensure adequate supply of affordable land for first-home buyers and to monitor the overall supply and demand of residential land and housing.

A joint Government and finance industry assistance package for young families buying homes.

Development of an expanded LandCorp land-release programme.

Subdivision and development of one area of large blocks north of the city.

Consolidation of various Government land holdings before release.

That was in May 1988 and we now know the result of that announcement. The opportunity for aspiring first home owners to buy land or houses in Western Australia is practically zero. The Government has merely endeavoured to assist those who already have a home by introducing an interest rate relief scheme.

I was able to identify some of the purchases recently made by Homeswest. At Upper Swan 3 500 hectares of land was purchased from a company called Heytesbury Holdings Ltd and settlement took place on 22 April 1987. I understand this is a private company of Mr Robert Holmes a Court and very conveniently the State Housing Commission negotiated the purchase of that land at Upper Swan. Simultaneously a document has been released - I have not been able to obtain a copy from the library - which is the Government's proposal for the development of the metropolitan region scheme. I am sure all members are aware of that document. It contains a foreword stating that the document has been sent to people to enable everybody to be involved, thanking the contributors who made submissions, and welcoming submissions from Government agencies, local authorities and the general public as to the manner in which developments should proceed. Either the Government is trying to hoodwink people by going ahead and purchasing land that is not earmarked on the plans, nor identified in this survey or, alternatively, the contributors to the report are not aware of the activities of Homeswest, which may be out of control. The 3 500 hectares of land is a very large area - approximately 10 000 acres under the old format. That would produce approximately 40 000 home sites. Currently the Shire of Swan has a family population occupying approximately 35 000 homes and, therefore, this new land will provide enough home sites to double the entire population of the shire. I remind members that the shire runs

from Bullsbrook through to Gidgegannup and includes Ballajura. That interesting plan has been put into effect while the general public have been invited to become involved with a review scheme. I have very strong suspicions about the Government's intentions and how fair dinkum it is about providing cheap housing. So often one hears of State and Federal cooperation in this area, and the residents are currently very concerned at the planned development which has been carried out secretly. I understand that initially it was done without consultation with the Shire of Swan but subsequently the shire president indicated that he knew of the development. When first asked, he said he was very disturbed that the purchase had taken place without his knowledge.

I have pointed out the abject failure of the Government to deal with this land crisis and to contain the high costs which have resulted from tax rip-offs. The Government and local government are driving the prices so high that they are out of the reach of first home buyers. I am sure that members in this Chamber will agree with me that the needs of first home buyers cannot be satisfied in Western Australia under the current system. The State Government, in cooperation with the Federal Government, is involved in a national campaign to brainwash desperate home buyers into accepting smaller sized blocks of land and lower standards of housing. This so called solution is clearly a cop out by the Government, which is unconcerned about traditional Australian standards and family values. With little room in which to play the children will be forced from their homes onto the streets.

In Swan View the Government is promoting a closed pack development, but more attractive words have been used to describe it. The proposed development has been presented as group housing or urban consolidation and a response to non-traditional families. The implications of this type of development in spacious locations such as the Shires of Swan and Mundaring should be seriously reconsidered by this Government. The Shire of Mundaring should also be cautious about responding to politically inspired initiatives. Local governments should be careful to maintain traditional, established lifestyles. There is enough destructive change in society without adding to it. I would be happy if residents were properly consulted in advance, as is outlined in the document presenting the new planning for the Perth metropolitan region. The general public are presented with an approved development, which is subject only to the objection procedures that always favour councils and developers and make it difficult for local opinion to be heard. If it is the Government's intention to listen to local opinion and to accept input from the public, it should not go ahead by jumping over its own planning scheme and not consulting people.

The Government takes great pride in the fact that Western Australia has the highest population growth rate of any State in Australia. That is nothing new; Western Australia has had the highest growth rate for the last 15 years. It has always been double the national average, but I am afraid that under this Government's policies relating to land and housing we will fall into the same situation that has occurred in Sydney and Melbourne, and Perth will no longer be a place where people come to seek a true family lifestyle.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

#### *Committee and Report*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

### **LOAN BILL**

#### *Second Reading*

Debate resumed from 29 November.

**HON JOHN WILLIAMS** (Metropolitan) [12.35 am]: This Bill provides the Government with a carryover fund of \$1 800 million to cover any shortfalls in previous Bills which have been debated and for associated purposes. Those Bills have received a great deal of coverage.

When a Government applies for such a large amount of money one can say that the money will be scattered far and wide. It will be needed to keep the Government going until June 1989. During my time in this House, and the time of some of my colleagues who have been

here for some time, there has never been any doubt that the Opposition would support this type of Bill, which is sometimes called "supply". As long as I am in this House I will always support the Government in its endeavour to give its best to the State by appropriating money in order to do so.

I was very touched this morning by your remarks, Mr Deputy President (Hon P.H. Lockyer), about the road to Meekatharra, one of the areas where I think the Government will be expending some money. It is only 14 months ago that I lost a nephew on that road. His only crime was being on a motor bike travelling at a proper speed and carrying a pillion passenger - according to the coronial inquiry. Such was the difficulty of a vehicle approaching and the fear of his pillion passenger that she shifted her position slightly, enough to throw them off balance causing an accident and his leg was severed immediately. The young lady had her leg removed surgically an hour later. It says a lot for the state of that road when a utility and a motor cycle could not pass on it. That young man is no longer with us and no amount of bituminising of that road can bring him back.

That was a poignant thing which reminded me that Governments have a heavy responsibility and in a lot of cases - as in the case of Western Australia - a very short purse. Where should money be put first? I have listened all day to appeals from members about where money should go and what requires priority. It must be a bit of a nightmare when in Government - it certainly was in the nine years we were in Government - allocating scarce resources to priorities. Perhaps an enormous amount of money, out of all kilter, will now have to be applied to education; not for the school buildings we have heard a lot about but for some of the schools' curriculums. We have found, unfortunately, that some students at schools - and there are only a few so far, but I dare say there are more if they were looked at - are growing and cultivating drugs for their own use, sale to friends, or whatever. That seems to me to be a bit of a tragedy when one realises that they have got to high school and suddenly something is missing or perhaps some form of perversion is taking place. I say to the Government it has the money and we only hope that priorities can be established.

We are faced with the problem of vehicles being stolen, the mounting crime rate and the ancillary things that go with that. Priorities have to be sorted out, even if that is just for the protection of our young folk. I had a very chastening experience only yesterday evening when I went to my grandchildren's speech night which involved grades one to five. I suppose most parents and grandparents do such things out of a sense of duty. My daughter was saying she was glad it was on that night because she had had three weeks of rehearsals with her two children. I seem to be out of touch with grades one to five. It was a simple and moving speech night involving some 300 children. It gave me renewed confidence because it involved that sort of bland innocence one associates not only with Christmas but also with children at school. They did very well. I thought the right teachers were present at that school and the right curriculum seemed to be in place because the children performed magnificently.

I would like to quote an excerpt of information from a newspaper, and I do this in a jocular vein. On Monday I had the pleasure, at the request of the Agent General in London, of entertaining the Mayor and Mayoress of Islwyn. That is a large area in Wales, and it is actually the constituency of The Right Honourable Neil Kinnock, the Leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons. Having got this information under my belt and having spent at least three hours in their company - and I will be spending more time in their company - lo and behold I saw on page 27 of the *Daily News* for Tuesday, 6 December, that "Jaunita's Diary" said, when talking about the St Andrew's Day ball held at Observation City, that "Special guest was visiting mayor of Islwyn, Councillor Leon Gardiner, who had a wonderful Scottish wit." Now if that is not a case of misrepresentation, I do not know what is. I mention that because it proves to me that one should not believe everything one reads in the newspapers.

It is quite impossible for me to do value to this Bill. The House has been sitting since 11.00 this morning.

Hon A.A. Lewis: Yesterday morning.

Hon JOHN WILLIAMS: That is how dull one gets. It is now 13 hours and 40 minutes since the House commenced sitting. My parliamentary duties started at 7.00 this morning when I had to drive a distance to get to a certain place, and then come back to Parliament. I ask the Leader of the House if he would advise Cabinet to take a step forward in the life of this

Parliament by allocating a sum of money for the former members and staff of this place to form a task force to reform the workings of this place. I am not laying a complaint at the feet of the Leader of the House because his predecessors have done the same thing, which I have labelled previously as "legislation by fatigue". We sometimes forget the duties done by the Clerks and the attendants, and even more so the concentration that is required by the *Hansard* staff. Members will notice that the journalists are not up in the Press Gallery in their hordes with their pencils poised; they have long since gone. The newspapers have been put to bed, and there is nothing worthwhile to report. There are many members in the House who will go on after I do, but they will find, as they go on and shrug off these hours as just another imposition, that their health will deteriorate remarkably - spa bath and gymnasium notwithstanding. It does not behove us to make any sort of commonsense after going on for so many hours about these things. Members have not overstepped the mark or done anything that they were not entitled to do, including the Minister for Budget Management, who wants to see this legislation completed. When I suggested, tongue in cheek it might have appeared, that a task force be formed, I was serious because I believe that officers of the Parliament and former members could add some value in order that members may give proper attention to their duties as befits the constituents who send them here. I make that plea. I will not repeat it, not even in a later speech, because at this time of the morning I am absolutely exhausted. I intend taking the unprecedented step of making my apologies to the Minister and to my leader, and walking out and going home. I have had it.

**HON D.J. WORDSWORTH (South)** [12.45 am]: I know it is a late hour of the day and that our colleague had to leave us, but I wish to draw the attention of the House to the difficulties being experienced by exporters due to the state of the Australian dollar. Mr Deputy President (Hon P.H. Lockyer), you would be aware, because you represent a fishing area, of what is happening in that industry. It has also received a lot of publicity in today's newspaper. The same thing is happening to the agricultural industry. We all thought that wool growers were enjoying the high prices being paid for their wool, but we find today that the Australian Wool Corporation has begun to buy back wool at a quite high rate. At the last wool sales, about seven per cent of the wool clip had to be bought back by the corporation, and that indicates how badly things are going for the wool industry. I admit that it might have appeared a short while ago that farmers were enjoying very high and beneficial prices, but the higher price of the Australian dollar today has meant that the returns to wool growers are plummeting. I am afraid that the same will happen to beef producers, and also to grain producers, although probably to a lesser extent. The Australian dollar today reached today its highest price for four years.

Hon J.M. Brown: Since we devalued.

**Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH:** While we should be enjoying reasonable prices for our exports because there is a commodity boom in the world today, particularly for the products that we produce, we are not enjoying the benefits of that boom. This is largely because of the monetary policy of the Federal Government, and the situation is not being helped by the monetary policy of the State Government and by the way it has lost money during the last few months. We will lay the blame squarely with the Federal Government, which promised us that its policy would bring about a balanced Budget, yet in October we saw a \$1.68 billion shortfall. Mr Keating, "the best Treasurer in the world", claimed that the target for the year would be \$9.5 billion, so he certainly blew a lot of it in just one month. The Government has again pushed up interest rates, and those exporters who have already been affected by the rising price of the Australian dollar will now also be affected by inflation, increased interest rates, and increased taxation. The Minister for Budget Management keeps repeating to us that he is not increasing taxes, but one has only to read *The West Australian* of Saturday, 22 October to see that we were told that the Consumer Price Index has been 12 per cent greater than the increase in earnings; State taxation has increased by 83 per cent in Western Australia since 1984, and per head of population by 66 per cent since. Since 1984 WA stamp duty receipts have increased by 172 per cent, and stamp duty receipts per capita by 146 per cent. The price of a six cylinder family car went up by 68 per cent in that time. State taxation, according to the Western Australian Treasury figures, has increased by 29 per cent during the last year, and by 83 per cent since 1984. Per head of population, State taxation increased by 25 per cent last year.

Hon J.M. Berinson: We heard from Mr Evans earlier this evening that one transaction in the

Terrace brought in \$11 million stamp duty. Per capita calculations are meaningless when you have that sort of thing going on.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: I would like to think the big boys are paying all the taxes, as the Attorney General is suggesting, and the little people are not.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I am not saying all, but per capita calculations do not mean anything when we have that sort of information.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: The Attorney General is trying to tell us that it is the increased population and other factors which have brought in the extra taxes. The per capita tax is the closest we can get to it.

Hon J.M. Berinson: It does not necessarily tell us anything.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: I know we are paying more in taxation. That is what it amounts to. Taxation has gone up.

Hon J.M. Berinson: State taxes?

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: All taxes, State taxes particularly. I quoted the article which showed that taxes went up 29 per cent in the last year and have increased by 83 per cent since 1984. Businesses as well as families are finding they cannot balance their books.

While on the subject of taxation, because the Attorney General raised the matter of stamp duty on one particular building in Perth, we have been told that we must have tax identity cards to try to stop all the swindling which is going on. If everyone paid his due share of tax, this would not be necessary. While perhaps some tax dodging is going on by those on smaller incomes, I wonder what the Federal Government is doing about the professional tax dodger? I refer to the survey done by the Australian Stock Exchange research service which showed that some of Australia's largest companies and probably our most successful companies are not paying taxes at all. The research shows the following figures as the amount of tax paid by the companies as a proportion of their pre-tax profit. Two companies associated with Channel Seven Network boss, Christopher Skase, rank first and second as the lowest taxpayers: Quintex Australia paid 0.11 per cent of its pre-tax profits, and Quintex Ltd paid 0.15 per cent tax. Next was Adelaide Steamship Company, which paid 0.43 per cent tax. Then came Alan Bond's Corporation, which rated fifth, paying 0.97 per cent of its pre-tax profit. Bond Corporation announced a trading profit of \$406.5 million for the year to 30 June, and paid tax of \$4 million. The list is here, and it goes on. It ends by saying that Bond's companies paid more than \$1 billion tax worldwide, representing more than 21 per cent of total group operating revenue. The company said that \$850 million of that figure was paid within Australia.

It appears that we have loopholes in our tax system which the major companies manage to use to - I do not think one could say to minimise, but not to pay tax at all. It is well within the ability of the Federal Government to do something about those sorts of things and not to harp back continuously on this matter of having identity cards for everyone in the hope of overcoming our balance of payments and taxation problems. This is another way in which the Treasurer is trying to find a scapegoat.

The rural industries are having difficulty on the world scene as a result of the warfare that the United States and the EEC have over subsidies. In *The Australian* about a month ago a series of articles appeared in which it was claimed, on 22 October, that consumers, already burdened by high interest rates and taxes, are subsidising local manufacturers and farmers by as much as \$8 billion a year through a de facto consumption tax.

The article was partly correct when quoting the effect of tariffs on Australia's cost of living, but I would like to quote from *The National Farmer* of 18 November, a periodical which I happened to be reading when the President took exception to it. Mr Preston Smith in Washington quoted various levels of subsidy given to primary producers around the world. He says -

On an international scale the USDA review confirms Australia's low level of subsidy for its farmers, using "producer subsidy equivalents" (PSE's) calculated by the USDA analysts as a measure of Government intervention in agriculture. During the 1982-86 period, Japan had an average PSE of 72 pc.

That is a proportion of the farmer's gross income which comes from Government assistance.

The European community was 35 per cent, Canada 31 per cent, the United States and New Zealand each 24 per cent, and Australia just 11 per cent.

This survey was done in 1986. Since then Australia's assistance to agriculture has fallen roughly by half, so Australian subsidies would be down now to about five per cent. I remind members that the Western Australian Farmers Federation, through its affiliation to the National Farmers Federation, the Australia-wide body, actually agreed to super subsidies being removed. That is why any subsidy going to agriculture in Australia has been greatly reduced in the last year, and why the subsidy has fallen from 11 per cent to five per cent. This illustrates how difficult it is for Australians to compete overseas, yet our manufacturing industry is being subsidised more than ever before. The article goes on to say -

The attitude of the Australian people and government has been that this protection is necessary to guarantee a fair wage to industrial workers. . . Farmers, who are dependent on the industrial sector for machinery and inputs, have been hit hard by industrial protection . . .

The effective rate of assistance to the automobile industry, for example, is 250pc, and for men's clothing it is 100pc . . . By contrast, flour milling and cotton ginning not only receive no subsidies, but are in fact taxed at about 20pc.

That is the situation farmers find themselves in. One of the few agricultural industries that has any amount of subsidy and is quoted is one in which Australia and America compete for the same market; I refer to wheat. The United States Department of Agriculture economist goes on to explain the effect of what we call the guaranteed minimum price in Australia, where the Government makes payments to farmers only if the price received by the Australian Wheat Board is lower than the guaranteed minimum price. The article goes on to point out that a payment was made in 1986-87, the first since 1973. Since then, of course, we have had a collapse in world wheat prices; but even with that payment Australian growers received only \$70 a tonne on the farm for their wheat that year. So the Australian producer really gets very little subsidy indeed, and yet we are expected to go out and compete on the world market.

Hon J.M. Brown: Is that the net figure you are talking about?

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: It is \$70 at the farm gate.

Hon J.M. Brown: Net? Gross is about \$140, so that does not make it \$70 net.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: The United States Department of Agriculture gave that figure.

Hon J.M. Brown: Is that US dollars?

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: Yes.

Hon J.M. Brown: There is a difference. They got at least \$100 Australian at the farm gate.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: This only goes to illustrate the great difficulty Australia is in. Let us face it, we have gone through a boom period. This Government has gone on and on, crying poverty and saying how bad things are, but in fact commodity prices have gone through the roof. Never before have we seen wool and aluminium and other minerals all at reasonable prices at the same time, and they can only go down. I have just pointed out that the wool price has already plummeted, so we can no longer rely upon that; yet we still continue to have these very large deficits, the shortfall for last month being \$1.68 billion.

Already some people - perhaps we could call them pessimists - are beginning to say that in a couple of years' time the American economy will falter. I can only say I think the Australian market will falter a lot quicker.

One other State matter I wish to raise is the Burswood Casino. Members will recall the objections that came from this side of the House at the manner in which the licence was granted, and because of the fact that very little town planning went into the whole project. The Government decided upon the site. Just a short time ago when the Army Tattoo was performed at the Burswood Superdome I, like many others, spent two hours on the Great Eastern Highway trying to get into the Burswood complex. Goodness knows what would have happened to those people - and I presume there were many - who tried to catch an aeroplane that evening, because the whole highway system was blocked. I do not know what the Government has done about it but it does illustrate the small amount of practical planning that went into giving that licence and developing that site as the Government did. I remind

members that this was one of the first concessions for the boys that this Government started. We have seen many more since, culminating in the crash of Rothwells. I will not repeat what happened there because we are debating the Loan Bill, but I can only say I was disgusted the other day when the Minister for Budget Management said they had got to the stage of delaying the Capital Works Program to help pay for the cost of losses that have been made by this Government.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I did not say that at all. That is not what I said. We have in fact had an analysis from an earlier speaker on your side indicating that it is very much in the ordinary course of events -

Hon G.E. Masters: Not to the level that you have.

Hon J.M. Berinson: - that capital works allocations should not all be spent in the year of allocation.

Hon G.E. Masters interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon P.H. Lockyer): Order! I ask the Leader of the Opposition to cease interjecting.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: It would seem the Minister is now retracting the explanation he gave to the House.

Hon J.M. Berinson: No I am not, I am correcting you. You are misquoting me.

Hon G.E. Masters: You know very well what he means, Mr Berinson.

Hon A.A. Lewis: We are used to that now.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: We were told in this House that there would be a delay in capital works.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Correct, but not a deliberate delay for this purpose; a delay that was happening anyway.

Hon G.E. Masters: Pull the other one.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: Mr Deputy President, I ask you! I have heard a lot of things in my time, but, "We are not going to purposely do it but it is just going to happen"?

Hon J.M. Berinson: Mr Masters demonstrated earlier tonight that it happens every year.

Hon G.E. Masters: Not to the level it has happened this year, and you know it.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: It is a bit like the story Mr Berinson told us earlier about the Government guarantee given to Rothwells - "I was there but I was not part of it. It was all arranged by Mr Burke."

Hon J.M. Berinson: I did not say that either. Why do you keep misquoting me, Mr Wordsworth? Don't you have a real story to tell?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: The members of the Cabinet Budget Subcommittee were there, they were present, but it was all prearranged and they were not really a party to it. That is what he endeavoured to tell us, I think, about that particular effort.

Hon J.M. Berinson: So far you have not quoted me correctly on one single matter.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: I think I am quoting the Minister quite correctly -

Hon J.M. Berinson: No you are not.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: - when he said he was there.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Certainly.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: The Minister has admitted to that; but he also said that he was not directly responsible for it, although he was there.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I did not say that. Oh, just carry on - you are hopeless.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: It is very odd. I just cannot believe that on the particular

Sunday that took place it just happened to be Mr Berinson's chance that he was in the Bond residence. He probably called in for a XXXX beer, I suppose.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I was not in the Bond residence. I have never in my life been in the Bond residence. Why are you carrying on like this?

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: Only because I understand that is where the guarantee was thrashed out on that particular occasion.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I repeat my earlier comment: You have not made one accurate statement yet.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: I hope I have not.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I assure you, you haven't.

Hon A.A. Lewis interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! It is late in the evening.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: I have to admit I had to assume it was at the Bond residence because that is where the other transactions took place and they have been well and truly recorded as being there. But perhaps there were other meetings somewhere else on the same day; I do not know. However, as Hon A.A. Lewis has just pointed out, it is amazing how various Ministers have tried to dissociate themselves from the difficulty this Government has got itself into. While perhaps there have been accusations that the Liberal Party has rather delighted in the downfall of Rothwells and what has happened, I believe it was not that at all. The Liberal Party pointed out to the Government the difficulties occurring in various financial institutions in this State, particularly the Teachers Credit Society, and the Government refused to take any action. When the problems still occurred we found Ministers getting involved and telephoning shires suggesting they put their money into Rothwells.

Hon Tom Stephens: It is untrue that the Liberal Party ever drew to the attention of the Government difficulties about to emerge in the Teachers Credit Society or any other place.

Hon W.N. Stretch: What was that noise?

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: It is certainly not untrue. I could quote speech after speech about it, not given perhaps in this House but in the other, pointing out that action should be taken.

Hon Tom Stephens: You would not be able to give one example.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: It was known right throughout Western Australia. Every cocky down the bush would say, "If you have any money, put it into the Teachers Credit Society, which is paying more than it should."

Hon A.A. Lewis: Didn't they use the name of the President of the Liberal Party illegally?

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: Quite illegally.

Hon John Halden: What was the offence?

Hon W.N. Stretch: There wasn't an offence by Mr Simpson.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: If citing how much a person has in a bank account is not illegal, I do not know what is. At this time of the morning I will not refer again to the whole Rothwells saga other than to remind members opposite during the debate on the Loan Bill that we would have had a lot more money to spend if this money had not been squandered by the Government trying to do business with its mates on the Terrace. I support reluctantly the spending of this money in that direction.

HON NEIL OLIVER (West) [1.11 am]: I refer to the subject of primary schools, which I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister for Budget Management. I did not receive any replies to the questions I put to the Minister during the debate on the Estimates. I presume I will get those replies in writing.

Hon J.M. Berinson: All speeches will be referred to the respective Ministers.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: I thank the Minister. In my earlier speech I passed over some items which were not provided for in the Estimates. I drew attention to items such as the Dandalup dam and the maritime facilities. Recently my attention was drawn to the problems of several



primary schools in the Shire of Mundaring. For example, the Sawyers Valley Primary School has a resource centre but does not have any books, while the Parkerville Primary School has all the books one could possibly want but has no place to put them. In that case the situation arose where the books were being stored in bathroom sinks. The secretary of the P & C association wrote to me and issued a Press statement as well. I was reluctant to become involved in this matter, and after speaking with the principal of the school, and in view of the publicity the matter was getting, I felt I should not intervene. For that reason I did not take any action other than to discuss the matter with the P & C association and with the principal. After all, the Budget was completed, all the matters were in place and the P & C association was told that unfortunately nothing could be done. Minister Troy then arrived last week at a P & C association meeting - to which I had forwarded my apologies for not attending - and presented a cheque to the school for its library. He then announced that a \$150 000 resource centre would be built at the school. This came completely out of the blue. The *Hills Gazette* of 5 December had an article which reads in part as follows -

"We were quite shocked, in fact," said Parkerville P & C Secretary Tom Guthrie. "We were expecting to be debating the issue and were very very pleased and encouraged to hear from the local Member that the funds would be allocated."

This Government seems to be governing by pressure. That is, anyone who is in any way critical of an area for which the Government may be damaged or have its creditability placed at risk as it approaches the next election must be placated. As it approaches the election the Government's intricate damage control mechanism goes into operation, and irrespective of the costs, problems must be fixed. It is almost like the early days of Premier Burke, who was called "Mr Fixit" by the Press. It did not matter what the problem was, he was able to fix it. If one had a problem one went to him and he fixed it. By golly, he certainly fixed a few things around here.

I would like to add a few remarks to those of Hon David Wordsworth in respect of commodity prices and interest rates. Over the last 18 months Australia, and particularly Western Australia, has enjoyed excellent and unpredicted rises in commodity prices. Unfortunately consequent to that has been the rise in value of the Australian dollar. Since January 1987 the Australian dollar has risen from approximately 66c to 88c; today it is in the vicinity of 87.5c, but it has been very volatile over the last months. This continuing rise in the value of the dollar has contributed to a sag in commodity prices and to what some commentators call the onset of industrial unrest in this country. In fact John Cain used the word "thuggist" in respect of striking trade unionists in Victoria while John Kerin used the term "Kamikaze coal miners". Notwithstanding the tensions behind these events, the key factor is the very close link between the Australian dollar and commodity prices. An index based on metal prices in the same period - January 1987 to June this year - has gone from 100 to 173 and on rural commodity prices from 100 to 136. Since these figures were compiled, metal prices have retreated somewhat and wool has come down, as Hon David Wordsworth said, while wheat prices have firmed.

Hon E.J. Charlton: But the BAE says that in five years it will be very promising.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: I am glad Hon Eric Charlton mentioned that. The National Farmers Federation economist, Dr Gus Hooke, argued for a Government imposed 15 per cent devaluation, but he did not explain how this was to be brought about within the context of a floating dollar. The financial pages frequently cite the correlation between the fall in various mining companies' profits and per unit rises in the Australian dollar.

Hon Tom Stephens: Isn't this the same speech as one given in Parliament last week?

Hon NEIL OLIVER: As a commodity producing country, Australia is at the crossroads. Considering the decisions of the past, and the manner in which this country is proceeding, perhaps our future is not as bright as people believe. The current increases in interest rates indicate the interlocking nature of the problems facing Australia. Irrespective of Senator Button's great wish that Australia should move to a manufacturing base, we have a long and proven record in commodities. With the Australia dollar at its current level, Senator Button's proposal is an economist's pipedream.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

*Committee and Report*

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

**HORTICULTURAL PRODUCE COMMISSION BILL***Committee*

Resumed from 1 December. The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Hon P.H. Lockyer) in the Chair; Hon Graham Edwards (Minister for Consumer Affairs) in charge of the Bill.

**Clause 23: Evidentiary -**

Progress was reported after the clause had been partly considered.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I take the opportunity to thank members for their support so far during Committee debate. This clause raised some problems which were difficult to resolve at the time of earlier debate. Members opposite drew what seemed to be, on the surface, a reasonable conclusion from the broad interpretation of the Bill that proof of matters specified in clause 23(a)(i) to (iv) is not required in any legal proceedings, and that contrary evidence could not be presented. This conclusion is not the true legal position. In any event, the clause does not deal with the proof of offences which require strict proof in the usual way. The clause is included to facilitate the proof of certain matters, not the actual proof of them.

Clause 23(a) does not prevent the adducing of evidence sufficient to convince a court that the matters referred to were not in accord with the manner in which they may have been presented. It remains neutral in that the absence of a requirement for proof leaves the way open to a proponent to bring forward evidence in support of a particular case. In all normal circumstances, matters concerning the constitution and appointment of the commission or growers' committees would fall within the presumption of regularity. These matters relate to the operation of public bodies which could be assumed to be administered by competent persons under well-established procedures. In this case, the question is whether the commission or a growers' committee is a public body. The provisions were designed to avoid this technical question being raised in the first place. However, as I said a moment ago, this does not prevent evidence to the contrary being presented to a court.

There are many examples in the Statutes where provisions similar to those in this Bill exist. During the adjournment I took the trouble to become aware of the extent of such provisions. I have before me extracts from 16 Acts, as a sample, going back as far as 1909. In that year, the Abattoirs Act was enacted which provided the same sorts of provisions as we are now debating with the constitution of the commission, the appointment of members and officers of the commission and the presence of a quorum not requiring proof. The Marketing of Eggs Act 1945, the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1960, and the Local Government Act 1960 have similar provisions. The latter Act has extensive evidentiary provisions dealing with a range of issues.

Of a more serious nature, the Factories and Shops Act 1963 goes so far as to provide that an allegation in any complaint that a building is a factory, shop or warehouse is evidence in itself, and that evidence of a person being found in a factory is proof that the person is an employee unless the contrary is proved. Other Acts examined and found to contain similar clauses to this Bill include the Machinery Safety Act 1964, the Cattle Industry Compensation Act 1965, the Liquor Act 1970, and the Dairy Industry Act 1973. The latter Act also provides that no proof of any resolution of the Dairy Industry Authority is required until evidence is given to the contrary.

Further Acts examined include the Radiation Safety Act 1975, the Security Agents Act 1975, the Psychologists Registration Act 1976, the Veterinary Preparations and Animal Feeding Stuffs Act 1976, the Control of Vehicles (Off-Road Areas) Act 1978, and the State Energy Commission Act 1979. The latter Act specifically provides that documents purporting to be issued by the commission shall be deemed to have been issued by the commission. This is very similar to the provision found in clause 23(d) of the Bill before us. It is clear that there are many precedents for the principles contained in clause 23 of the Horticultural Commission Bill.

Hon C.J. BELL: The Minister's explanation did not cover my concerns about clause

23(a)(iii) which relates to any resolution of the commission or growers' committee. I have no quarrel whatsoever with resolutions of the commission, the constitution of growers' committees or of the commission. However, I am concerned about resolutions of growers' committees because I am aware of how loosely these sorts of organisations can operate.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I do not know what more I can say to convince the member, because this clause is found in those other Bills. Last week the member asked me in which Acts that clause was found and I have now given him a list of 16 other Acts.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: Maybe they all need reviewing.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The member may be right, but that would create a rather silly situation in a legal sense.

Hon C.J. BELL: I accept that the Minister's comments referred to the commission and the constitution of growers' committees. Those matters do not concern me. My only concern relates to clause 23(a)(iii) which refers to the formalisation of actions by growers' committees and that can be a very grey area.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: If the member is still concerned, he has a couple of options. The first is to delete the line with which he has trouble.

Hon C.J. Bell: I have trouble only with the last three words.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: Although it is implicit in the clause, he could insert in line 15 before "proof" the words "until evidence is given to the contrary".

Hon A.A. LEWIS: I agree with Hon Colin Bell that the examples read out by the Minister relate to matters about which I have no concern. I am more concerned about the second tier of these organisations, the growers' associations. I therefore agree with the Minister's proposed amendment although, unlike Hon Colin Bell, I am concerned about the constitution of growers' committees.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I move -

Line 15, page 14 - To insert before the word "proof" the following -  
until evidence is given to the contrary

Amendment put and passed.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I refer members to paragraph (d) of this clause. This paragraph appears to be moving away from the onus of proof and it rings a warning bell. I ask the Minister whether it is a standard clause. The Committee's aim should be to delete paragraph (d) from the legislation. It is probably clear to students of the law, but it is not clear to those people who have to interpret the Acts of Parliament. As members of Parliament we have a duty to simplify the Statutes in order that they are easily interpreted by the layman. I had difficulty with a similar clause when the soil conservation Bill was debated in this Chamber. It led to a person saying that he would appeal to the High Court on a technicality. It turned out that the bush lawyer was right and the legislation was delayed for six weeks. I would like the Committee to consider moving away from this wording because it raises doubts and fears in the minds of people. I ask the Minister what is meant by this paragraph.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: It is a facilitation clause and it is still open to challenge. I take the member's point and I will convey his comments to the Crown Law Department.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 24: Protection of members -

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: I ask the Minister whether the commission or a growers' committee is liable for any act done or omitted to be done in good faith by an officer or an employee.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I am advised that the commission is liable.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 25: Regulations -

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I ask the Minister whether he has had a chance since last Thursday to consider the question of the determination and eligibility of growers to be regarded as growers for the purpose of this Bill.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: No, because I understood we resolved that as much as we could.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 26: Review -

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Members will recall that during the debate on a Bill last year there was some concern about when the actual review would take place. This is not a sunset clause, but a review clause and there is no time limit stated in the Bill in which a review shall be undertaken. I would prefer a clause which would enable the Act to be reviewed after five years and for the report of that review to be tabled in both Houses of Parliament within the 12 months following the expiration of the five years. I move -

Page 16, lines 12 and 13 - To delete "As soon as is practicable after the expiration of the period of 5 years following the coming into operation of this Act" and substitute the following -

Within a period of 12 months commencing on the fifth anniversary of the day on which this Act comes into operation.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 27 put and passed.

Schedule -

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: I move -

Page 18, line 26 - To delete the words, " telex or telegram" and substitute -  
or electronic means of communication

The telegram is no longer in existence and the telex is out of date. I am of the opinion that the words "or electronic means of communication" should be inserted to allow the use of fax machines.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: My concern was whether it would include the telephone - I have no difficulty with it.

Amendment put and passed.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Clause 8 of the schedule allows the commission to determine its own procedures. An earlier clause indicated that the commission appeared to be able to remove money from bank accounts. That was referred to by Hon John Caldwell during consideration of that clause. Could the Minister clarify the matter for me again? Can the procedure of the commission include confiscating the moneys of any committees formed beforehand, or are only those levies that have not been paid payable? Does the power of the commission to determine its own procedures include the power to confiscate money from such bank accounts?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The answer to that is only on debts due to the commission.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Does that go for every bank account? This provision seems to cut across what I understand to be common law.

Hon Graham Edwards: The Act itself overrides the schedule.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I think the Committee sees what I am getting at. I cannot talk about clause 14 because it has already been passed, but the procedures in clause 8 of the schedule seem to have some reference to that clause. My question stands: Under the powers already given the commission, it seems that the procedures enable it to do that to get payment of a debt.

Hon Graham Edwards: A debt that is owed to the commission.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Can the commission get the money from the bank account of a committee?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: When the question was raised earlier, we were talking about transitional moneys. If the committee decided for some reason or other to withhold some

moneys that were due to the commission, the commission would have the power to take those moneys owing, but only moneys that were owing.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Could the Minister direct that?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: Yes. The Minister could direct the committees and the commission.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: I see no requirement in the legislation for the commission or growers' committees to provide an annual report. Can the Minister explain why no provision is made for an annual report?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: The Bill is subject to the Financial Administration and Audit Act which has a requirement for reporting.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Annually?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: Yes.

Hon C.J. BELL: I am pleased to hear the Minister say that because the commission is another quango. It will be subject to the scrutiny of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies and it will attract some attention. I am sure that a number of people will be interested in its progress. I cannot recall seeing a Bill come before us which did not have the requirement for reporting and which relied solely on the all encompassing requirement of the Financial Administration and Audit Act to ensure reporting. I am pleased to have the Minister's assurance that the requirement is covered.

Schedule, as amended, put and passed.

Title put and passed.

#### *Report*

Bill reported, with amendments, and the report adopted.

#### *Third Reading*

Bill read a third time, on motion by Hon Graham Edwards (Minister for Consumer Affairs), and returned to the Assembly with amendments.

### **ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL**

On motion by Hon J.M. Berinson (Leader of the House), resolved -

That the House at its rising adjourn until 11.00 am today (Wednesday).

*House adjourned at 1.57 am (Wednesday)*

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## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

## R &amp; I BANK - ADMINISTRATOR

*Teachers Credit Society - Property and Assets Purchase*

565. Hon G.E. MASTERS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) Was the Rural and Industries Bank's purchase of the property and assets of the Teachers Credit Society undertaken at a time when the R & I was the administrator of the Teachers Credit Society affairs?
- (2) If this is the case, was the R & I purchase of the property it was administering on behalf of the members of the TCS contrary to general legal principle that "an administrator is absolutely incapacitated, while he remains an administrator, from purchasing or leasing trust property from himself"?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The bank is administrator under the Credit Union Act, not a trustee, and in acquiring the assets from the credit union has complied with the requirements of the Credit Union Act. The sale in January 1988 of society property to the Rural and Industries Bank was the subject of an independent evaluation by Macquarie Bank Ltd. The more recent announcement of a further sale of society property to the R & I Bank was the result of considerable negotiations between the R & I Bank and officers of the Treasury Department.

## BUNBURY PORT AUTHORITY - LAND PURCHASE

566. Hon A.A. LEWIS to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for The South West:

What land has the Bunbury Port Authority purchased in the last four years?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Bunbury Port Authority has purchased 44.58 hectares in the past four years. This land has been purchased in accordance with the Bunbury Port Authority strategy document published in 1984.

## "WESTERN FARMER AND GRAZIER" - NEWSPAPER

*Reporting Costs - Government Payments*

571. Hon W.N. STRETCH to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Agriculture:

Has the Western Australian Government made any payments to the newspaper *Western Farmer and Grazier* to meet the cost of its continuing reporting of livestock marketing and sales reporting statistics?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

No. The *Western Farmer and Grazier* newspaper pays the Government for the statistics it provides in relation to livestock markets at Katanning and Boyanup.

## CONSERVATION - WHALING

*Member for Albany - Government's Position*

572. Hon DOUG WENN to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of comments made by the member for Albany on the return of whaling in WA?
- (2) What is the Government's position on this issue?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2)

The statements by Mr Leon Watt, MLA, the member for Albany, which were made on ABC television on Thursday, 17 November must

rate as some of the most extraordinary comments on wildlife exploitation ever made by any person, let alone one who is seeking to become the protector of our unique and precious wildlife. Mr Watt's statement also astounded the Minister for Conservation and Land Management whom I represent in this House and who in response to a similar question in the Legislative Assembly on 22 November 1988 stated -

I was shocked when I tuned into the ABC news last Thursday night and saw the member for Albany being interviewed, and advocating a return to whaling in Western Australia. I thought it must have been one of those flashbacks, one of those blasts from the past where people flashback an old film, but it was in fact the member for Albany saying he was going to launch his new policy on the environment the next day, and saying that he did not see anything wrong with the reintroduction of whaling. To make sure that I did not misquote the member for Albany I went to the trouble of actually getting the exact words from the program. The member for Albany said - and I quote -

... but I would support whaling like any other proposition, so long as the yield could be sustained and the species was not endangered in any way.

The member for Albany was then asked if cruelty was an issue when talking about whaling. He said, and again I quote directly -

Well, you could argue that about killing sheep or cattle or chopping chooks' heads off or anything at all. I really don't think that if you're going to farm nature's resources, if you did that you certainly wouldn't be a meat eater.

Those are exactly the words he used on the Channel 2 program. He has been backpedalling ever since, saying he was misquoted and did not really mean it, but in fact he said it quite clearly on the Channel 2 news for all to hear. What is the Opposition's policy? Again we have this great confusion, with one person saying one thing and the Leader of the Opposition saying something else. Is the Opposition in favour of whaling or is it not?

Comparing the senseless slaughter of whales with chopping chooks' heads off is distasteful and insensitive in the extreme. The hundreds and thousands of Western Australians who took such an interest in the two whale rescues at Augusta would be horrified at the member's comments. Whaling has been banned by all countries except Japan and the Soviet Union since the 1970s. This ban is supported by this Government to the fullest extent of the law with the precarious situation with whale numbers being reflected in our inclusion of whales on the list of rare and endangered species.

#### STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION ACT - SECTION 33(2)

*Certificate Lodged - June 30 1987-88*

573. Hon MAX EVANS to the Leader of the House representing the Treasurer:

Section 33(2) of the State Government Insurance Commission Act requires the commission to furnish a certificate to the Minister stating whether the corporation has complied with the requirement to observe all insolvency and minimum valuation basis requirements imposed on insurers carrying on business in the State by Acts of the Commonwealth relating to insurance.

Has that certificate been lodged for the financial years ended 30 June 1987 and 1988?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The certificate for the financial year ended 30 June 1987 has been lodged. The certificate for 1988 will be supplied as soon as practicable after the Auditor General has issued his opinion of the financial statements to 30 June 1988.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION ACT - SECTION 24  
*Funding Arrangements - Treasurer's Approval*

574. Hon MAX EVANS to the Leader of the House representing the Treasurer:

I refer to section 24 of the State Government Insurance Commission Act which empowers the commission, with the approval of the Treasurer, to borrow or re-borrow moneys, obtain credit or arrange for financial accommodation for the purpose of performing its functions.

- (1) On what date did the Treasurer give approval for the extended overdraft of \$107 million and \$400 million loan funds reported in the commission's 1987 report?
- (2) On what date was approval given to raise funds to purchase Bell Resources Ltd shares from Holmes a Court for \$2.50 per share?
- (3) On what date was approval given to raise funds to purchase the \$175 million debenture in WA Government Holdings Ltd?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) The Treasurer approved loan borrowings up to \$460 million on 13, 16 and 30 November 1987 which replaced the initial extended overdraft of up to \$107 million.
- (2) The SGIC has not purchased Bell Resources Ltd shares from Mr Holmes a Court at \$2.50 a share.
- (3) No approval was required to purchase debentures in WA Government Holdings Ltd as this represented a change in the fixed interest security portfolio from WA Treasury Corporation to WA Government Holdings Ltd debentures on 3 October 1988.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION - WA GOVERNMENT  
HOLDINGS LTD

*Investment - Western Australian Treasury Corporation Funding*

575. Hon MAX EVANS to the Leader of the House representing the Treasurer:

I refer to the Minister for Economic Development and Trade's briefing that the \$175 million investment of the SGIC in WA Government Holdings Ltd, to be invested in Petrochemical Industries Co Ltd, would be raised from WA Treasury Corporation notes.

- (1) Were the funds raised from WATC?
- (2) If so, how much was raised?
- (3) If not, what was the source of funds for the deal?
- (4) What was the interest rate payable?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The question is based on a false premise. As previously disclosed in my earlier answers to questions, the funds were raised by WA Government Holdings issuing debentures which were taken up by the SGIC at commercial rates.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION - RECORD PROFIT  
ANNOUNCEMENT

*August 15 1988 - Dividend Amount*

578. Hon MAX EVANS to the Leader of the House representing the Treasurer:

I refer to the announcement on 15 August 1988 by the Chairman of the SGIC of a record profit and that the SGIC would now be able to pay its first dividend.

- (1) What is the amount of the proposed dividend?
- (2) Has it been paid in full, or in part?



(3) If not paid, when will it be paid?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) A provision has been made in the financial statement to 30 June 1988 for a payment of \$28 million.
- (2) The dividend has not been paid pending completion of the audit and tabling of the annual report in State Parliament.
- (3) A payment is expected to be made following the completion of the audit and may be paid in January 1989.

**WATSON, MR BRENT - GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS**

*Beechcraft Kingair Hire - Tender Procedure*

581. Hon MAX EVANS to the Minister for Budget Management:

In relation to the State Government's contract with Mr Brent Watson to make available a Beechcraft Kingair on standby at Perth Airport -

- (1) Was this arrangement subject to the normal tender process of Government?
- (2) If yes, how many companies tendered?
- (3) Why was not the aviation industry notified?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

See answer to question 447.

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS - OIL BARREL PRICE DECREASE**

*Petrol Bowser Prices - Inquiry Representations*

585. Hon H.W. GAYFER to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) In view of the continuing decrease in the price of oil per barrel, have any representations been made to him for an inquiry to be held to ascertain why petrol bowser prices have remained virtually at the same level for the last four years?
- (2) Have complaints about the level of petrol bowser prices been received by him?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) The wholesale price of petrol is recommended by the Federal Prices Surveillance Authority on a national basis. In January 1988 the marketing of domestic crude oil was deregulated by the Federal Government. The Western Australian Government made a submission to the Prices Surveillance Authority on the method to be used to calculate wholesale prices in relation to overseas prices. Wholesale prices are not set regularly based on a basket of overseas prices and since June 1988 has reduced 5.5c per litre. The retail price is controlled in Perth and major regional centres and this price has also been adjusted downwards to reflect the drop in overseas prices.
- (2) Yes. Generally when prices revert to the approved maximum, after price wars and in some instances when complainants are unaware of the freight component in country areas.

**POPULATION - URBAN**

*Greater Densities - Government Policy*

589. Hon MAX EVANS to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Planning:

- (1) At the opening of the greenhouse conference was the Deputy Premier expressing Government policy in suggesting that much greater densities in urban population were needed?
- (2) Is it Government policy to increase densities in the Perth metropolitan area?
- (3) In the light of that, what is Government policy in relation to the size of blocks in residential subdivisions?

- (4) Does the Government favour smaller lot sizes than the standard or former standard 1 000 square metre size?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) The Government has not endorsed a policy which requires "much greater densities in urban population".
- (2) The review group's report to the State Planning Commission "Planning for the future of the Perth Metropolitan Region" recommends that greater emphasis should be given in future to urban consolidation and infill. In general terms, the Government endorses this recommendation.
- (3)-(4) The State Planning Commission is responsible for the subdivision of alienated land in the State. Its policy for lot sizes anticipates a range of sizes for single residential lots with a minimum of 450 square metres.

### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

#### CRIME - YOUNG OFFENDERS

##### *Farm Stays Consideration - Children's Court of Western Australia Bill*

461. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Community Services:

My question refers to the Government's announcement to consider farm stays for juvenile offenders.

- (1) Will the Minister reconsider her opposition to amendments moved by the Liberal Party to the Children's Court of Western Australia Bill?
- (2) Will she acknowledge that the Government's efforts to contain juvenile crime have failed and that new and more serious measures are now required?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2)

No.

#### SMITH, MRS LEOPOLDINE - DECEASED ESTATE

##### *Finalisation*

462. Hon JOHN WILLIAMS to the Attorney General:

When is it expected that procedures in connection with the deceased estate of Leopoldine Maria Smith will be finalised and the nominated heirs will take possession of the estate?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

I am advised that the late Mrs Smith died on 12 September 1987 leaving a will which was not drawn by the Public Trustee but which appoints the Public Trustee as executor. Although an application for a grant of probate has been filed in the Supreme Court, the Public Trustee has not as yet obtained the grant which would authorise him to administer the estate. Because of problems associated with proving the will, the Public Trustee is unable to advise when the estate is expected to be finalised. For reasons of confidentiality, it would be improper to provide specific information relating to the estate.

#### EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING - INTERIM COUNCIL ON PRODUCTIVITY AND TRAINING

##### *Report - Submission*

463. Hon JOHN WILLIAMS to the Minister representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

I have given notice of this question.

- (1) Has the interim council on productivity and training submitted its report to the Minister yet?
- (2) If so, would he table the report?
- (3) If not, when is the report expected to be submitted?
- (4) Is the Government preparing legislation based on the recommendations of the report?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

Although those questions may have been provided earlier, an answer has not been made available to me. I ask the member to place the question on notice.

#### HEALTH - NURSING HOMES

##### *Future*

464. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) What is the future of the Coolgardie Nursing Home as an inpatient complex?
- (2) Will the Minister give an assurance that the complex will remain open beyond the needs of existing patients?
- (3) Why is there a reluctance to give local people and patients a firm guide to its future?
- (4) Is the Minister aware that there are about 80 potential patients in the immediate district who would assure the complex a substantial patronage?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) The future of the Coolgardie Nursing Home is under active consideration by a project steering committee. A special survey team, including Professor Saint, visited the area on 9 to 11 November 1988 to assess the district's needs.
- (2) The Health Department is considering various options to enable the complex to remain open. No plans for closing the complex are being considered.
- (3) There is no reluctance to give local people and patients a firm guide to its future. Local people have been and continue to be fully involved in determining Coolgardie's residential care needs for the elderly.
- (4) Nowhere near 80 potential patients require nursing home care. A figure of 60 was mentioned to the survey team, but, on investigation, they were fit aged persons rather than disabled. In the opinion of the survey team, there are in addition to the nine patients currently in the nursing home only four in the community at risk of admission. A further three persons with psychiatric conditions may require care in a specialised psychiatric unit in the future.

The PRESIDENT: Order! It has been drawn to my attention that this question appears on the Notice Paper. There were a couple of questions without notice asked last week which also appeared on the Notice Paper. It seems there is a communications mix up, either in this House or in the member's office, or some confusion about what the terms "questions on notice" and "questions without notice" mean. Members cannot ask a question without notice that appears on the Notice Paper already. This sitting is drawing to a close and it is not likely to happen many more times. However, I am letting members know that I will give the same ruling next year.

#### CONSUMER AFFAIRS - TRAVEL AGENTS

##### *Licensing Fee - Increase*

465. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

The misunderstanding on the previous question does not rest with the staff of this House. I ask -

- (1) Is it correct that the licensing fee for travel agents' annual registration has been increased by \$25?
- (2) If so, what is the reason for the increase?

- (3) Does the increase not run counter to the Premier's claims that State fees and charges have not nor will not rise?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

I ask that the questions be placed on notice.

**SPORT AND RECREATION - RURAL AREAS**  
*Golden West Network - Complaints*

466. Hon TOM McNEIL to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

Is the Minister aware that once again people in country areas have been denied seeing not only the finish of the cricket on Sunday, but also, after watching the golf for six hours, the winning putt by Rodger Davis, and that it is appropriate that the show that followed was "The Rich and Famous"?

The PRESIDENT: Order! That question is not a proper question.

Hon TOM McNEIL: Will the Minister support complaints to the Golden West Network because this is not the first time that sports lovers in country areas have been affected by such programming? I think it is about time we unified in our opposition to the Golden West Network's denying us the opportunity of seeing the closing stages of sporting events.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I am prepared to concede that there actually was a question somewhere in there. Perhaps the Minister can answer it.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

I am happy to pursue the matters raised by the member.

**YOUTH - BURKE, HON BRIAN**  
*Pre-election Pledge - School Students, Financial Assistance*

467. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Youth:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the former Premier's pre-election pledge to the youth of Western Australia to make sure that young people who want to stay at school are not forced by financial circumstances to leave and that the State Government would pay parents the difference between the secondary allowance paid by the Commonwealth and unemployment benefits?
- (2) Is the Minister involved in the implementation of that promise?
- (3) If so, has she been appraised of its progress so far?
- (4) If not, why not?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I would appreciate that question being put on notice.

**SPORT AND RECREATION - DEPARTMENT**  
*Reorganisation*

468. Hon A.A. LEWIS to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

Is it a fact that the Department for Sport and Recreation is being reorganised?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

At this stage, no, but it is going through a reorganisation.

**SPORT AND RECREATION - DEPARTMENT**  
*Director - Resignation*

469. Hon A.A. LEWIS to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

Is it a fact that the Director of the Department for Sport and Recreation is resigning?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The current director did not apply for the new chief executive officer's position.

**SPORT AND RECREATION - DEPARTMENT**  
*Executive Director - Appointment*

470. Hon A.A. LEWIS to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

When is it expected that the new executive director will be appointed?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

I am not in a position to answer the question at this stage except to say that the position has been advertised and I understand that interviews have been held. I am not aware of any further information at this stage.

**SPORT AND RECREATION - DEPARTMENT**  
*Recreation Component - Elitist Sport Component*

471. Hon A.A. LEWIS to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

Will the Minister assure the House that with any appointment the recreation component of the department will be held at the same level and an elitist sport component will not take over the department?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

I am happy to give that assurance. Indeed, the structure of the department is such that it will be able to give a greater emphasis and service to recreation. I refer the member to his own party's policy which will see the scrapping of the Department for Sport and Recreation and, with it, the tremendous amount of services provided to this State.

Hon P.G. Pental: And its replacement by a sports commission.

**MINISTERS OF THE CROWN - ATTORNEYS GENERAL**  
*Standing Committee - Law Reform Commission's Discussion Paper No 34*

472. Hon A.A. LEWIS to the Attorney General:

Did the Attorney General discuss at the Standing Committee of Attorneys General the Australian Law Reform Commission's discussion paper No 34 concerning the new product liability legislation?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

I ask the member to identify the paper in a little more detail. Is it an Australian Law Reform Commission paper?

Hon A.A. Lewis: Yes.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: To the best of my recollection that report of the Australian Law Reform Commission has not come before the Standing Committee of Attorneys General. I am reluctant to rely on my memory and my comments are subject to correction because a number of matters are listed in a formal way without reaching the discussion stage. When that happens it does not make an impression. I think I am safe in saying that the issue has not been discussed whether or not it has been placed on the agenda.

**LAW REFORM COMMISSION - NEW PRODUCT LIABILITY LEGISLATION**

473. Hon A.A. LEWIS to the Attorney General:

I realise that the Attorney General may have had other things on his mind at the last meeting. Is he aware that if this legislation is enacted non-buyers as well as buyers will be able to sue and that includes people who purchased second-hand items five years previously?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

I have to confess my complete ignorance of the report of the Australian Law Reform Commission. My answer to the question is no.

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