

Noes—3

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| Hon. R. F. Claughton | Hon. R. H. C. Stubbs |
| Hon. D. W. Cooley | Hon. R. Thompson |
| Hon. D. K. Dans | Hon. Grace Vaughan |
| Hon. S. J. Dellar | Hon. Lyla Elliott |

(Teller)

Pair

Aye

No.

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|-------------------|-------------------|
| Hon. N. E. Baxter | Hon. R. T. Leeson |
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Clause thus passed.

Progress

Progress reported and leave given to sit again, on motion by the Hon. G. C. MacKinnon (Minister for Education).

BILLS (6): RECEIPT AND FIRST READING

1. Police Act Amendment Bill.
2. Main Roads Act Amendment Bill.
3. Marketing of Potatoes Act Amendment Bill.
4. Dongara-Eneabba Railway Bill.
5. Ministers of the Crown (Statutory Designations) and Acts Amendment Bill.
6. Railways Discontinuance and Land Revestment Bill.

Bills received from the Assembly; and, on motions by the Hon. N. McNeill (Minister for Justice), read a first time.

REGISTRATION OF DEEDS ORDINANCE AMENDMENT BILL

Returned

Bill returned from the Assembly without amendment.

House adjourned at 12.25 a.m. (Thursday)

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 2nd October, 1974

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

QUESTIONS (32): ON NOTICE

1. COMMUNITY RECREATION COUNCIL

Perry Lakes Pavilion: Lease

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

Would he advise the present position re the proposal by the Community Recreation Council to acquire a long-term lease of the Perry Lakes pavilion and complex?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

The leasing of portion of Perry Lakes pavilion and complex by the the Community Recreation Council has been agreed to, in principle, by the parties concerned.

The detailed draft lease has been drawn up and should be finalised in the near future.

It is anticipated that the Community Recreation Council will be operating from Perry Lakes early in 1974.

2.

HOUSING

Mortgage Relief

Mr FLETCHER, to the Minister for Housing:

Relevant to his letter of 27th September, 1974 to all Parliamentary Members regarding assistance available to the public on application to the Mortgage Relief Committee where monthly repayments rise as a consequence of a rise in interest rates on home loans, will this assistance be given additionally to those mortgagors who are expected to receive the recently published assistance of \$9 to \$11 per week income tax relief promised by the Australian Government to those with home loans at high interest rates?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

Yes. The proposed scheme of tax deductibility in respect of interest payments was not a factor taken into account by the Mortgage Relief Committee when it prepared the guide-lines criteria for the building societies, etc.

However, it is pointed out that the proposed income tax rebate on account of interest paid on a home mortgage will vary according to the income and the mortgage interest paid by the claimant.

The Commonwealth has indicated that the rebate will be paid annually unless the claimant could convince the Taxation Department that he has a justifiable claim for the rebate to be allowed weekly. Allowance on a pay-as-you-earn basis was strongly advocated by this Government, the building societies, the unions and representative organisations of home buyers.

Relief under the Commonwealth scheme is considered to be closer to \$3 or \$4 per week and not the \$9 to \$11 as stated by the Member.

3. BUILDING SOCIETIES

Interest Rates

Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) In the light of the repayment problems facing Western Australian home buyers at present, and considering that a major Victorian building society raised its interest repayment rate to borrowers to 12.9 per cent last week, does he know of any moves for Western Australian building societies to further raise their rates above 11½ or 12 per cent?
- (2) As in a telex to the Prime Minister on 15th June, 1974 the Premier stated the distress being felt, particularly among lower income groups, was very real including the possible collapse of many housing contracts—
 - (a) how many housing contracts have “collapsed” in Western Australia since the building societies announced a rise to 11½ or 12 per cent and the banks announced rises in line with the most recent bond rate rise;
 - (b) now that borrowers are aware of their new repayment figures, how many more contracts are expected to collapse;
 - (c) if a contract collapses, will the State Government take steps to prevent the borrower having to give up his home, other than those announced by the Minister recently for borrowers on \$100 a week gross income or less?
- (3) What will the State Government do to assure borrowers that building society rates do not rise above 11½ or 12 per cent?
- (4) In the light of substantial public hostility towards building societies will he instigate moves for an investigation into the total activities of the societies, along the lines of a Royal Commission or a Select Committee?
- (5) Will the Minister consider a complete review of the Building Societies Act to ensure that borrowers can never find themselves in a position where repayment of a loan within 45 years is not possible, or put them in any sort of position of financial embarrassment, or have their loan “re-structured” at intervals along lines convenient only to the societies if the reason for any of the above cannot be considered reasonably to be the fault of the borrower, but of conditions totally outside his control?

- (6) If the disputes sections of the rules of a society are found to be inadequate or out of financial reach of a borrower to solve his particular repayment problems (some requiring monetary deposits to be given to directors prior to arbitration and some requiring possible court action), can a borrower take his case to the Department of Consumer Protection?
- (7) Has he studied the tax scheme submitted to him by the Independent Home Buyers Action Group on 24th September, 1974, and if so—
 - (a) does he think it is, in broad outline, a possible solution to home buyers' problems;
 - (b) would the State Government support such a scheme;
 - (c) if so, is there any way the State Government could contribute to such a scheme or would it consider the scheme the total responsibility of the Federal Government;
 - (d) if the State Government would support such a scheme, but says it could not contribute in any way, what would be the reasons, in detail, of its alleged non-ability to contribute?
- (8) Does he think the publicised proposed amendments to the Money Lenders Act will have the effect of raising building society rates further, considering that building societies say they compete with finance companies, and considering that some Eastern States finance companies are now looking for “at call” money as building societies do?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) On the assumption “housing contract” means “a contract to build or purchase a home”, it is pointed out that loan approvals dropped early in the year and over the last few months lending has been at a low level. Those holding approvals and having houses under construction will be able to apply for relief through their society in accordance with my circular letter of 27th September, 1974.

If, on the other hand, “housing contract” means the home mortgage, then the Government is not aware of the number of home purchasers likely to be subjected to “mortgagee in possession” action. It is anticipated that the reasons for such actions, however, would be for breaches of mortgage conditions other than the breach brought about by the increase in

interest rates for which cases the Mortgage Relief Committee was established.

It is known that, generally, the arrears situation with the principal home financing intermediaries has improved over recent weeks and is at a satisfactory level.

- (3) Experience of those States where there is statutory control of building society interest rates has shown that it has been necessary to authorise upward movement of earlier approved rates in order to maintain the flow of funds sought by homeseekers. The level of interest rates for various categories of lending and borrowing will be subject to the Financial Corporations Act, 1974, which was assented to on 7th August, 1974.
- (4) There was no public dissatisfaction with the building societies until the Commonwealth Government introduced a monetary policy of high interest rates and reducing liquidity. Currently amendments proposed to the Building Societies Act, 1920 are under review and it is anticipated this will be completed as soon as the regulations under the Financial Corporations Act, 1974, are promulgated by the Commonwealth Government and the determinations and directions of the Reserve Bank which will follow that promulgation are available. It is not proposed therefore, to appoint a Royal Commission or Select Committee.
- (5) The Building Societies Act, 1920, and regulations thereunder provide for the registration, supervision, and control of building societies.

Among the many comprehensive requirements of that legislation is one requiring that society rules (or constitution) be approved by the registrar, who ensures the rules are equitable and in line with those which have been progressively evolved in Western Australia, Australia, and overseas where building societies are an important source of home finance.

Any person can obtain a copy of the approved rules to determine whether he can conform before entering into any mortgage, the conditions of which must be in accordance to those rules as well as the law applying to such transactions. The rules approved for Western Australian societies are considered satisfactory and in line with those used in western democracies.

- (6) The statutory responsibility for the conduct of the building societies resides with the Minister and the Registrar of Building Societies. Legitimate complaints can be referred to either the Minister or the registrar and, in some instances, to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations.
- (7) The proposals mentioned were received on 30th September, 1974, and are now being studied, even though the matter appears to be solely the responsibility of the Commonwealth Treasurer to whom the Independent Home Buyers' Action Group wrote on 24th September, 1974. The initial appreciation is that the Scheme will not be acceptable because of its substantial difference to that included in the Commonwealth Budget and which has different aims to that proposed by the group. The Member will be informed in writing when the study has been completed.
- (8) No, particularly in view of the expected promulgation of the regulations under the Financial Corporations Act, 1974, and the determinations and directions which will be made by the Reserve Bank for the various categories of financial intermediaries. It is also noted that Commonwealth Ministerial statements now indicate a growing awareness that existing interest rates for home finance are too high, a fact which the societies and this Government have appreciated since interest rates increased substantially during the past year or so, particularly as their borrowers are dominantly those who are marginally above or below the Australian average weekly income for an adult male.

4.

MINIMUM WAGE

Government Policy

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) In view of his reply of "Yes" given during March of this year at a public meeting in the Subiaco City Hall to the question—"Will you, if elected, support an adult minimum wage for all workers", does the Government intend to submit a case to the Industrial Commission at the next State wage hearing supporting the removal of the difference between the present male and female minimum wages?
- (2) If it is not the intention of the Government to make such a submission to the Commission, will

it present an answer if the Employers Federation submits a case as it did at the last State wage hearing in May 1974, against an equal minimum wage for women?

- (3) If it is not the intention of the Government to act in accordance with either question (1) or question (2), will he explain the Government's position in view of the pledge which was given to support an adult minimum wage?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) to (3) Whilst I recall attending a public meeting in the Subiaco City Hall on Tuesday, 19th March, organised by the Women's Electoral Lobby at which the Leader of the Opposition and representatives of other political parties were present, I have no recollection of either the question posed in part (1) of his question or my alleged reply thereto. Whilst I have always supported the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, I would not support a proposition for an adult minimum wage for all workers irrespective of age.

The Government of which I was a member on a previous occasion made appropriate amendments to the Industrial Arbitration Act to remove any inhibition to the presentation of a case to bring about equal pay for work of equal value, irrespective of sex.

5. HOUSING

Manjimup and Pemberton

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

- (1) How many State Housing Commission homes of each of the following categories—
 (a) three-bedroom home;
 (b) two-bedroom home;
 (c) single pensioner accommodation,
 will be built at both Manjimup and Pemberton in 1975?
- (2) Have tenders for construction been called, and if so, when will a commencement be made?
- (3) If tenders have not been called when is it proposed to do so?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) (a) to (c) For the 1974-75 financial year the commission proposes to build the following dwellings at Manjimup and Pemberton—

Manjimup:

- 5 three-bedroom dwellings
- 4 two-bedroom dwellings

- 2 single pensioner units
 - 2 pensioner couple units
- Pemberton:
- 4 three-bedroom dwellings
 - 2 two-bedroom dwellings.

- (2) No.

- (3) It is the intention to call tenders for Manjimup in February 1975 and Pemberton in November 1974, and subject to satisfactory tenders being received the commission would expect construction to commence within 2 months of these dates.

6.

APPLES

Export Price Subsidy

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

Can he give an indication of when the price support subsidy for the 1974 apple export industry made available by the State and Commonwealth Governments will be paid to eligible growers?

Mr MCPHARLIN replied:

Fruit shippers expect that the few remaining export returns from United Kingdom importers will be supplied shortly. It will then be possible for the Australian Apple and Pear Corporation to supply details of Western Australian export quantities and average FOB prices, and to announce the level of stabilisation payment. State and Commonwealth assistance finance can then be distributed.

7.

MANJIMUP HIGH SCHOOL

Pre-vocational Centre

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

- (1) Have tenders been called for the construction of a pre-vocational centre at the Manjimup Senior High School?
- (2) Was any tender accepted, and if so, when will work commence?
- (3) If construction is being delayed because there is no accepted tender, when is it proposed that tenders will be recalled?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A tender was recommended for acceptance. However, the recommended tenderer withdrew his tender before the contract was signed.
- (3) This matter is under consideration at the present time.

8. WATER SUPPLIES

Carnarvon and Gascoyne: Commonwealth Financial Assistance

Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Works:

Has he had a definite indication from the Federal Government that legislation is to be introduced in the Federal Parliament to provide financial assistance for the Carnarvon and Gascoyne ground-water supply scheme, as announced by the Queen when opening Parliament on 28th February, 1974?

Mr O'NEIL replied:
No.

9. *This question was postponed.*

10. TELEVISION

Colour Sets: Price

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Is he aware that the most commonly used colour television set can be purchased in the United States of America for \$A300 and in Germany for \$A300 to \$A400?
- (2) Is he aware that a similar colour television set in Australia will cost approximately \$A900?
- (3) Will he arrange for the Consumer Protection Bureau to investigate so that he can subsequently indicate to Parliament the reasons for the high cost of colour television sets in Western Australia and a breakdown of the cost structure of such sets?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) I am aware that prices of colour television sets are substantially cheaper in the United States and Germany.
- (2) I am aware that maximum retail prices have been fixed between \$774 and \$990 dependent on the size and make of sets.
- (3) As these prices were investigated and approved by the Prices Justification Tribunal, it should not be necessary to further investigate the matter.

11. SEWERAGE

Commonwealth Financial Assistance

Mr HARMAN to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Will the Western Australian Government take advantage of the latest Australian Government scheme to provide finance for sewerage works?

- (2) (a) If not, why not;
- (b) if so, how much finance will be available in this financial year and what areas will be seweraged as a consequence?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Answered by (1).
- (b) It is expected that a total of \$15.4 million will be available, consisting of \$12.4 million for 1974-75 and \$3 million carryover from 1973-74.

The programme of works has yet to be approved.

I might add that these moneys are not grants to the State; they are loans.

Mr Harman: It is a bit different from the previous scheme.

12. COMMONWEALTH SPECIAL FUNDS

Availability

Mr HARMAN, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Will he nominate the areas (education, transport, housing, etc.) in which special funds have been made available to Western Australia by the Australian Government for use during this financial year?
- (2) Will he nominate the specific amounts and the various works to be undertaken?
- (3) Will he nominate those areas for which the Australian Government is prepared to provide finance to Western Australia but such offers have been rejected or deferred by him?
- (4) What amounts of finance are involved?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) This information is set out in the Commonwealth Budget paper "Payments to or for the States and Local Government Authorities 1974-75", a copy of which is available in the Parliamentary Library.
- (3) No offers of finance have been rejected but a decision on the acceptance of funds under the Land Commission's programme has been deferred pending clarification of the Commonwealth Government's requirements. Negotiations are proceeding.
- (4) If the Member's question refers to his question (3) the answer is—

A total of \$54.45 million has been allocated to all States in 1974-75 under the Land Commission's programme. However, each State's allocation has not yet been determined.

13. FORRESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Site Levels

Mr THOMPSON, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it true that, through a mistake, too much natural earth was removed from the site of the new Forrestfield high school and that sand fill is or was required to re-establish the correct levels?
- (2) If so, how much excess material was removed?
- (3) How much material is required to correct the levels, from which area is it being carted, and what is the cost?
- (4) Who is to bear the cost of the replacement?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) to (4) Minimal earthworks were required of the contract. However, as site works proceeded, it became apparent that problems would arise with sub-soil drainage and it was decided to "lift" the general finished ground level—in the vicinity of buildings only—by introducing and compacting suitable filling.

Approximately 4 700 cubic yards of fill is being provided from a sand supplier in Kalamunda Road, High Wycombe, at an adjusted bill rate currently being negotiated.

14.

SCHOOLS

Guidance Officers

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

- (1) How many guidance officers are engaged in work associated with State primary schools?
- (2) Is there to be a reduction in the number of these officers for the 1975 school year?
- (3) If so, for what reason?
- (4) As it is felt that these officers have served a real need and that rather than a reduction there should be an increase in the number, would he make a statement of policy on the matter?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The Education Department employs full-time and part-time officers in this area. All of these are equivalent to 78 full-time guidance officers, 33 counselling assistants and 3 teacher counsellors. This work is associated with both primary and secondary schools.

(2) No reduction is intended.

(3) Not applicable.

(4) The Government's intention is to increase the volume of guidance work as need dictates and finance permits.

15.

ENERGY

Windmills

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Is he aware of the windmill research being conducted in the United States for the purpose of investigating practical economical systems to use wind as an additional source of energy?
- (2) Is he further aware that it has been calculated that a slim 50 ft. long windmill blade could turn a 100 kW generator when the annual average winds are 20 mph and if the average is 40 mph the same blade will turn an 80 kW generator?
- (3) Because of the strong winds experienced throughout Western Australia and, in particular the north-west, is any research being done by the Fuel and Power Commission to assess the economic potential of this source of energy?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes, although the Member's numbers appear to be reversed and out by a factor of ten. Generation will be higher at 40 mph than 20 mph and the blade length mentioned in the question would produce a nominal 800-1000 kW at 40 mph wind speed.
- (3) Yes.

16.

HOUSING

Hamilton Hill: Southwell Estate

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Housing:

In the Hamilton Hill-Southwell Estate—

- (a) how many accommodation units have been completed for occupancy—
 - (i) as rental;
 - (ii) for purchase;
- (b) how many such units of each type and in each of the above categories are at present under construction;
- (c) how many such units are expected to be ready for occupancy this financial year;

- (d) how many applications for rental accommodation in the Fremantle area are still unsatisfied;
- (e) how many applications for purchase accommodation in the Fremantle area are still outstanding and from what date do these apply;
- (f) how many applications for transfer from SHC flats are outstanding in the Fremantle area?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (a) (i) 84 units.
(ii) 32 units.
- (b) 12 units of town housing for rental and 5 units of town housing for purchase applicants.
- (c) All the above units under construction are programmed for completion in this financial year.
- (d) There are 927 applications for rental assistance in the Fremantle area.
- (e) As from December 1966, there are 1 090 outstanding applications for purchase assistance and 282 of these are also included in the figures given in answer to (d) above.
- (f) 65 applicants are approved and listed for transfer.

17.

LAND

City of Perth Endowment Land

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Lands:

Will he please table a large scale plan of that area of the City of Perth as described in the preamble of the City of Perth Endowment Lands Act, No. 31 of 1920?

Mr RIDGE replied:

Plans as requested are submitted for tabling.

The plans were tabled (see paper No. 259).

18.

FINANCE COMPANIES

Interest Rate: Increase

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

- (1) Is it true that many finance companies in Western Australia have ceased any long term lending because they have been told the amendments proposed to the Money Lenders Act will take the borrowing rate to 18 per cent by Christmas?
- (2) Will the rate in fact be 18 per cent?

- (3) Is he aware if finance companies are holding back on lending in the event that should the lending rate rise they can "cash in" before the Financial Corporations Act comes into effect?
- (4) Is it the aim of the State Government that finance companies in this State should, and will, be able to lend at a much higher rate and thus "cash in" before the Financial Corporations Act comes into force?
- (5) Considering that most finance companies in Western Australia are only branches of Eastern States companies, how will inflationary amendments of this nature help Western Australia?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) As there is no obligation on finance companies to inform the Government of lending policies, it is not known whether any finance companies have ceased long term lending. They have not been informed that the borrowing rate would be increased to 18% by Christmas.
- (2) The Money Lenders Act Amendment Bill now before the Legislative Council proposes a maximum rate initially at 20%.
- (3) No.
- (4) It is intended that finance companies may be able to lend at a higher rate, but not for the reason suggested as the Financial Corporations Act rates are not yet known.
- (5) It will enable investors, many of whom are small investors, to obtain an appropriate return on investments in this State.
It is believed that high rates in other States are attracting investors to the disadvantage of borrowers in Western Australia who require funds for commercial and private activities.

19.

ONE ARM POINT

Services and Population

Sir DAVID BRAND, to the Minister for the North-West:

- (1) Can he advise what is the estimated cost of the following work being done at the town of One Arm Point—
 - (a) sewerage;
 - (b) roads;
 - (c) water reticulation;
 - (d) housing;
 - (e) total cost of construction of the town?
- (2) What is the population of One Arm Point?

Mr RIDGE replied:

\$

- (1) (a) 245 160;
 - (b) 35 570;
 - (c) 102 600;
 - (d) 835 900;
 - (e) estimated total cost of construction of the One Arm Point Village is \$2 612 460 which is inclusive of (a) (b) (c) and (d) and additional costs for electricity supply, school buildings, landscaping and provision for motor vehicles and tools. These estimates provide for the development of a village to accommodate some 300 people and is being financed by way of a Commonwealth Grant for the housing of Aborigines.
- (2) 209 as at 14th June, 1974.

20. SEWERAGE

Country Towns

Sir DAVID BRAND, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) How many towns in country areas have applied for installation of a sewerage system?
- (2) Can he advise what progress has been made with the installations, and at what cost?
- (3) How long is it estimated it will take to achieve the present work in the country?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Since the introduction of the local authorities' borrowing scheme in 1968, when lists of towns applying for schemes have been kept, the total number of applications received is 44.
- (2) Of the 44 towns for which applications have been received, 11 schemes have either been completed or are under construction. A further 5 schemes have been approved for construction under the local authorities' borrowing scheme and another 6 schemes are under consideration. In addition 3 of these towns have been listed as proposed schemes to be constructed by the Public Works Department in the next 3 years. Prior to 1968, sewerage schemes were already under construction in 23 towns under the provisions of the Country Towns Sewerage Act.

Total expenditure on country town sewerage schemes to June 1974 was \$16 700 000. In addition

the annual subsidy paid under the local authorities' borrowing scheme amounted to \$63 400.

- (3) The length of time required to complete the sewerage reticulation of all country towns requiring sewerage is dependent on the availability of funds.

21.

HEALTH

Fish: Report on Mercury Content

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the long awaited report on the mercury content of fish yet to hand?
- (2) If so, will the Minister inform the House of the report's contents?
- (3) If (1) is "No"—
 - (a) when will the report be ready;
 - (b) why has there been such a long delay in informing the public of the results of tests which were made over 12 months ago?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) (a) Within a few weeks.
 - (b) The results relate to a wide variety of species of fish of differing ages and size caught off the Western Australian coast. Further, there is a wide range in the mercury levels. The report will attempt to assess the health hazard and indicate what action needs to be taken in the future.

22.

TOWN PLANNING

Herdsmen Lake

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) Has the MRPA finalised a report on the future of Herdsmen Lake?
- (2) If so, will he table the report?
- (3) If (1) is "No"—
 - (a) Is it a fact that the report was due to be finalised six months ago;
 - (b) when will the report be ready and will he table it when it is completed?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) (a) No.
 - (b) It is anticipated that an MRPA report will be available to the public early next year. The report will then be tabled.

23. CONSERVATION

Natural Heritage: Survey

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

- (1) Has there been a survey of the various eco-systems in Western Australia so as to indicate the extent and variety of our natural heritage?
- (2) If so, what are the details?
- (3) If (1) is "No" are there plans to make good this shortcoming?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) No, but various studies have been conducted.
- (2) Reports, for example, on the Cockburn Sound eco-system have been tabled in Parliament previously. A comprehensive report by the Conservation Through Reserves Committee of the Environmental Protection Authority relating to national parks and nature reserves is currently being reviewed.
- (3) Within the constraints of finance, studies are conducted as the need arises.

24. CONSERVATION

National Parks: Definition

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

- (1) Have the Australian Ministers for Conservation acting in concert defined "national parks"?
- (2) If so, will he supply the House with the details?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) No definition for "national parks" has yet been formed, and although the Nomenclature Committee set up by the Council of Nature Conservation Ministers is considering such terminology, its recommendations have still to be considered by the Ministers.
- (2) Answered by (1).

25. HEALTH

Breast Milk: Sample Tests

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will the Minister inform the House of the result of the analysis of breast milk taken from 30 mothers at King Edward Memorial Hospital, including the mean and the standard deviation?
- (2) Does he believe that 30 is a large enough sample to be able to make valid deductions?
- (3) Is there any plan for further samples to be taken?

- (4) Can the Minister arrange for the results of the analysis for toxic residues to be made of meat, fruit, vegetables, cereals and potatoes?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes. The results including the mean and standard deviation are tabled herewith.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes, and samples at or near acceptable limits will be further investigated if possible.
- (4) All States including Western Australia are currently participating in a nation-wide "market basket" survey conducted by the National Health & Medical Research Council. The information referred to is published from time to time by the council.

The results of the tests were tabled (see paper No. 260).

26. SCHOOL BUS SERVICES

Geraldton

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

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article appearing in the *Geraldton Guardian* of Thursday, 26th September, in which it was stated that the bus service taking children to Geraldton schools from the Bluff Point, Wonthealla and Tarcoola areas would cease on 25th October unless some form of financial assistance was forthcoming?
- (2) Will the Minister approach the Transport Commission and the bus operator to see if a suitable solution can be arrived at to keep the service operating?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The Minister is not aware of the article but inquiries have revealed that the service is a private one operating for the use of the public. Its support is a matter for the Transport Commission as the Education Department is only responsible for contract services beyond a statutory distance from the schools.
- (2) The problem will be referred to the Transport Commission to see if anything can be done to assist the bus operation.

27. SCHOOLS

Geraldton District: Survey

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

With reference to his answer to question 14 of Wednesday 11th September, in which he stated that the Education Department had

surveyed the need for new primary schools in the Geraldton areas of Tarcoola, South Rangeway and East Bluff Point, will he provide details of the surveys?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

In November, 1973, officers of the Planning branch of the Education Department conducted a survey to review primary school pupil distribution and to fix boundaries for the John Willcock High School. The class rolls at each of the five primary schools in Geraldton were examined in order to obtain a complete analysis of the primary school pupil distribution by street of residence and by grade.

The results of this analysis were then transferred to a map of the Geraldton townsite. A copy is tabled herewith.

The areas indicated will be taken into consideration in the location of primary schools to be established in the future.

A copy of the map was tabled (see paper No. 261).

28. DENTAL TECHNICIANS

Legislation

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

- (1) Has a decision been arrived at following representations from the Australian Dental Technicians Society (WA Branch) regarding a suggested dental technicians Act as referred to in question 15 of 7th August, 1974?
- (2) If so, can he advise the decision?
- (3) If not, what is the cause of the considerable delay?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) It is not proposed to introduce legislation. The association has been informed accordingly.

29. EDUCATION

Teacher-Librarians Course

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

- (1) Has the first course of teacher/librarians been completed and if so, how many teachers qualified through the course?
- (2) Has a second course been commenced, and if so, how many teachers are enrolled?
- (3) Would the present library accommodation at Darlington primary school, containing some \$10 000

worth of stock, warrant the appointment of a teacher/librarian?

- (4) When is it anticipated that a library/resources centre will be built at the Darlington primary school?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes, 29 teachers qualified.
- (2) Yes, 29 teachers enrolled.
- (3) Ideally all schools with library collections warrant the appointment of teacher-librarians but appointments will depend upon the availability of trained staff and finance.
- (4) No decision has yet been made on when a library resource centre will be built at Darlington primary school.

30. *This question was postponed.*

31. LAMB MARKETING BOARD

Enrolled Producers

Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Would he advise the criteria for eligibility enabling lamb producers to vote at elections of the Lamb Marketing Board?
- (2) Can he advise—
 - (a) the number of lamb producers currently enrolled; and
 - (b) the number of lamb producers who applied for enrolment but were ineligible?
- (3) How many lamb producers were recorded in this State in each year since 1969?
- (4) Would he advise—
 - (a) the number of questionnaires sent out to lamb producers regarding proposals for orderly marketing of lambs;
 - (b) the total votes received; and
 - (c) final results?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

- (1) Criteria for eligibility to vote in elections to the Lamb Marketing Board are specified in the Western Australian Lamb Marketing Board (Elections) Regulations. These regulations define "prescribed producers" as producers who delivered at least 100 lambs to the board for slaughter in the twelve months ending on 30th November of the year before an election. Prescribed producers who are individual persons, are eligible for the electoral roll, but companies and partnerships must name an eligible employee or member to vote for them.

- (2) (a) 818.
(b) 6.
- (3) Data are not available before the inception of the board.
From the inception of the board on 4th December, 1972, until 25th July, 1974 (20 months), 3 750 producers had lambs processed through the board.
- (4) (a) Ballot papers were sent to 2 648 producers who were enrolled for the Lamb Marketing Board referendum.
(b) 2 028 votes were recorded.
(c) Results were—
1 760 in favour.
228 against.
40 informal.

32.

TEACHERS*Training Colleges: Enrolments and Financial Assistance*

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

- (1) What is the number of students presently enrolled at teacher training colleges and similar tertiary centres?
- (2) Can he advise the number of students that are recipients of—
(a) State Government assistance;
(b) Commonwealth Government assistance?
- (3) Would he advise the current weekly rate of State Government financial assistance to trainee teachers from—
(a) country;
(b) metropolitan areas?
- (4) When was this assistance last increased?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) At 30th April, 1974, enrolments (including full-time, part-time and external students) were as follows:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------|--------|
| Churchlands Teachers College | | 820 |
| Claremont Teachers College | | 635** |
| Graylands Teachers College | | 490 |
| Mt Lawley Teachers College | | 898 |
| WA Secondary Teachers College | | 1 989* |
| WA Institute of Technology | | 9 461† |
| University of Western Australia | | 9 964† |

- * Of these students, 973 were also enrolled at the University of Western Australia and 457 were also enrolled at the WA Institute of Technology.

**Since 30th April, the Claremont Teachers College has had a mid-year intake of 93 enrolments.

† These are total enrolments and include enrolments in many courses other than teacher education.

It is not possible to identify the exact number of persons at the WA Institute of Technology and the University of WA who are studying as potential teachers. Enrolments in education courses at the University of WA and the WA Institute of Technology at 30th April, 1974, were:

University of Western Australia—
Faculty of Education 1 199
(includes post-graduate students).
WA Institute of Technology—
(Kindergarten Teachers College) 227.

- (2) (a) 4 000 students were receiving assistance at 1st July, 1974.
(b) It is understood that 449 students receive allowances which are administered by the Commonwealth Office of Education.

| (3) Category | Fortnightly \$ |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Year 1 under 21 | 42.90 |
| Year 2 under 21 | 42.90 |
| Year 3 under 21 | 50.80 |
| Year 4 under 21 | 57.24 |
| Year 1-3 over 21 | 55.32 |
| Year 4 over 21 | 57.24 |
| Married man | 78.86 |
| Married man with children | 96.23 |
| Living away from home | 14.76 |
| Graduate | 19.17 |
| Primary teaching assistant | 16.03 |
| Women with dependent children | 29.23 |

- (4) The national wage adjustment applied as from May, 1974, to all living allowances except living away from home allowances.

The State Government had already increased the latter allowance as from January, 1974.

QUESTIONS (8): WITHOUT NOTICE**ENERGY***Windmills*

Mr MAY, to the SPEAKER:

I would like your guidance, Mr Speaker, in connection with question 15 on today's notice paper which was answered by the Minister for Fuel and Energy.

The actual question handed to Parliament concerned an 800 kW generator whereas, in fact, the question given to the Minister by the Clerks showed a figure of 80. I am asking whether, through you Mr Speaker, the Minister could review the situation in the light of the fact that the correct figure was included in the question handed in, and whether the Minister could give the correct answer tomorrow?

The SPEAKER replied:

This sort of occasion does arise from time to time and I think, as the honourable member has risen to his feet and has explained the situation, it will suffice and the record will now be included in *Hansard*. I presume the situation would be cleared up on that point.

Mr May: That is right.

Mr MENSAROS: If I, too, may reply to this question, I think this error was picked up and it is my understanding that the answer relates to the question as intended.

The SPEAKER: Is the honourable member satisfied?

Mr MAY: Yes, except that the answer to the question was to the effect that my question was incorrect. In fact, my question was correct but the question given to Parliament was incorrect.

2. HIGH SCHOOLS

Hall-gymnasiums

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

What is the present state of progress of the planned halls-gymnasiums for each of the following high schools—

Melville
Churchlands
Kwinana
John Forrest
Scarborough
Kent Street?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

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

Melville—
Construction commenced.
Builder in liquidation.
Work to be taken over by the Public Works Department.
Churchlands—
Under construction.

Kwinana—

Under construction.

John Forrest—

Finance was not available to meet the lowest tender.

The project has been re-commissioned and new documents are being prepared.

Scarborough—

Completed.

Kent Street—

Completed.

3. INTERSTATE AIR TRANSPORT

Lifting of Ban

Mr BLAICKIE, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Is the Press report substantially correct that the President of the ACTU left Perth Airport by plane last night?
- (2) Can he advise whether bans were imposed on interstate air travel?
- (3) If so, can he advise whether the ban was lifted in this instance?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) to (3) The President of the ACTU left Perth by plane in the early hours of this morning; in fact, very shortly after midnight. He left in a Lear Jet, which is one of the fastest executive type planes available.

Mr May: Answer the question.

Mr GRAYDEN: In the interests of giving the honourable member the answer he desires, I suggest that he put the question on the notice paper.

Sir Charles Court: Strike breaking! It is a wonder they did not get an RAAF plane.

Mr GRAYDEN: Strike breaking at its worst.

Mr Harman: He left after midnight.

4. IMMIGRATION

Visitors' Visas: Employment Restriction

Mr HARMAN, to the Premier:

- (1) Has he read a statement in *The West Australian* of the 30th September, attributed to the Minister for Immigration, which reads as follows—

The State Minister for Immigration, Mr Grayden, said last night he would be happy to make representation to the Commonwealth on her behalf.

He said it was ridiculous that people travelling on visitors' visas could not take work if

necessary or apply for permanent residence. There was no flexibility in Commonwealth policy. It was unfortunate that the State could not issue work permits.

- (2) Is he aware that nearly 500 000 people came to Australia in the last 12 months and—apart from the people in transit, those who came here on business, and as students—of that number 284 000 came purely as visitors on holidays?
- (3) Is he aware that with his Minister advocating this policy Western Australia would become the working holiday paradise for overseas visitors?
- (4) Does this statement and the attitude of the Minister represent the policy of the Government?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I understand the position is as stated, although I have no official statistical data available in the time in which this question is to be answered.
- (3) and (4) The Minister's comments were made in regard to a specific case which had been referred to him and it was not and is not his view that persons in Australia on visitors' visas should automatically, as a general rule, be permitted to work or apply for permanent residence whilst in Australia.

It is his view and that of the Government that there should, however, be some flexibility in the Commonwealth Government's attitude to enable consideration to be given—subject to certain safeguards—to cases such as that referred to him in which a major hospital had been endeavouring, without success, to obtain a staff member with particular qualifications since February, 1974, and, due to circumstances beyond her control, a suitable employee arrived with only a visitor's visa.

5.

TOURISM

Commonwealth Unemployment Relief Scheme

Mr WATT, to the Minister for Tourism:

- (a) What towns and shire councils have lodged submissions with the Department of Tourism for assistance under the Commonwealth Unemployment Relief Scheme?
- (b) What is the total value of the submission made?

- (c) How many of the submissions have been approved by the Commonwealth, to what value, and how many jobs will they provide?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

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

- (a) The Commonwealth Department of Tourism and Recreation asked for the submission of suitable works within the employment districts of Bunbury, Geraldton, and Kwinana. The following local authorities have provided details of projects to the Department of Tourism for consideration under the Regional Employment Development Scheme and these were immediately submitted to the Commonwealth Department of Tourism and Recreation for consideration.

Towns: Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton.

Shires: Greenough, Kwinana and Rockingham.

- (b) The value of submissions made in response to the above was to the amount of \$559 584, and at the department's volition, \$234 568, making a total of \$794 152.
- (c) A formal decision in relation to the submissions is not yet to hand.

I would add, however, that certain decisions have been made and publicity has been given to them, but the official acknowledgment has not yet been received by the Department of Tourism.

6. FUEL, ENERGY AND POWER RESOURCES LEGISLATION

AJA Resolution

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Premier:

My question refers to correspondence received from the Australian Journalists' Association which I understand has been communicated to all members of Parliament. A copy of the resolution passed by the Western Australian District of the AJA was annexed to this letter.

Will the Premier please state his Government's attitude to the resolution and the words contained in it?

Part (2) of the resolution reads as follows—

That the committee notes that the Premier and the Minister for Fuel and Energy have

repeatedly described opponents of the Bill as politically motivated and as people with guilty consciences. It also notes that the Deputy Premier has described opposition as communist inspired. The A.J.A. points out:

- c. that it has an unsurpassed record for industrial responsibility. Therefore the committee rejects the Statements of the Premier, the deputy Premier and the Minister as malicious falsehoods which do them no credit and which appear to be calculated to prevent the high level of public debate which ought to occur on such a far reaching measure.

My question is as follows—

- (1) Will the Premier state his Government's attitude to that part of the resolution which I read to the House?
- (2) Does the Premier consider that the A.J.A. was party to Mr Jack Munday's spring offensive of the Communist Party?
- (3) Does the Premier believe that the Western Australian District of the A.J.A. is deliberately co-operating with opponents of the Bill?
- (4) Does he believe that the A.J.A. has been deceived by those who would oppose the Bill?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (4) Having heard that second reading speech and the propaganda that went with it, I suggest that if the honourable member wants a considered answer to a question like that, of which he gave no notice, he should place it on the notice paper.

Mr May: It would be guillotined anyway.

7. IMMIGRATION

Visitors' Visas: Employment Restriction

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Immigration:

As a preamble to his reply to my question a moment ago, the Premier said that it is his view and that of the Government—and I think he was referring to the Minister for Immigration—that there should be some flexibility in the Commonwealth Government's

attitude to enable consideration to be given, subject to certain safeguards, to allow people here on visitors' visas to work. I ask the Minister the following question—

What are the certain safeguards that he envisages so that people visiting Australia on visitors' visas would be able to work?

The SPEAKER: Is this question asked of the Minister for Immigration?

Mr HARMAN: Yes.

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

I could well envisage the situation of a doctor who has come to Western Australia on a visitor's visa. He may visit one of the remote country towns of Western Australia which has been without a doctor for many months or even many years. He may be prepared to serve in that particular country town. Under these circumstances it would be absolutely absurd that such a doctor would not be permitted to work—

Mr J. T. Tonkin: The AMA would not let him.

Mr GRAYDEN: —without returning to his own country and then making application to the Commonwealth Government.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: The AMA would not let him.

Sir Charles Court: Of course it would if he had the qualifications.

Mr GRAYDEN: It would take several months for the doctor to return home, make application, and then be accepted. To my mind such a thing would be the height of idiosyncrasy. For that reason I say there should be some flexibility in these matters. The Commonwealth Government could very easily include safeguards to provide for all circumstances.

Mr Harman: I asked the Minister what are the certain safeguards that he envisages?

Mr May: Answer the question.

8.

SEWERAGE

Mandurah Health Care Centre

Mr SHALDERS, to the Minister for Works:

Would he please advise the total cost of all work to connect the Mandurah Health Care Centre to the sewerage scheme in that town, and whether the cost is being charged to the overall cost of the health centre or the Mandurah sewerage scheme?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

Total cost—\$65 000.

(a) Health Centre contribution—\$30 000.

(b) Mandurah sewerage scheme contribution—\$35 000.

Total—\$65 000.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE OFFICE

Vehicle Insurance: Grievance

MR. T. H. JONES (Collie) [5.12 p.m.]: My grievance relates to the State Government Insurance Office as I understand there has been a change in policy in regard to the insurance of people convicted of drunken driving offences.

Two recent cases have been brought to my attention, and I will refer to one of these in more detail later. In both cases the people involved were convicted of a drunken driving charge but in neither case was the vehicle involved in an accident or damaged in any way. Neither of these drivers has ever made a claim against the SGIO. However, both drivers have been notified that their insurance coverage has been withdrawn.

I will read to the House a letter forwarded by the SGIO to one of these people, although I will not refer to his name because it would not be proper. The letter reads as follows—

It has come to my attention that you were recently convicted of driving a motor vehicle whilst under the influence of alcohol.

In view of this I am not prepared to continue your Policy with this Office and cover will terminate as at 4 p.m., 30th September, 1974. A refund of premium for the unexpired portion of your Policy will be forwarded in due course.

The letter is signed for the general manager.

I am not aware of this policy having been admitted by the SGIO. I have canvassed various members on this side of the House and none of us knows of earlier instances where this policy has been applied. In my view, these people are paying a double penalty; not only are they convicted of a drunken driving offence but also they will pay the penalty of not being insured.

I am sure members know that once the driver of a vehicle has been convicted of a drunken driving offence it is very difficult for him to obtain insurance cover for his car. If he applies to another company for insurance coverage, he has to supply certain information, including any convictions. In most cases he would be refused insurance.

Sir Charles Court: Has his license been suspended?

Mr T. H. JONES: I believe this policy is fair enough when a person has numerous convictions, or where he has made a number of claims against the SGIO. I know of a few instances, and the Minister for Labour and Industry will be aware of these also, where young people have been involved in a number of accidents and similar action has been taken by the SGIO.

However, what stuns me is that in the two cases to which I refer the persons concerned, firstly, have never had a claim against the SGIO; and, secondly, when they were picked up for drunken driving their vehicles had not been involved in accidents and there was no charge against the SGIO for repairs. Yet the SGIO has now taken very drastic action and has said that where a person is convicted of drunken driving—that is, drinking slightly in excess of four middies of beer and being caught under the 0.08 provision—he is to lose his right to insure with that office.

If we consider the inquiry conducted by Mr Justice Woodhouse we find that he gave great prominence to the question of double penalties. Members would be aware of the Woodhouse report, which not only studies the question of workers' compensation, but also the question of rehabilitation, and comprehensive insurance. Members will find the report is authentic and comprehensive. The inquiry was conducted by Mr Justice Woodhouse in conjunction with Mr Justice Meares. They paid close attention to comprehensive insurance schemes, and if members study the report they will find those gentlemen agree with my contention that people are being penalised twice for the one offence. The report deals with comprehensive insurance at page 151, and I would like to quote from page 159 as follows—

OTHER EXCLUSIONS

(a) It is thought that disqualification from the concept of comprehensive entitlement should be kept to a minimum. In the case of injury however, there is a need to consider the entitlement of persons injured while participating in criminal activity.

(b) Such individuals should be considered in two categories. First, there are those who become involved in crimes of violence, and perhaps certain serious criminal activity that does not involve violence. Second, there is less serious criminal activity extending through various offences and including, for example, minor traffic offences. Some people will argue that to deprive an injured criminal of compensation involves the element of punishing him twice for the one offence. For such a reason they would wish to see included persons injured while

participating in criminal activity no matter how serious. We do not support that ultimate position.

So we see those gentlemen refer to minor traffic offences. The two cases which I have drawn to the notice of Parliament in my opinion involve only minor breaches of the Traffic Act, and yet the people concerned have been penalised by the SGIO because they were found to be guilty of having more than 0.08 per cent of alcohol in their blood. I consider the policy of the SGIO is penalising them twice for the one offence.

It might be fair enough if a person who was convicted of drunken driving had a very bad record with the SGIO; or, on the other hand, if he caused serious damage to his vehicle or to another vehicle whilst he was drunk. However, in the cases to which I refer—and I will give the Minister the names if he so desires—one person has insured with the SGIO for 22 years and has not made a single claim on that office during that period.

The **SPEAKER**: The member has two minutes.

Mr T. H. JONES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. His case was referred to by the magistrate in the Collie court as a "bad luck charge". He has been a very good risk so far as the SGIO is concerned, but because he was found to have had just in excess of four middies and was convicted of drunken driving the SGIO as an insurer will not accept him. To say the least, I think that is too harsh.

This could happen to anyone. How many members in this Chamber would go out on a Saturday night and not consume in excess of four middies of beer? It is common practice for people to drive their vehicles after they have consumed in excess of that amount of beer. I am certain my colleagues on this side would agree that the penalty is too harsh. If the person concerned had a bad record and had made consistent claims against the insurance office for repairs to his vehicle, perhaps we would consider the matter in a different light. However, that is not the case in the instances to which I refer; neither of the drivers has ever claimed against the SGIO.

This is not the sort of treatment I expect from the SGIO. The Woodhouse report confirms my view and supports my contention that in these instances the persons have been penalised twice for the one offence. In view of the foregoing, I would ask the Minister to review the situation so that people in these circumstances are not dealt with so harshly.

MR GRAYDEN (South Perth—Minister for Labour and Industry) [5.22 p.m.]: In reply to the member for Collie, may I say it is common practice for insurers to decline to accept risks where the proposers have been convicted of drunken driving. It

does not matter whether or not they have made a claim against the insurance company concerned. It follows that a person who is convicted of drunken driving after obtaining cover from an insurance company represents a risk greater than was apparent when the risk was proposed. Therefore, it is a consistent underwriting approach to cancel a policy when the proposer has been convicted of drunken driving. I mention this to indicate that the SGIO is not doing anything unusual; this practice is common to all insurers.

Mr Bertram: Does it extend to 0.08 offenders?

Mr GRAYDEN: As far as I am aware that is the situation because the policy holder then represents a risk that was not apparent when he was first insured. To that extent it is a common policy. So I do not think the SGIO can be criticised on that count.

Mr T. H. Jones: This is a State instrumentality; surely we could get better treatment from it.

Mr GRAYDEN: It is the policy of the Government to try to reduce the road toll. The Minister for Police has made strenuous efforts in the past few months—and I might add quite successfully—to do precisely that. Any suggestion at this stage that the Government should be lenient towards people convicted of this offence would not be very acceptable.

However, at the same time, I appreciate the significance of the remarks of the member for Collie. This does appear to be somewhat harsh, and if he makes available to me the details of the cases to which he referred I will be pleased to have them examined, and we will see what transpires as a consequence of that.

IMMIGRATION: VISITORS' VISAS

Employment Restriction; Grievance

MR HARMAN (Maylands) [5.24 p.m.]: I think I should congratulate the Premier on the answer he gave me to a question I asked this afternoon. He put it very well; he covered up for what I believe was an indiscreet statement by the Minister for Immigration.

Sir Charles Court: It was nothing of the sort.

Mr HARMAN: In covering up he also illustrated to the House something we have been aware of for a long time; that is, the method by which the Liberal Party determines its policies. To explain that a little further, I am quite sure that neither the Minister for Immigration nor the Premier has ever advocated to the Australian Government in Canberra—and I am willing to bet they have never advocated within their party—that visitors to Australia on visitors' visas should be allowed to work in this country; nor have they

advocated previously that people who come to Australia as visitors should be considered for permanent resident status whilst they are here as visitors.

I say that because the Minister—and perhaps he was caught off guard when questioned by the Press—is quoted in *The West Australian* as having said it was ridiculous that people travelling on visitors' visas could not take work if necessary or apply for permanent residence. That statement was made; and, of course, now the Premier must cover up.

Sir Charles Court: Not at all.

Mr HARMAN: Now we find a new Liberal Party policy in respect of people who come here on visitors' visas. The policy is that subject to certain safeguards—and the Minister could not tell me this afternoon what those safeguards are—the Minister will advocate to the Australian Government that visitors in this country on visas should be permitted to work. I feel sure the Minister does not know what those certain safeguards are.

Mr Grayden: They would be at the discretion of the Commonwealth Government.

Mr HARMAN: I suggest that was merely part of the cover-up. I took the time to ascertain the number of people who came here in the last 12 months purely as visitors, and I found the number was approximately 284 000. If this policy of the Liberal Party ever came into force we would have the Liberal Minister for Immigration in this State receiving thousands of requests to allow visitors to work. At the moment when a visitor seeks a visa to come to Australia he is aware that he is not allowed to work whilst he is here, and he signs a declaration to that effect. A person cannot come here and say, "I didn't realise this; I didn't read the fine print", because he knows exactly where he stands before he leaves his country of origin to visit Australia.

This is a good illustration of how the Liberal Party takes a stand on certain issues. The Premier was not game to say the statement made by the Minister was a foolish one and that he should not have made it because it is not the policy of the Government. Instead, he wanted to cover up for his Minister who made an indiscreet statement, and in covering up for him he presented us with a policy to the effect that, subject to certain safeguards about which the Minister does not know, people who come to Western Australia will be able to obtain work permits if there is a Liberal Government in Canberra.

What really concerns me is that I know people who have entered this country on visas are taking jobs to which the permanent residents of Australia should be entitled. I have a young family, and I hope that my children will aspire to take jobs in Australia. I do not think they should

be forced to compete for employment in Australia with people who are here purely for a holiday.

Mr Grayden: What about when our people go to Europe?

Mr HARMAN: If the Minister makes a few inquiries he will find out what happens to Australian people who visit Europe. That is the reason I am concerned about the policy recently expressed by the Premier. If it is ever acted upon—and, of course, there would have to be a Liberal Federal Government to achieve this, and that is not very likely—work permits could be granted to many thousands of people.

Last year 284 000 people visited Australia purely for holidays and, under the immigration policy that would be followed by a Liberal Government, those people would be allowed to compete with permanent Australian residents for employment. In viewing the present unemployment figures, if such a policy were implemented, it would certainly aggravate the existing situation.

Let us look at the other proposition which the Minister for Immigration proposes and which is now the policy of the Liberal Party. That policy is that people who are now in Australia on visitors' visas can apply to become permanent residents. The immigration policy in Australia for a number of years under a Liberal Party Government never advocated that type of migration to Australia; that is, permit a person to visit Australia on a visitor's visa to have a look around, and then let him decide to apply for permanent residence in Australia. Under present policy such a person has to return to his own country and then make application for permanent residence in Australia.

If the proposed Liberal Party policy were followed we would break down the whole migrant screening system; the whole forward planning of migration, under which, each year, a specified number of people are permitted to enter Australia in determined categories of employment. If this proposed policy of the Liberal Party ever came to fruition, we would have people entering Australia on a three-months' holiday, and then seeking permission to stay here permanently. As a result of following such a policy we would have no control over migration or over the type of people coming to Australia. Further, we would have no control over the influence that these people would have on the Australian way of life. I do not know how much time I have left.

The SPEAKER: Two minutes.

Sir Charles Court: Have you ever checked with your Federal Labor people on this issue?

Mr HARMAN: My grievance is that, because of an indiscreet statement made by the Minister, covered up by the Premier, it is now Liberal Party policy—which will

be implemented if the Liberal Party assumes office as the Commonwealth Government—to allow people with visitors' visas to work in this State and that will be to the detriment of permanent Australian residents. I regard that as a most disgraceful action on the part of the Liberal Party.

MR GRAYDEN (South Perth—Minister for Immigration) [5.33 p.m.]: If that is all the member for Maylands can find to grieve about, then I consider he is fairly well served by the present Government.

Mr Davies: What! Preservation of working rights?

Mr GRAYDEN: There is such a thing in this world as "dodo" mentality, and I think the member for Maylands gave us a clear indication of the type of mentality I am speaking about. Once prehistoric animals roamed the earth—

Point of Order

Mr HARMAN: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, for some time I have witnessed in this House situations where a member has constructively criticised the Government, and because an answer cannot be given to that criticism members of the Government attack the personality of the member concerned.

The SPEAKER: What is your point of order? There is no point of order. The Minister for Immigration.

Debate Resumed

Mr GRAYDEN: I hope the honourable member does not think I am attacking him, because I have too much regard for him. I am merely talking about his "dodo" type of mentality.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: You are not attacking him; you are praising him.

The SPEAKER: Order! There is too much crossfire in the Chamber.

Mr GRAYDEN: Most of the prehistoric animals that once roamed the earth disappeared because they could not adapt to changing circumstances. They did not have the flexibility to cope with change, and in respect of this particular situation I have been advocating flexibility.

Let me cite a situation that could occur and this will illustrate to the member for Maylands that what I am advocating is advantageous so far as the State and the Commonwealth are concerned.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: I think you are a ratbag.

Mr GRAYDEN: The honourable member would not like to say that again, would he? If he would, I would suggest that he come outside.

Mr Bertram: You are exceeding your wildest dreams.

Mr GRAYDEN: I could not imagine that happening in my wildest dreams.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr GRAYDEN: Repeatedly, in some of the isolated areas of this State we are confronted with a situation where there is a shortage of nurses and medical practitioners. Such a situation could arise over and over again when medical practitioners could come to this State—among the many other hundreds of migrants mentioned by the member for Maylands—and being impressed with it may decide to serve, for instance, in a centre such as Wittenoom, or some other centre in the Kimberley.

If a hospital in one of those isolated centres had been without a doctor for months, would it not be reasonable to suggest that, somewhere along the line, our Commonwealth migration policy should be such that it would permit a medical practitioner who was visiting this State under the circumstances outlined to make application to work in such a hospital and, in the process, not only alleviate the hardship and suffering of patients in that hospital, but also, quite possibly, save the lives of some of them. Would it then be fair to say to that medical practitioner, if he desired to stay in this State, that he should return to his country of origin—regardless of whether it was half-way around the world—and go through the official procedure of obtaining permission to migrate to Australia? If this were done, together with the process of the Commonwealth screening, the operation could take up to 12 months.

That is what the member for Maylands is advocating and in those circumstances it is a "dodo" type of attitude to adopt. That is red tape administration at its very worst. It seems incredible to me that a member such as the member for Maylands could rise in this House and advocate that this is something of consequence. What have I said? I have merely said that I go along with the policy being carried out at present, but I believe that it can be modified to a certain extent. It can be modified to ensure that it has flexibility so that when we have special cases they can be examined and permission can be given to such people to work in the circumstances I have outlined.

The situation of which the member for Maylands is talking arose as a consequence of an article that was published in *The West Australian* on the 30th September, 1974. That article reads as follows—

Red tape stops job acceptance.

Immigration red tape threatens to prevent an American taking up a dietician position that a major Perth hospital has been unable to fill since the start of the year.

A 24-year-old woman, who qualified as a dietician five years ago, arrived in Perth more than a week ago on a visitor's visa.

She applied for the dietician position.

She had come from South Africa believing that she could apply for a work permit here.

However, she was told by Immigration Department officials that there was no such thing as a work permit in Australia and that she could not work on a visitor's visa.

If she took the hospital's dietician position, or attempted to take any other work during the 12 month visa she would be reported for having entered Australia on false pretences.

The only avenue open to her was to go to another country and apply there for migrant status in Australia.

She said yesterday she had not read the fine print on the visitor's visa.

She could have started work at the hospital last Tuesday.

She was dissatisfied with life in the United States and liked what she had seen so far in Perth.

ON MERITS

She said that she realised that there was a need for immigration laws but she felt there were times when individual cases could be looked at on their merits.

It seemed rather stupid that she was being prevented by red tape from accepting a position that had remained vacant all year despite attempts all over Australia to fill it.

Mr May: What was the date of that?

Mr GRAYDEN: The 30th September, 1974. This is the case of a woman who comes to Australia in these circumstances and makes representations to stay here, and I certainly suggested that I would make representations on her behalf to the Commonwealth Government, because, in my opinion, that was the reasonable attitude for one to adopt. What was one to say to her? Should I have said, "You cannot take this position even though you will inconvenience residents of Western Australia; even though by not taking it you will cause their health to suffer"?

Yet the member for Maylands makes the wonderful suggestion that this woman should return to her country of origin and then make application to migrate to Australia. In the meantime the health of many Western Australians suffers because they are deprived of the services of a dietitian with qualifications such as those which she possesses.

The member for Maylands has spoken of this attitude as being a major change in Liberal Party policy. I can assure mem-

bers that there has been no change in Liberal Party policy. I am the only person who has been approached. I have taken up the case on behalf of this woman, and I repeat that I think the Commonwealth immigration scheme should be modified to ensure that in an exceptional situation the Commonwealth Immigration Department should be in the position to grant a person the right to work in Australia if the department deems fit. At this stage there is no point in defining the conditions that should be exceptional.

Mr Harman: You do not know.

Mr GRAYDEN: The member for Maylands says I do not know. I am of the opinion that permission should be granted to such a person in exceptional circumstances and we could then leave it to the Commonwealth Government to decide what the exceptional circumstances are. If the Commonwealth Government did not want to take that responsibility on its shoulders, I am sure the State Immigration Department would be quite happy to assume the responsibility. We would make up our minds as to whether exceptional circumstances prevailed and if they did we would certainly make it possible for an individual to work in this State.

We can dispense with red tape when it is clearly only red tape and so introduce a degree of flexibility to the position somewhere along the line.

WATER SUPPLIES

Carnarvon and Gascoyne: Grievance

MR LAURANCE (Gascoyne) [5.38 p.m.]: My grievance concerns the Carnarvon and Gascoyne groundwater supply scheme. On today's notice paper question 8 appears in my name and it reads as follows—

Has he had a definite indication from the Federal Government that legislation is to be introduced in the Federal Parliament to provide financial assistance for the Carnarvon and Gascoyne groundwater supply scheme, as announced by the Queen when opening Parliament on 28th February, 1974?

The Minister's very singular and clear-cut answer to that question was, "No".

In referring back to this point which I raised during my maiden speech in the House on the 7th August, 1974, I quote from page 370 of the current *Hansard* as follows—

I draw the attention of members to the Speech made by Her Majesty the Queen when opening the Federal Parliament on the 28th February this year, and I quote a passage from that Speech, as follows—

Legislation to provide financial assistance to Queensland for the Ross River Dam and to Western

Australia for water supplies for the bores is considerably in excess of the natural recharge. This is despite the fact that the river has flowed every year for 15 years. It is a freak situation, because the river should have missed flowing once in every seven years. The previous three longest periods when the river has not flowed have been 23, 24, and 31 months.

I now want to stress the vital importance of harnessing the Gascoyne River for the future of the Gascoyne district. My grievance is: Where is the money? The Carnarvon Shire had a population of almost 7 000 on the taking of the 1971 census. From 1961 to 1971 its rate of growth was 8.4 per cent, although this has slowed to 6 per cent over the last five years.

The Gascoyne area has not received anything like the limelight the Pilbara district received during the 1960s, nevertheless its growth rate is extremely impressive. The Gascoyne horticultural area accounts for 70 per cent of all bananas marketed and practically all the out-of-season vegetables grown in Western Australia. Winter and early spring months provide crops of tomatoes, beans, capsicums, and cucumbers for the sole use of the people of Perth.

Many attempts have been made to harness the Gascoyne River. The first attempt was made in 1959 by the Brand Government. Research was then conducted to try to find acceptable feasible water, and in an effort to harness the river in 1963 a pilot scheme was commenced whereby bores were established in the dry river bed and connected to pipelines which were laid to service a number of plantations. Since then private bores have been licensed and controlled, and studies carried out to find a major source of water in the area.

In the 1960s during the life of the Brand Government a great deal of work was done to try to prove the feasibility of dam-sites at the Kennedy Range about 100 miles inland and also at Rocky Pool about 40 miles from Carnarvon. The shire did a tremendous amount of work on a nuclear device to blast a crater in the dry river bed. This has been done elsewhere under the Plowshare operation.

The Gascoyne River is worth harnessing. I have the figures recorded in February, 1961, when the river was at its maximum during the flood. The measurement was 612 500 megalitres a day, which, before metrics, was measured as 250 000 cubic feet per second.

The bore system has been extended. Now some 70 growers out of 150 are connected. The Public Works Department is to be congratulated on spending \$500 000 on this work in the financial year just completed, and it has programmed another \$500 000 in the financial year just commenced. That will help the situation to a certain extent, but a great deal more finance is required.

In the period which has elapsed since the scheme was commenced in 1963, studies have revealed that the extraction from

I appeal to the Federal Government to give some definite indication that it will proceed as it promised in February, because if Carnarvon is to have any hope of a future, this scheme must be completed before we have a period of non-river flow for anything like 24 or 31 months.

The following is to be found in a report issued by the Department of Northern Development, Canberra—

Another important benefit from the scheme would be the avoidance of costs—public and private—involved in the relocation of redundant horticulturalists, sharefarmers, workers and their dependants which would be necessary without the scheme. The State claims that up to 350 people in total could be compelled by economic circumstances to leave the Carnarvon region, if an alternative adequate supply of reasonable quality water is not provided in the near future.

I emphasise the words "in the near future".

With the tracking station closure involving the removal of 600 people from the area, and the demise of the plantation industry if the scheme is not completed urgently, I predict Carnarvon could be virtually wiped out if we experienced a long period without the river flowing. It must occur soon. As I have said, the river has flowed continuously now for 15 years when we should have had at least two flow-free periods in that time. We are due for disaster very shortly.

The scheme as proposed would cost \$6.4 million over three years. In February it was agreed that \$2.3 million would be required in the first year under the programme. I read in *The West Australian* after the Federal Budget had been introduced that the money received by the Federal Government in the next 12 months would increase by \$3 702 million. We want \$2.3 million of that amount for my area.

No money has been received from the Federal Government in the seven months since the announcement was made, and the Budget recently introduced into the Federal House contained no provision for this work. At the same time, I was horrified to learn that legislation for the Ross River dam in Queensland passed through the Senate yesterday, but no mention of the Gascoyne River has been made.

I call on the Federal Government to refute my remarks that it subjected the people of Carnarvon to a deceitful political gimmick and shabby trick in February when the speech to which I have referred was made.

On the 7th March an article containing statements made by the present Leader of the Opposition appeared in the *Northern Times*. Members on the Opposition front bench will recall the date because the present Leader of the Opposition indicated that it was a fantastic coincidence that the State Government held a Cabinet meeting in Carnarvon on the very day the Queen made the announcement in Canberra. The following is to be found in the *Northern Times* of the 7th March—

"This is another example of the State and Federal Governments working together in the best interests of the people in remote areas," Mr. Tonkin said.

"Federal assistance will enable us to go a long way towards remedying a situation which for too long has retarded growth of the Carnarvon area and restricted development of grassed playing areas and other recreational facilities for the people of Carnarvon."

Mr. Tonkin was commenting on the announcement that the Federal Government would make finance available to help the State provide more water for the Carnarvon area.

Fortunately the then Premier did hold the Cabinet meeting in Carnarvon because it enabled me to win the seat. Cabinet meetings were held in Merredin and Albany and we also won both those seats. The member for Bunbury did not require a Cabinet meeting in his area, but the member for Geraldton is extremely fortunate one was not held in his area or he would not be here now.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has two more minutes.

Mr LAURANCE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. That will be sufficient.

I did not want to make any accusations against the Federal Government, although I would do anything for those in the Carnarvon area. I did not know whether to cajole, plead, or accuse so I thought I would commence by making accusations because the Federal Government has had plenty of time since February to make good its promise. The item has been dropped from its Budget for the next 12 months.

The Federal Government played a grimy, shabby election trick on the people in the Gascoyne area. If it has an ounce of moral fibre or honesty I call on it to prove it by carrying out the promise it made through the Queen in the Federal House early this year.

MR O'NEIL (East Melville—Minister for Water Supplies) [5.51 p.m.]: I am certain we all share the concern of the honourable member as to what has occurred in regard to the problems facing the citizens of Carnarvon in connection with the Gascoyne River.

It is a fact, of course, that coincidentally while the Cabinet meeting was being held in Carnarvon by the previous Government the Queen was pleased to announce in Canberra that provision would be made for such a water scheme. However, that is all in the past and, as I said, I am sure we all share the concern of the honourable member.

He may rest assured that this Government will do everything it can to keep the matter before the Federal Government in the hope that it will see the errors of its ways and provide finance for the project.

SUPERPHOSPHATE

Withdrawal of Bounty: Grievance

SIR DAVID BRAND (Greenough) [5.52 p.m.]: I am afraid that my contribution today to the grievance debate will be rather tame after the contributions of those who have gone before me.

Mr T. J. Burke: It is always a pleasure to listen to you.

Sir DAVID BRAND: I thank the honourable member very much.

Mr Harman: It is a pleasure.

Sir DAVID BRAND: I feel the opportunity should not pass without my making some reference to a statement by the Acting Prime Minister regarding the superphosphate bounty in Australia.

From time to time we have heard many statements about this subject and as a consequence I am sure that no subject has confused the people more than has the superphosphate bounty.

According to a newspaper report Dr Cairns told Federal Parliament yesterday that the Government had badly handled the decision to drop the super bounty. I consider that to be the understatement of the year.

Mr Bertram: I also consider it to be rather honest.

Sir DAVID BRAND: Dr Cairns more or less said the same thing. He said that he did not see any point in saying one thing when another was meant. He said that this was the practice adopted, though.

Mr Bertram: That is right.

Sir Charles Court: He was having a shot at his Prime Minister.

Sir DAVID BRAND: The fact remains that to the farming community and the population generally, the superphosphate bounty is most important, and the people

must be confused about the policy and intentions of the present national Government. No-one can deny that right from the beginning it appeared that irrespective of what anyone else desired, the Prime Minister himself had made up his mind that on the 31st December the superphosphate bounty, amounting to some \$60 million, would be discontinued.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: You should not be complaining about this, you know. You should be grateful.

A Government member: Why?

Sir DAVID BRAND: We will be grateful if that policy is not carried out. We are grateful that the Acting Prime Minister feels as he does about the subject. Having heard various statements from time to time we are not quite sure where we stand. It must be very clear to the population in general that the Prime Minister again and again confirmed that it was his decision that on the 31st December the super bounty would be discontinued. No-one can deny that.

However, the Prime Minister must surely have realised the importance of the matter because the then Minister for Agriculture and the State Premier himself went to Canberra or communicated with the Prime Minister to stress the importance of the continuance of the bounty. As a matter of fact the issue reached the stage where Dr Patterson threatened to resign. Mr Grassby was very alarmed about the decision, too. However, the people decided that he should no longer represent them and so he lost his seat. The Minister for Primary Industry was also very concerned and expressed that concern from time to time.

I think it is fair to say that because of the pressure the Prime Minister then decided that he would establish a committee which he was pleased to call the Economics and Primary Industry Committee, but it was formulated from members of Caucus. I am sure that, having heard what Mr Whitlam has had to say from time to time members could anticipate what the decision of that committee would be. It was that the bounty should be discontinued.

It is also fair to say that many people in Australia, and in Western Australia in particular—I am speaking particularly about Western Australia because in this House I represent Western Australians—do not realise the importance of superphosphate. I could speak for a long time about that subject and the effect super has had upon primary industries in Western Australia, including coarse grain, wheat itself, pasture growth, and consequently stock.

A number of statements have been made about the bounty. On the 23rd February the Prime Minister said, "I stand firm". On the 9th March a new move was publicised; that is, the establishment of the

committee to which I have already referred. The decision of that committee was in the negative.

Then, yesterday, the Acting Prime Minister, no less, stated that he thought a mistake had been made.

I believe it is fair enough to be honest and to admit one's mistake. However, this controversial subject has been one of confusion since February despite the fact that it is so important to Australia. One wonders why sufficient research and investigation was not made before the decision was announced in the first place and that is why I am on my feet speaking as I am.

In view of the controversy and confusion in the minds of farmers and many others associated with primary industries in this State, a decision should be made very soon. I am glad that the Acting Prime Minister is considering the matter, although I am not impressed by the fact that right now he is hopping into an aeroplane bound for China and that the Prime Minister himself is away somewhere else making statements about the great capacity of Australia to help cope with the present world shortage of food. I believe that by his very statements he is undermining our capacity to produce the goods which are absolutely necessary if we are to play our part as a land of plenty in producing the goods necessary for the starving people of the world.

I cannot think of a more important decision to be made or a more important premium to be paid for the future of this country and the future stability of the food production of the world than the continuance of the superphosphate bounty which was up to \$12 a ton.

Perhaps a number of people can afford to do without the bounty and buy the superphosphate but I believe there are many who, from a psychological point of view, even though they have the money, are not prepared to do so and thus build up this State of ours when they know that as a result of building up production the Taxation Department will ensure they are called upon to pay a bigger contribution for their efforts.

This is very important indeed. I hope that in the interests of agriculture and rural production in this State Dr Cairns and other Ministers will come back from China as quickly as they can and make a firm decision for the future. I believe they should make a decision which in fact enables the farmers to obtain their superphosphate requirements and get on with the job of seeding for the coming year.

MR McPHARLIN (Mt. Marshall—Minister for Agriculture) [6.02 p.m.]: It was very pleasing to hear the member for Greenough speaking as he did about the proposed discontinuance of the superphosphate bounty and referring to the comments of Dr Cairns which were reported

in the Press. If the bounty is discontinued, the farmers will have been hit three ways in recent times. Firstly, in the Budget last year the concessions were removed; secondly, the price of superphosphate was increased; and thirdly, it was announced the superphosphate bounty would be discontinued. One would have thought the Federal Government would revise its thinking.

The points made by the member for Greenough were vital. It is absolutely necessary that the superphosphate application rates be continued. There may be some areas where the history of superphosphate application reveals that lower poundage rates could be applied and could be reduced for a period, but not for a long period. It is essential for the production of pasture, crops, and quality stock that superphosphate be applied in the way which is in the best interests of our agricultural industries.

Only today I was at the research station at Northam, where the officers emphasised the need for the application of superphosphate for pasture growth and illustrated how the stock had eaten the pasture where larger amounts of superphosphate had been used and had left the other part of the pasture where lower rates had been applied. That proves beyond doubt that stock seek out the more succulent pasture which results from heavier applications of superphosphate. The superphosphate promotes rapid growth and enables the production of the quality stock which is needed on world markets today. The world markets, particularly for beef, are very depressed at the present time, and we must meet those markets with quality. It is only through the application of the essential rates of superphosphate that we can obtain the quality which is needed.

The removal of the bounty will be a retrograde step. It is discouraging to farmers and creating confusion when the Acting Prime Minister of Australia comes out with a statement such as that after the farmers have been told the bounty will be discontinued.

Mr T. D. Evans: Do you criticise him for making that statement?

Mr McPHARLIN: I hope the bounty will not be removed. I endorse that 100 per cent.

Mr T. D. Evans: You are criticising him for making that statement.

Mr McPHARLIN: I want some action, that is all.

Sir Charles Court: I hope he is more reliable than he was in regard to the help he was to give Mainline.

Mr McPHARLIN: In the matter of new land farmers the Industries Assistance Commission has had before it for some time an application from the Farmers'

Union. Members of the commission came over here to make inquiries and they will be returning this month. Application forms have been made available and the Government has made a submission to the commission in support of the applications from the Farmers' Union and the Pastoralists and Graziers Association. At the present time officers of the Department of Agriculture are collecting evidence and preparing a case for presentation to the commissioners when they return here this month.

A case for the retention of the bounty has almost been completed and will be forwarded to the Industries Assistance Commission in the very near future. I hope the Acting Prime Minister is sincere and that he will influence the Government not to remove the bounty at the end of this year. The application of superphosphate and fertiliser has been a tremendous success in this State but we have a long way to go. This State uses 34 per cent of all the superphosphate imported into Australia. Western Australia is in a different position from other States. In some parts of New South Wales fertiliser is not used because it is not necessary.

I commend the member for Greenough for raising this matter. Great concern is felt amongst the farmers, and it should be a matter of concern to everybody because of the need for greater and better quality production in the future to provide the food which, as we are told, will be needed by many people in the world. The removal of the bounty will mean farmers cannot afford to use the same quantities of superphosphate as they have been using in the past. Increasing costs in other directions will not allow them the money to spend on fertiliser. The Press report did not indicate that Dr Cairns proposed to take any action to reinstate the bounty; he merely said they had made an error. I hope the Federal Government will look at the situation again.

The member for Greenough has done a service in bringing this matter forward and I think we should all be very concerned that less superphosphate would be distributed, as this would act to the detriment of the State from one end of it to the other. Our submission will emphasise these points in an endeavour to influence the Federal Government to reconsider its decision.

Mr T. J. Burke: If it is retained, would you be prepared to agree to a proposal whereby those on light land had an increased subsidy and those on better land had a reduced subsidy?

Mr McPHARLIN: I imagine the Industries Assistance Commission will be looking into that.

Mr T. J. Burke: It seems to me that light land needs more superphosphate than does better land.

Mr McPHARLIN: We will have a close look at the situation to decide whether that is a desirable system. I believe the suggestion has some merit but we would have to examine it in detail before we could make a final commitment. The Premier suggests a constitutional problem may be involved.

Mr T. J. Burke: If you co-operate with the Australian Government you might overcome it.

The SPEAKER: Grievances have been noted.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE AND GOVERNMENT BUSINESS PRECEDENCE

Wednesdays

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [6.10 p.m.]: I move—

That on Wednesday, 9th October, and on each Wednesday thereafter the House shall, unless otherwise ordered, meet for the despatch of business at 2.15 p.m. and that Government Business shall take precedence of all Motions and Orders of the Day on each such Wednesday from 7.30 p.m. onwards.

As was foreshadowed before the Royal Show Week break, it is intended to change the sitting hours so that on Wednesdays we will start at 2.15 instead of 4.30 p.m. A practice commenced last session whereby private members' business was handled between 2.15 and 6.15 p.m. I think the experiment was reasonably successful because it enabled the Government of the day to postpone for a long time—I forget whether entirely but certainly for most of the session—the complete curtailment of private members' business. In other words, it was possible to continue a period for private members' business each week through most of the session.

I would like to think we can continue such a practice because under the old order there came a time when private members' business was cut out and for all practical purposes we did not get another good go at any private members' business. It was customary for the Government of the day to undertake that the items would at least be given a hearing, and some of those hearings were not very protracted. I remember some private members' business which I initiated many years ago in Opposition duly went to the bottom of the notice paper and I was told at 3.00 a.m. on the last day of the session that if I wanted to make myself unpopular with my colleagues I could discuss the motion. I got the message. We do not advocate that situation and we think the new practice is worth continuing. So it is proposed that between 2.15 and 6.15 p.m. on Wednesdays private members' business shall have precedence over Government business.

I want to clarify the situation about Thursdays. For the time being we will sit at the time prescribed in sessional orders, and it is expected we will continue after tea unless the business is such that we do not need to do so. Members will recall that the existing sessional order provides that we can sit after 7.30 p.m. on a Thursday if requisite.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: After you have consulted with the Leader of the Opposition.

Sir CHARLES COURT: That is the Leader of the Opposition's version of it. I am saying the sessional order provides that we can sit on any night.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: You broke your word on that, and you know it.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Do not accuse me of breaking my word. I have not.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: Yes you have, and I can prove it.

Sir CHARLES COURT: To the best of my knowledge we have not sat after 7.30 on a Thursday night during this session, anyhow. I make the point that sessional orders provide that we can sit after 7.30 on a Thursday night.

I raise this specifically because I questioned the resolution now before us inasmuch as it refers only to Wednesdays. But I am assured in its present form it is adequate because the sessional orders remain as they are in respect of Tuesdays and Thursdays, and this was the form of the resolution carried during a previous session which would achieve what we want to do.

The Government will keep its business under very close review as far as the legislative programme is concerned. I hope to have an indication within the next two weeks as to how many Bills have yet to come in. We are trying to spread the business as much as we can so as not to finish up with an unnecessarily heavy rush. To some, this will appear as only a pious hope.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Mr Speaker, I have only a few brief words to add to what I was saying prior to the tea suspension. I was referring to the fact that the Government is having a review made of its legislative programme and I hope within a couple of weeks at the latest to be able to give a reasonably fair indication to the Opposition of just what Bills will be introduced, bearing in mind that we are anxious to keep the load as steady as possible rather than have the usual last-minute panic situation.

The Budget will be introduced tomorrow—at least that is the latest report I have, and I assume there is no problem with the printing—and after the normal adjournment, and the Leader of the Opposition's

speech, the Budget will be before the House and will be balanced with the rest of the programme.

I am hoping that we can at one stage devote a certain amount of concentrated time to the Budget on this occasion. I am not suggesting that this will be the only time, but for a given period in a week members will know the Budget will be the main item of business and we can thus make sure that there is ample time to debate and study the Budget.

Mr O'NEIL: I second the motion.

MR J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Leader of the Opposition) [7.33 p.m.]: The proposed sitting hours are reasonable and we on this side of the House have no objection to them at all.

Prior to the tea suspension, however, there was a little difference of opinion between the Premier and myself as to whether there had been an occasion on which he had gone back on his word. I think we should set the record straight on this matter because we do not want these differences to continue when the position can be clearly established on the facts.

You will recall, Sir, that on a very similar motion to this when fixing sitting hours the Premier mentioned that we would sit beyond 6.15 p.m. on Thursday if requisite. But he went on to say with regard to the sitting hours he had moved that he had no doubt that in due course in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition there would be a need to change some of the hours.

The occasion arose when the Premier told his supporters that he proposed to sit after tea on Thursday, the 12th September, and that they were to remain here; but he did not consult me or let any members of the Opposition know that that was his intention. The practice of course was that we had been rising at 6.15 p.m.

So when I happened to mention that there was some suggestion that we were going to sit after tea, the Premier then said, "If we cannot settle this question by 6.15 there is nothing that would stop me from bringing the House back after tea."

You would know very well, Sir, that previously there had never been any variation of the House rising at 6.15 without prior notice having been given to all members, and particularly to the Leader of the Opposition so that he could be in a position to inform his own supporters.

On this occasion, however, the Premier departed from that practice, despite the fact that he had indicated it was his intention, with the Leader of the Opposition, to deal with the situation should the need arise. Here was a situation, apparently

because of the urgency of the matter under discussion, when the need had arisen to bring the House back after tea.

My point is that this was tantamount to the Premier breaking his word. Those are the facts of the matter and I will leave it there for anybody to determine what actually happened. I do not wish to pursue the matter further.

I simply say that it is reasonable to vary the hours of sitting when the session is well on and when a good deal of the business has been completed. With regard to the present alterations I will say that the Premier showed me the courtesy of sending me a note prior to the House adjourning for Show Week. He set out quite clearly what he proposed to do and his motion is strictly in accordance with that prepared undertaking, and I thank him for this.

But I do regret that on the previous occasion he departed from what would have been only common courtesy and committed what in my view was a definite breach of an undertaking given to Parliament.

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [7.38 p.m.]: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his support. Normally I would not bother to rise, but I would like to do what the Leader of the Opposition says he has done, and that is to put the record straight.

The fact that we did not have to move a motion in respect of Thursday sittings answers his question completely, because it is inherent in the original sessional motion that we sit after 7.30 on any of the three nights if requisite.

The incident to which the Leader of the Opposition referred is not strictly correct, because I did not tell my people that we would be necessarily sitting after tea, but I did remind them that this could be so if requisite.

I would also like to remind the Leader of the Opposition of the action taken by his former deputy—and I am now going back before the last deputy; I think it was the last session when the previous deputy was in command—when there was a fracas going on during the late part of Thursday afternoon in connection with the particular Bill dealing with one of the developmental projects and we were told in no uncertain terms that if the Bill was not through by 6.15 p.m. we would be there that night.

My people complained bitterly to me about this and I replied that they ought to read the rules; that this would happen if requisite; though I added that I did not think we would be sitting beyond 6.15, and we did not. But this was in the rules.

So I will leave the matter there for the record and hope there will be no further misunderstandings, but if there are I hope they will be cleared up. We have enough

problems as it is during the session, without having added to them the problems connected with sessional proceedings and allegations of breaking one's word on such an issue.

Question put and passed.

BILLS (5): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Appropriation Bill (Consolidated Revenue Fund).

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

2. Rural and Industries Bank Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Premier), and read a first time.

3. Indecent Publications Act Amendment Bill.

4. Library Board of Western Australia Act Amendment Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by Mr Stephens (Chief Secretary), and read a first time.

5. Alumina Refinery Agreement Act Amendment Bill.

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

POLICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr O'Connor (Minister for Police), and transmitted to the Council.

MAIN ROADS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Third Reading

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Transport) [7.45 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

MR T. H. JONES (Collie) [7.46 p.m.]: Members will recall that yesterday during the second reading stage I queried figures supplied by the Minister in answer to my question of the 17th September. The Minister was good enough this afternoon to reply to the point I raised yesterday. I asked—

What is the anticipated percentage growth increases for years 1975, 1976 and 1977?

The Minister replied that the expected increase for 1974-75 was 54.9 per cent. We agreed that it must be a wrong figure. The Minister has now supplied the correct information, to the effect that the increase will be of the order of 5.4 per cent. Unfortunately, the Minister has not provided me with the figures relating to expected additional revenue for that year

and I ask him now to supply the information, because it is important. In addition to the \$8.1 million the Government will receive this year and the \$10.9 million in a full year as a result of increased license fees, the Government will also receive additional revenue as a result of the increased number of vehicles on the roads over the three-year period; I should like to know how much additional revenue the Government expects to receive from this source. The figure supplied for 1974-75 was \$9 010 244.

Mr O'Connor: This was in answer to part (4) of your question, was it not?

Mr T. H. JONES: Yes. Would the Minister be good enough to supply the information so that it can be available when the Bill goes to another place?

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Transport) [7.48 p.m.]: Yes, I will undertake to supply the figures. The figures were something like \$9 million, \$3.5 million, and \$9 million for the three-year period. However, I will check the figures and undertake to provide them to the honourable member tomorrow.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

BILLS (5): THIRD READING

1. Marketing of Potatoes Act Amendment Bill.

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

2. Dongara-Eneabba Railway Bill.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr O'Connor (Minister for Transport), and transmitted to the Council.

3. Ministers of the Crown (Statutory Designations) and Acts Amendment Bill.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr O'Neil (Minister for Works), and transmitted to the Council.

4. Railways Discontinuance and Land Revestment Bill.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr O'Connor (Minister for Transport), and transmitted to the Council.

5. Registration of Deeds Ordinance Amendment Bill.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr O'Neil (Minister for Works), and passed.

EVIDENCE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Report

Report of Committee adopted.

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HYGIENE*Inquiry by Select Committee: Motion***MR. HARMAN** (Maylands) [7.52 p.m.] :
I move—

That a Select Committee be appointed to investigate all aspects of industrial safety and hygiene, the effectiveness of present legislation and administrative practices, the current industrial safety training programmes, the foreseeable needs and report accordingly.

According to the latest statistical information I have been able to obtain, in a period of 12 months, 30 000 industrial accidents took place in Western Australia involving the loss of man-hours through injury. This meant that every four minutes, somewhere, someone in Western Australia was injured while at work. It means that one in 11 of our wage and salary earners suffers some form of injury every year. These illustrations represent a conservative estimate of the industrial accident record. In addition to that, some 30 to 40 workers are killed each year while at work.

To further illustrate that point, I refer to some newspaper clippings I have obtained at random. The first clipping is dated the 15th April, 1974, and is headed, "Man killed on conveyor belt". The article states—

Port Hedland: A young man was killed when he was dragged into an iron ore conveyor belt on Friday morning.

The next clipping is dated the 26th April and is headed, "Man killed at cannery". The article states—

Manjimup, today: A 44-year-old man was killed at the Manjimup Canning Co-operative Co. Ltd. yesterday.

Another clipping dated the 20th September, 1974, is headed, "Man suffocates in metal dust" and states—

A young married man suffocated in an Orange Grove quarry yesterday when tons of blue metal dust engulfed him while he was driving a small tractor.

As late as yesterday, the 1st October, we have the headline, "Rig man killed". The article states—

A workman died yesterday after falling 30 ft from a diamond drilling rig in the Paynes Find area.

These are statistics relating to death and human suffering. If we examined the cost to Western Australia for the year 1971-72—the latest figures available—of these industrial accidents we would find that it runs at something of the order of \$10 million a year. Of course, it is not possible to measure the loss in production resulting from these 30 000 injuries each year in our work force; it is not possible to measure the pain and suffering of the

dead and injured and their families; it is not possible to measure the mental anguish and worry a worker has when he is injured and is concerned about whether he and his family will lead and live less than a full life.

As members of Parliament, we have a responsibility to inquire into the reasons for this great number of industrial accidents. Under our Standing Orders, we have the facilities to conduct such an inquiry. Members on my side of the House will support me in this motion and I would hope in the interests of the work force of Western Australia that Government supporters also support the motion.

Mr Grayden: I suppose you know that the figures are improving year by year.

Mr HARMAN: My figures were obtained from the Bureau of Census and Statistics.

Mr Grayden: The last figures available are for the year 1972.

Mr HARMAN: The bureau told me that no further figures are available after 1972.

Mr Grayden: There were 28 fatalities in 1972 and 40 fatalities in the preceding year. The situation is improving.

Mr HARMAN: The Minister will have the opportunity to reply.

Mr Grayden: I am just telling you that the trend is getting better.

Mr Taylor: The Minister is sitting too close.

Mr HARMAN: The Minister says that even though we have 28 deaths a year, the situation is improving. I should like to see a situation where we have no industrial deaths.

Mr Grayden: The situation is improving because of the safety campaign conducted by this Government in industry.

Mr Taylor: The previous Minister for Labour did not interject like that.

Mr HARMAN: We have a responsibility to inquire into the reasons for this great number of industrial accidents. This Parliament has the facilities to appoint a Select Committee which could examine exhaustively what is happening in Western Australia. Why is it that we have this great number of accidents? What are we doing wrong? What are we not doing and what should we be doing? Is it not possible for at least five members of the House who have a conscience and are anxious to see a dramatic improvement in the number of industrial accidents to get together as a committee, make a thorough examination of our legislation, practices, and training schemes and anything else which may be relevant to the subject, at least in the foreseeable future, and present their recommendations to the House as to the positive actions which can be taken? I cannot see anything wrong with that and I am sure no member on the Government side would argue against such a proposition.

When I was obliged to resign as Minister for Labour, I had a number of regrets.

Mr Rushton: I'll bet you did.

Mr HARMAN: Two of these regrets—there were others—

Sir Charles Court: We have all been through it.

Mr HARMAN: —related to the field of labour relations, particularly the apprenticeship system.

At the time I relinquished the post of Minister for Labour, I had just about worked out a scheme whereby we would have covered the need to improve our apprenticeship system in Western Australia.

Mr Grayden: You must admit that it is being improved at present.

Mr HARMAN: Before the election we made certain promises that we would bring about such an improvement. We said we would set up an industrial training and manpower commission.

The other regret I have was that neither I nor the Government had sufficient time to grapple with the problem of industrial accidents. I hope that through this motion I will have the opportunity to undertake an inquiry and research so as to bring about an improvement in the situation.

Mr Grayden: I can assure you that a lot has been done at the present time. Obviously you are not aware of it.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: Neither is the Minister.

Mr HARMAN: In 1970 I asked the then Minister for Labour a question in four parts relating to safety officers. The question was—

- (1) Which Government departments and instrumentalities employ trained safety officers?
- (2) How many such officers are employed in each department?
- (3) How many such officers are engaged predominantly in safety training in the field?
- (4) How many such officers are predominantly engaged in administrative functions concerned with workers' compensation inquiries, etc.?

The reply of the then Minister was—

- (1) Department of Labour—One safety liaison officer.
Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board—Two safety officers.
Forests Department—One safety officer.
Main Roads Department—One safety officer.
Western Australian Government Railways—Two safety officers.

(2) Answered by (1).

(3) Safety training in the field forms an integral part of normal safety promotions by the safety officers.

(4) None.

Mr Grayden: It goes far beyond that.

Mr HARMAN: In 1970 there were seven safety officers employed in Government departments. In the course of my contribution to the debate on the motion it is not my intention to criticise the former Liberal Government or the former Labor Government. There is no point in doing that, when we have at stake the lives of men and women engaged in industry.

On the 19th September last, or four years later, I asked the same question in four parts of the present Minister for Labour and Industry. At the moment I am talking of what happens in the Government sphere, and not in the private sector. To that question I received the following answer—

- (1) and (2) Midland Junction Abattoir Board and W.A. Meat Export Works—both have trained men as part-time safety officers.
State Engineering Works—One part time.
Public Works Department—Two—one of these now being appointed.
State Electricity Commission—Two—one being predominantly first aid.
Perth Medical Centre—One—fire and safety.
Forests Department—One.
Government Printer—One—item at present vacant.
Main Roads Department—Two—one is training officer.
WAGR—Four—one is industrial welfare officer.
Charcoal Iron and Steel Industry Wundowie—One.
Metropolitan Transport Trust—One.
Medical and Health Services—One—fire and safety.
Metropolitan Water Board—Three, plus one part time.
- (3) All engaged in safety training in the field in varying degrees, either formally or informally.
- (4) It is most unlikely that any safety officers would be predominantly engaged with workers' compensation inquiries, etc., though most are involved to some degree.

The effective number of safety officers employed in Government departments at the present time is 12, so in four years we have seen an increase in the number from seven to 12.

Mr Grayden: There are 76 officers employed in one department who are responsible directly or indirectly in this matter.

Mr HARMAN: The Minister will have his chance to speak to the motion. The other day I asked a question as to the number of persons who are employed by the Fisheries and Fauna Department, and subsequently by the Forests Department, and who are concerned with the preservation and protection of fauna and flora in Western Australia. It turns out that the Government employs 80 men in that field; yet when it comes to industrial safety we find that Government departments at the present time employ only 12 safety officers. I give those figures as a basis for comparison.

I am well aware that in the private sector, the managements of a number of industries are concerned about industrial safety, and they make sure that the workers receive the benefit of safety training as well as providing safety officers. However, there must be other industries which do not show the same degree of concern.

As has been pointed out, although we have a great number of inspectors in the Department of Labour, whose function it is to inspect shops and factories, we still find some 30 000 industrial accidents occurring each year. I think the Select Committee which I have proposed could examine this aspect as well as the role the safety inspectors play, the sort of reporting they carry out, the sort of recommendations they make, the decisions that are arrived at by the department and senior inspectors on their recommendations, and how much follow-up is carried out to ensure that safety features which are required to be provided under the law are in fact provided by industry. That is not an unreasonable request.

Mr Grayden: A tremendous lot is being done along those lines at the present time.

Mr HARMAN: In Western Australia we have a body known as the Industrial Foundation for Accident Prevention. Although to some extent it is financed by the Government to the order of some \$20 000 a year—and the amount for this year may be greater—by and large it is financed by a number of private firms, but not all the private firms. The proposed Select Committee would determine what role they play in respect of safety training in Western Australia. We need also to ascertain what role the Government plays in safety training. The only way we can determine that is through an inquiry by a Select Committee.

At page 36 of the Federal platform of the Australian Labor Party a policy under the heading of "Prevention of Occupational Accidents and Disease and Rehabi-

litation of the Injured" appears as follows—

to provide grants to the States to assist them in identifying their needs and responsibilities in the area of occupational safety and health and to develop plans to conduct experiments and demonstration projects in connection therewith.

We should bear in mind the policy of the Australian Labor Party which is now the Australian Government, when we examine the need for improvement in safety training. The Australian Government will adopt this policy and provide funds to the States to effect improvements in safety training.

Work patterns change and industries change; and so it is necessary for some people to be channelled into new industries—people with probably very little experience of these new industries. Fifteen years ago we did not have in Western Australia the iron ore mines; but today we find that a large number of men are employed in the iron ore fields. They have to become accustomed to the new kind of employment.

Nowadays thousands and thousands of toxic chemicals are in use, and hundreds of new chemicals are being produced each year. I believe the proposed Select Committee would be able to ascertain what work is being done by the occupational health branch in Western Australia to label the new toxic chemicals which are being used in increasing quantities day by day; determine what are the long and the short-term effects of these chemicals on the workers; and ascertain what kind of diseases are likely to result from their use. That would be one of the major functions of the proposed Select Committee—to examine the toxic effects of these chemicals.

After I gave notice of this motion last night I realised that the present session of Parliament would conclude at the end of this year. It could be argued correctly that there would be no point in appointing a Select Committee, because it would not have time to undertake the exhaustive type of inquiry that is needed. I accept that, but I do not accept it as a reason that the Select Committee should not be appointed, because we have ample precedence where Select Committees have been converted into Honorary Royal Commissions subsequently. Such Honorary Royal Commissions are able to sit and hear evidence, make their deliberations, and present reports when Parliament is not in session. The Liberal Government does not have a good record of approving the appointment of Select Committees. I mentioned this before, when I made a move for the appointment of another Select Committee.

Mr Grayden: There has to be some reason for the appointment of a Select Committee.

Mr HARMAN: I agree. If Western Australia has a record of some 30 000 industrial accidents each year, resulting in some 30 to 40 workers killed, that is a good enough reason.

Mr Grayden: Not if the number of workers killed is reduced from 40 to 28, and continues to decrease. Is that not some indication that something in this direction is being done?

Mr HARMAN: The Minister cannot prove that. There is so much at stake that it would be advisable for the Government to convert the proposed Select Committee into an Honorary Royal Commission. When we were the Government I remember the occasion when the present Leader of the Country Party, who at the time was the deputy leader of that party, moved for the appointment of a Select Committee into hire purchase. He did that because of his great interest in the farming community and his deep concern for the involvement of farmers in hire-purchase agreements. The Government agreed to the appointment of that Select Committee, and subsequently the committee made a number of worth-while recommendations. These later were accepted by the Tonkin Labor Government, and were written into a hire-purchase Bill. It was introduced by the Tonkin Government in its last year of office.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: That shows the Labor Government was not afraid of an inquiry.

Mr HARMAN: That was a positive inquiry. I give full marks to the then Deputy Leader of the Country Party for moving the motion, full marks to the Government for agreeing to appoint a Select Committee and also full marks to the Government for taking cognisance of the recommendations and writing them into legislation.

At the time we could have said to the then Deputy Leader of the Country Party that we had the Molomby report. There was a commission operating in Melbourne which was framing uniform hire-purchase legislation. However, we took the view that that commission would take too long. We thought that as the people were suffering some injustice it would be far better to have an inquiry in Western Australia.

Let us get our legislation into order so that people in this State will benefit. I put the same proposition to members. We are aware that a great number of industrial accidents occur each year; that those accidents cost industry a great deal of money; that there is cost in terms of productivity; and that people concerned with safety are attempting to improve conditions.

My desire is for this Parliament to have an opportunity to examine all aspects of industrial safety, all aspects of industrial hygiene, toxic chemicals, and training procedures. We should get all those who are

concerned together and hear their evidence. We would then be able to present that evidence to this House.

Mr Grayden: All the problems are well known. What would a Select Committee inquire into?

Mr Taylor: The Minister is prejudging the member for Maylands before he finishes his speech.

Mr Grayden: We have all the answers.

Mr HARMAN: I am not too certain of some of the activities of certain firms.

Mr Grayden: Some have outstanding records.

Mr HARMAN: I acknowledge that, but others do not. In fact, if all private firms and Government departments were subject to a proper safety training programme we would not have anywhere near 30 000 accidents each year.

Mr Grayden: Why does the member think that they have been reduced from 40 to 28 in one year?

Mr Taylor: Is that Australia-wide?

Mr Grayden: No, in Western Australia. The reduction has been caused by the increased impetus given to the aspect of safety.

Mr HARMAN: The Minister is referring only to deaths. I dispute his figures. I endeavoured to obtain those very figures from the Bureau of Census and Statistics, but they were not available. I do not know where the Minister got his figures, but I was unable to obtain any relating to the last financial year. I suppose I could make a suggestion regarding the source of the Minister's figures.

Those are the reasons I want to see an inquiry carried out by a Select Committee. We have already observed the effect of the inquiry into hire-purchase agreements during the term of the Tonkin Labor Government. I believe we can achieve the same result by appointing a Select Committee during the term of the Court Government to inquire into industrial safety and hygiene.

I cannot see why five members of Parliament could not carry out such an inquiry at low cost to the Government. Such an inquiry would not cost very much because the members of the committee would do the work with no extra payment. The secretary of the committee would be a paid officer of this House, and he would not receive any additional money. The committee would call on the Government to make reports to the committee, and for its officers to give evidence, and that would not cost the Government any money. We would also be asking people in private industry to come along and give their views, and that would not cost the Government anything. We would ask people with experience in industrial safety to come along and give evidence, and that would not cost any money. A Select

Committee would not cost the Government any great sum of money which would inconvenience the Treasurer to any extent.

The result of the appointment of a Select Committee would be of tremendous value and benefit to the working people of this State. With the exception of those inquiries appointed simply to white-wash some particular issue, the history of parliamentary inquiries shows that the members have always adopted a responsible attitude, and have been sincere in their research and their deliberations, and they have produced worth-while reports. I can recall that the Minister for Labour and Industry was a member of a Select Committee which went to the Warburton Range to investigate a certain situation.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: Did he do a good job?

Mr HARMAN: He did. I was happy to be with him during part of the inquiry, and that committee came back and presented a report which was tabled.

Although the Government did not act on that particular report, I am sure that had some action been taken we would, perhaps, not have the problems we have experienced in recent years. There is considerable value in parliamentarians undertaking an inquiry, no matter what the issue may be.

I do not know what the Government is frightened about. I am not suggesting the Government will refuse to appoint the Select Committee which I propose, but some of the interjections made by the Minister for Labour and Industry suggest that everything is going along all right and that an inquiry is not necessary. I am afraid that already he seems to have taken a stand in that direction.

Mr Grayden: All that would be achieved would be to obtain information which is already available.

Mr HARMAN: If members are really concerned about the workers who spend a third of their lives at their places of employment, and if members are really concerned about the anguish which results from an injury or a death—or a short-term or long-term disease—there is no reason that five of them could not get together as an Honorary Royal Commission—at no cost to the Government—to look into the total scene of industrial safety and industrial hygiene in Western Australia. Such a committee of inquiry would be able to report back to Parliament and inform members what is happening. Such a committee could recommend changes. I have had some limited experience and, in particular, I visited the United States recently where I inquired into industrial safety practices and received quite a lot of material which would be available to the committee. I feel certain that a committee would come up with

recommendations which would considerably reduce the number of industrial accidents we experience in Western Australia.

Mr Grayden: All that the members of a committee could do would be to go to the top authorities for advice, and those authorities are loaded to capacity on this subject.

Mr HARMAN: We have many new members in this House who are anxious to do something. They have been sitting here on their backsides to make up the numbers. They do a good job in their electorates and we now have an opportunity to appoint three of them to a Select Committee. Those members would be able to do something constructive for the work force of Western Australia. I hope that when the Government considers my proposal it will agree that the member for Maylands is trying to do something worth while, and that it will support my motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Grayden (Minister for Labour and Industry).

SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Community Use: Motion

MR A. R. TONKIN (Morley) [8.19 p.m.]: I move—

That in the opinion of this House the Minister for Education should present to this session of this Parliament a proposal for the establishment of a general design for—

(a) primary schools,

(b) high schools,

which will facilitate to an extent much greater than pertains at present the use by the community at large of such educational institutions.

The House further recommends to the Minister that in drawing up such a proposal he should draw upon the expertise and objectives of the Community Recreation Council, local government and other interested bodies and persons.

There is in Western Australia an enormous waste of taxpayers' money. Throughout Western Australia educational facilities have been erected which, in the aggregate, have cost the taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. These facilities are lying idle most of the time.

I have estimated that if a school is used during the normal hours of instruction, from 9.00 a.m. till 3.30 p.m. five days a week for 41 weeks of the year—I know that some schools are used for longer periods than those I have mentioned—it is used for only 14 per cent of the total year. That means it is lying idle for 86 per cent of the year, and this results in a considerable waste of public money.

We have unnecessary duplication because of the absurd situation. People living in the vicinity of a school have, as

taxpayers, paid for that school, and the cost of the school could be between \$250 000 and \$500 000.

This is a most important matter. People want community centres for their youngsters—and for the older people—and they rush around madly trying to raise money. It is well known that most communities do not have community centres, and facilities are inadequate.

As I said, people rush around madly trying to raise money while the money which has already been spent in providing school facilities is left lying idle. Community centres are just as likely to be constructed within a quarter of a mile of the buildings which already exist. They are usually similar in design—or could be similar in design—and so we have this enormous waste of money within our community.

I believe this waste occurs because successive Governments have not had the wit or the imagination to grapple with the problem and make a breakthrough. The rationale surrounding the use of community facilities would indicate that the use of school buildings as community centres would be of advantage to the community.

A community with a focal point is likely to become a dynamic community. We have to regard the atomistic nature of many modern communities where people are sprinkled about in the suburbs. Perhaps this applies more in the metropolitan area than in the country, but the people do not seem to relate to one another or to the area very well. They are usually a collection of people without any organic relationship with one another.

So, we have loose groups of people not relating to one another or to the community and they have no sense of identity with the community. They are alienated from the community because of that lack of identity, and this is the source of most destructive acts.

A person who does not feel he belongs to a community and who does not feel that the facilities belong to him is more inclined to damage, for example, a telephone booth. He feels that he should not have to worry about the school because it does not belong to him. It has been a place where he has been forced to go until he was 12 years of age, but since then he has not really had much to do with it.

So, there is this feeling of not belonging, and it is one of the worrying diseases of our modern society. The community would gain a tremendous advantage from the use of school buildings as community centres.

True, the traditional school is not very adaptable and that is the reason I have brought this motion to the House. I have seen no evidence to show that the schools which will be built next year, or during the year after, will be any better or any

more flexible in their design to make them suitable for use during the day, during the evening, and during the week-end.

Mrs Craig: The honourable member has been reading Liberal Party policy.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Yes, I have been reading Liberal Party policy but I am not interested in scoring cheap political points. I am not interested so much in policy; I am interested in action, and I will be interested to see if the Liberal Party does implement its policy.

Mr Mensaros: You will see—we have a policy and we will implement it.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I am not going to indulge in negative chit chat and point-scoring across the Chamber trying to prove which political party is the better. If members are sitting here for the purpose, they will get no change from me. I am interested in education and the community.

Mr Mensaros: I am glad to hear you want us to implement our policy. Obviously, that means you accept it and it is a good policy.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I have not said anything of the kind. I wish the Minister would not try to put words into my mouth. I am hoping that school centres will become community centres, and this is not happening at the moment.

Mr Mensaros: So they will.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I will be interested to see the evidence of the Government's implementation of this part of its policy. I have asked questions about it. I saw the Minister for Education on Monday, and when I report the performance of that Minister on Monday, I will ask the Minister for Industrial Development to judge whether the Government is implementing its policy. If the Minister wishes me to introduce that sort of note I will introduce it. I hope we will put the community first and really think about some of the ideas which are important. I am on my feet because I can see a tremendous possibility here if we will but cut through the knots of indifference, tradition, custom, and some of the legal knots which are very difficult at the moment.

It is quite clear that the implementation of this idea would offer great advantages for the community, and for the schools as well. We should knock down the walls between the school and the community and let the community into the school. I refer members to the world-famous Parkway community school in Philadelphia. I have no doubt that the Minister representing the Minister for Education in this House, and many other members opposite, are aware of the experiment at Parkway. The community resources are used by the school, and pupils spend a great deal of time in the local library, museums, and so on. This

school is not separate from the rest of the community or the community facilities. It is a very famous example of this type of idea.

We can come closer to home and look at the situation in Victoria, which has a Liberal Government. Obviously the policy being implemented there is Liberal Party policy. The question immediately arises: Why was not this policy implemented during the 12 years of the Brand Government? I saw no advance in this direction during those years.

Sir David Brand: Any during the three years you were in Government?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Yes, I think there was some progress, but not nearly as much as I would have hoped for. In Victoria we have seen schools like Swinburne Technical College, the Sydney Road School, the Collingwood School, and the Brinsley Road School develop as community centres. We do have the Lance Holt School in Western Australia. This is a community school, but it is not a Government school.

I heard the Minister for Labour and Industry speak earlier tonight about the cutting of red tape in connection with our migration scheme. I agree with him that very often red tape does need cutting rather ruthlessly. I do not say I agree that everyone who comes here on a holiday should be permitted to work. That is not the point I am making. However, I agree that red tape is often rather tough to cut through but a Government must try to do it. There is red tape to be cut through in education, and this is one of the problems facing us.

Teacher trainees are used extensively in Victoria. This is sound policy; sound for the trainees and for teacher training generally. I hope that in this State teacher training will develop even further and we will see the concept of a teacher being finally and fully trained in three years thrown out of the window as a useless piece of folk theory. We should think in terms of lifelong education for teachers as well as lifelong education for every other human being, except the dinosaurs to whom we referred earlier. Because of their lack of flexibility, the dinosaurs are being destroyed. The greater use of teacher trainees in school is a very sound principle.

I refer members interested in this approach to a publication put out by the New South Wales Education Department. It is entitled *The Community and Its Schools*, and it deals with the whole problem. Indeed, it is an excellent little monograph.

In Victoria the Huntingdale Technical School has gone a long way towards bringing the community into the school. Parents can sit in on the lessons and work with the students. Parents are not made to feel,

"You are a parent, and therefore alien in this situation". There is a feeling that schools are for people and parents as well as their offspring are people. This involvement is very sound policy from the students' viewpoint. Everyone knows that the child of parents who take an interest in education is far more likely to have a good attitude towards school than the child of parents who are indifferent or antagonistic to the school.

I suggest that recently—not traditionally—we have built up an artificial wall between the community and the school. We must knock down this wall. We have to bring the community into the school and the school into the community.

Mr Shalders: What caused that? You say that a wall has been built up recently. What do you think has built up the wall?

Mr Taylor: Firstly, do you agree there is such a wall? Yes or no?

Mr O'Connor: One question at a time.

Mr Shalders: I think there is a wall of indifference.

Mr Taylor: Thank you; there is a wall.

Mr Shalders: A factor of indifference—at least there is a barrier.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I was not speaking of a wall of indifference, but rather of a wall between the school and the community. Schools have been places to accommodate people of a certain age between 9.00 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. Parents do not usually intrude. Parents hand their children over to the teacher during that period of time, and generally speaking, they do not interfere very much with what goes on there.

This situation has developed over the last 100 years or so. Before this time children grew up in a traditional society where education was carried on mainly by the parents and by the extended family—grandmothers, aunts, cousins, and so on. Children were educated in the skills needed in that type of society, perhaps weaving, farming, and so on. In this period there was no artificial separation between an educational institution and life itself. Of course, education is part of life and life is part of education. My suggestion is that we have built up an artificial wall between life and education by the use of special institutions. This wall should never have been there.

I will use an example to illustrate a traditional educational system. The educational system used by the Aborigines was excellent. If it had not been excellent, the Aborigines could not have lived and survived in a harsh land like this for 30 000 years. Obviously, almost every Aboriginal boy and girl was taught the things he or she needed to know to survive in their society. They were taught to hunt, to track, to obtain water, and also the social

mores, customs, and taboos of their tribe. If we think of an educational system purely as a system of transmitting culture, we must admit the Aborigines had a very sound system. Of course, the system fell down because it did not develop the critical faculty—the ability to rebel, and the ability to disagree with others. There was not a dynamic society, and the Aborigines were not able to adapt to changing circumstances. We know that when they were met with the threat of a new challenge—European civilisation—they were unable to adapt to it. So their educational system, whilst sound for transmitting cultural values, was not adequate to deal with the stresses and pressures of modern society. So I qualify my admiration of the Aboriginal education system by these comments.

Mr Shalders: You say you would not expect them to perceive this?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: No, I would not expect them to—these people were cut off from other societies for 30 000 years or so. My remarks were not meant to be a criticism of the Aborigines, but rather a statement of the way their educational system worked.

An educational system which is cut off from the home and from the wider community is emasculated and is not very relevant to the problems associated with life. I am speaking about the majority when I say that fathers and mothers do not worry themselves unduly about education. Much of the education in our schools is not the real matter of living, and perhaps this is why so many students are anxious to leave school and to get on with the real business of life. It should not be like this at all but this occurs when we have an artificial barrier between the community and the educational institutions.

I would like to refer to other examples of the implementation of this principle throughout the world. A great deal of work has been done in places such as Leicestershire, Bristol, Southampton, and Cumberland to see that the schools freely respond to local needs and demand. I want to emphasise those words "freely respond". The subjects taught in the school are adapted to the community needs.

It is true to say that by and large non-Government schools, and also Government schools, have been produced *en masse* and exported to the country and imposed upon the community. It does not really matter much whether one goes to a school in the Kimberley, the south-west, the metropolitan area, or in the eastern goldfields; what goes on in that school is likely to be very similar to what goes on in other schools throughout the State. This is changing, of course. It has to be borne in mind that when I am speaking of this kind of traditional education system, I am well aware that each year there is less and less cause for criticism. I believe more and more

teachers and schools are experimenting in educational practices, and departing from the very narrow pedagogic role. However, generally speaking we tend to impose our schools upon the community rather than permit them to adapt freely to the needs of the community. It is interesting to see that in England some schools at least are experimenting and freely responding to local needs and demands.

I remind members that we are not divided into children and adults; we are citizens of all ages. Very often the age factor is irrelevant. In many parts of the United Kingdom citizens of all ages have access to educational facilities both during and after school hours.

The Australian Minister for Tourism and Recreation (Mr Frank Stewart) has pursued this principle and he is seeking co-operation from State educational authorities to assist in the development of community schools. It is very encouraging to see this attitude on the part of the Australian Government.

The Minister for Education in Tasmania, a gentleman by the name of Nielson, has appointed a committee made up of principals, teachers, representatives of parents and citizens' associations, and recreational and civic associations. This committee is to work out a system for the use of school facilities by the public after hours. I hope it will do better than the committees set up in this State to which I will refer later. The task of the Tasmanian committee is to work out a way in which the school facilities can be used by the whole of the community for a long period of time. This is what we badly need in this State.

I would remind members that it is Australian Labor Party policy to establish a State-wide committee, widely representative of the community, to advise the Minister for Education. Such a committee would not replace the advice the Minister receives from the Director-General of Education, but would be supplementary to it. It is not good that the Minister for Education receives most of his advice from the head bureaucrat in the Education Department. I think it is proper that he should be so advised, but he should also be advised by a body which is widely representative of the community. It seems to me the Tasmanian Minister for Education has established that kind of committee.

Coming back to Victoria, we find a lot of work has been done there. I point out that State has a Liberal Government. The Minister for Youth, Sport and Recreation (Mr Dixon) has won the co-operation of several city councils in the establishment of schools as community centres. He has attempted to develop this programme. The response has varied from local authority to local authority, but the programme has developed. The local council and the Education Department of Victoria have co-operated to fund jointly a public library at

the Boronia High School. I was hopeful—as I will point out later—that we might make a breakthrough in Western Australia, particularly at the John Forrest High School in my electorate, along similar lines.

At Sunshine in Victoria a community sports and civic centre is managed jointly by the city council, community leaders, representatives of the Education Department, and representatives of the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation, which is a State Government department. At Nunawading in Victoria there is a high school which has obtained a joint departmental-municipal complex, including a hall-gymnasium and a theatre.

At Collingwood an educational centre consists of a primary and a secondary school and also community library, music, and drama areas, and recreational and sporting facilities. That is some of the work which has been done in Australia.

Mr Laurance: What about the two South Australian high schools?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I was going to mention them later. I have here the reports of the Angle Park Community Centre and the Thebarton Community Centre. It seems that Don Dunstan's Government in South Australia is really showing the way in a wonderful experiment. I would hope that we in this State might copy that experiment or receive inspiration from it.

Mr Laurance: Are they functioning yet?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I do not think they are functioning, but work is under way. This is occurring in a socially depressed area where there is practically nothing for the people. The area really needs something like this to give the youngsters some kind of life.

We must think in terms of lifelong education. I believe adult education in Western Australia is very weak. It is not well developed. Generally speaking, most of the adult education that has occurred—that is, education for adults—has been vocationally oriented; it is mainly for people who wish to change jobs or to obtain promotion by gaining units in some subjects. It is mostly a method of increasing one's income. It seems to me that we have not a large number of people who attend school at night simply because they love finding out about things. There is not much sense of adventure amongst people. To most, schools are fairly dreary places. Many adults want to forget their school days and would not like to go back to them. Education should be the salt that makes people thirstier and thirstier; and a good teacher is one who makes his students enthused so that they want to know more and more.

I am not saying that I ever had that kind of success; but if ever I had an ambition that was certainly it. That was the

kind of teacher I would have liked to be; but whether or not I was is another matter and I will leave that to my students to judge because they are the ones who really know.

I have no doubt that members will be aware that many people say they did not enjoy history until they left school. I mention history because it is my particular joy. Many adults have said to me they did not realise it could be so exciting and interesting until they were in their 20s or 30s and did some reading and found it is a fascinating subject and not the dull collection of dates they thought it was. That is an example of bad teaching.

If we have not a great deal of adult education it means the fun, the adventure, and the interest is not there, and that is an indictment of our educational system. Our system has concentrated too much on the cramming of facts. I know less and less emphasis is placed on this in primary and secondary schools today; and that is just as well, for the facts are usually useless and unrelated to one another—it is just a hotchpotch of trivia to be memorised; and in any case very often it is inaccurate by the time it is printed because it is out of date. That is not really education. It is this type of education—so called—that is turning off so many people, and it is one of the reasons that not many people demand adult education in this State.

Education should be a development of attitudes. It should be like food which goes through a person, is digested, and changes him thereafter. Education should give us different outlooks and different attitudes. If it does that it will generate a desire amongst people to continue to learn.

I would like to emphasise once again that in my opinion—which I cannot substantiate, of course—as each year goes by a greater number of students receive a better education. A greater number of schools and teachers are doing this job; but a great deal still remains to be done. It is important to realise that learning continues constantly and is not confined only to educational institutions such as schools, and under the tutelage of teachers. Sometimes learning goes on in spite of the tutelage of teachers. So education is something which does not have to occur in an institution. That is why we have seen throughout the world among educational philosophers an attempt to de-school education; to say, "We do not need an institution for this; it is not appropriate to develop education in this way"; and there is a great deal to be said for that.

We must think of education as being something people receive for the whole of their lives; in other words, recurrent education. When we say to our students, "You must go to school between the ages of six

and 15 years, or six and 18 years", we are really saying to them something like, "It looks like being a long, hot summer, so take a big, big drink because it must get you through the summer." We are saying to our students, "You need education, so take a big gulp now and it will get you through life." That is nonsense.

We must think in terms of people going to education just like they go to a glass of water. People drink when they are thirsty, and they should go to education when they want it. We have to think in terms of some students leaving school at the age of 15 years, because education does not mean a great deal to them at that age; it is not relevant to their needs at that time. But at the age of 18, 20, or 30 years they will find a need, see the relevance, and want to imbibe and learn again. We must see education as something a person partakes of when he is thirsty for it.

I would like to mention now an attempt I made in my electorate to establish the community use of school facilities. I was greatly assisted in this by the member for Kalgoorlie who was at that time the Minister for Education. However, he did not remain the Minister for Education, and perhaps the thread was broken. This is one of the problems which occur when Ministers are changed, just as it is a problem when there is a too rapid change of Government—we start to develop a policy and then there is a break in continuity and so we do not get very far.

In my electorate we have two obvious needs. The John Forrest High School does not have a school hall. The school has probably at least the second best orchestra of any school in the State. I concede that Modern School may have—and I stress "may have"—a better orchestra, but that is a special music school. I do not know whether members have been privileged to hear the John Forrest High School orchestra. It is not just a school band of the type one might expect, with a few blue notes thrown in; it is a really high-class orchestra. However, it has no venue at which to perform in the Morley area. It must go out of the area to give concerts, and it does so quite frequently. So the school needed a hall; not just for the orchestra, but also for other purposes.

The community also needed a hall. In the Morley area there are hundreds of streets full of people in their 20s and 30s with young children. There is a tremendous need for community facilities. The people work at it, but it is difficult to raise \$250 000; and, of course, at that age young people are establishing themselves in their professions and many must attend night school. It is not easy for them to raise community funds.

So the community needed a hall, and the school needed a hall. I thought if we could get together we could provide

something to fulfil both needs. I called a public meeting and received a very good response. I took a deputation to see the then Minister for Education. We were thinking in terms of a four-pronged co-operative effort between the local community, the Shire of Bayswater, the State Government, and the Australian Government. The Shire of Bayswater was interested in the proposition and vested in the Education Department seven acres of land upon which to build such a facility and to provide parking areas.

Mr Laurance: Was it adjoining the high school?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Yes. Now we must break for a commercial: I have been informed that the next concert of the John Forrest High School orchestra will be at the Church of Christ Christian Centre on the 26th October.

This illustrates that the orchestra must travel half-way to Perth to perform; it cannot perform in the Morley area where the students live.

As I said, it was hoped we would achieve a four-pronged co-operative effort between the three tiers of government and the local community.

Tenders were let and we thought the project was on its way. Then it was killed. I am still trying to work out which Government was to blame; whether it was the Tonkin Government or the Court Government that was to blame for what happened.

Mr Laurance: If the shire provides any of the money, are any conditions laid down?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: No, the shire was not asked to provide any money. My idea was that the Education Department should provide some of the money and that the shortfall could be made up by the shire, or perhaps even the community could raise \$10 000, or whatever amount it was possible to raise, and that the Australian Government could provide some money through the Community Recreation Council.

Mr Nanovich: Would the subdivision of the land be laid down as a condition?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: If the department had said, "No, we do not have the money and so you will have to hold bazaars and so on to raise it", the position would have been quite different. I believe money was to be made available by the Community Recreation Council. We were told, "Do not worry about Community Recreation Council money; it is there." The next thing I heard was that the project was knocked on the head. I took a deputation to the Minister for Education on Monday last and we put the whole question before him.

We pointed out that the following six schools were on the list originally—

Melville
Churchlands
Kwinana
John Forrest
Scarborough
Kent Street.

We were told by the Minister and the Director-General of Education that only two schools—Melville and Churchlands—out of those six schools had been granted a hall. In answer to a question I asked the Minister for Education today, I was told that the hall at the Melville school was to be constructed and that the one at the Churchlands school was under construction. They are the only two schools at which the Minister and the director-general said halls were under construction.

However, from the answer given by the Minister today to my question I note that the hall at the Kwinana school is under construction, and the halls at the Scarborough school and the Kent Street High School have been completed. So we have a situation where the deputation on Monday last was told, "You have not really much to complain about. Anyway, only two schools out of the six have been granted a hall."

At the time we were fairly sure that Kent Street had the facilities, but we did not want to cause any unpleasantness, and we thought we would make a check first so that we would be sure. So of the six schools, John Forrest is the only school not being granted the facilities.

The point I want to emphasise is that the Government did not come to us and say, "Look, we are short of money and we cannot provide the facilities; can the Shire of Bayswater, the local community, or the Community Recreation Council help in any way?" If that had been asked I would have said, "If you need money the Community Recreation Council may be able to provide it." Yet the next thing we heard was that no money was available.

To conduct this centre an organising committee has been established. The principal of John Forrest High School has organised this committee which is composed of various people including representatives of the various parents and citizens' associations in the area. However, no hall is available yet. I was hoping that in this instance there would be a breakthrough. There is a problem with the shire. It cannot spend money on a building which is on land not vested in the shire unless the Minister for Local Government gives his permission. It seems to me that it is only fair in this situation that he should. If necessary the Local Government Act or any other relevant Act can be changed. These laws have been placed on the Statute book to improve the conditions of our society, and if there is a

need to change any of these laws, then let us change them. That is what we are supposed to be doing in this place.

Mr. Laurance: Has not that been done in Western Australia so far?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Not in Western Australia, that I know of. There are laws already existing but they can be amended. As a result of the feeling in the community in an area adjoining the John Forrest High School—the Dianella area—a meeting was held, following which a committee has been established called the Dianella Community Recreation Committee. That committee is raising money purely for this very purpose; that is, to establish a community centre, which suggestion could have been put to the John Forrest School Hall Committee by co-operation between the City of Stirling, the Shire of Bayswater, the Community Recreation Council, the Australian Government, and the State Government. However, these people are now trying to develop a facility but eventually the school is likely to get the other facility. As it so happened there is a dearth of facilities, so this one will not be wasted. The difficulty is this failure to get together to co-operate because of various legal impediments. Also there is a breakdown between various Government departments. The Education Department did not come to us and say, "We are short of money; can you help?"

I would like to mention that, in my opinion, the Morley High School is one of the finest high school buildings in Australia. It is based on the faculty principle. Some educationists do not think it is very suitable, because it tends to centre on faculties rather than on students, and the students tend to move from one room to another more than they should, which is probably not the best procedure to follow. Perhaps the teachers should be more closely associated with the students.

Mr Clarko: I could not agree with you more.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: In speaking of the Morley High School in particular, a very wonderful experiment is being conducted there.

Mr Clarko: I think there are three high schools which are conducting that experiment.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: The Morley High School is a magnificent building, despite the fact that one may have some doubts about its faculty system, and the principal of that school does all in his power to ensure that the local community is able to use the school hall and all the other school facilities. Unfortunately the school does not have a caretaker and this creates a great problem. The principal does his best, but what is needed at that school is someone to look after the buildings. This could be done by a caretaker who could also take bookings for the hall, and so on.

I believe that if any school were used by members of the local community vandalism at the school would decrease, because it is likely that if the school buildings are used to a greater extent than they are at present, especially if they are lighted at night, the incidence of vandalism will be reduced. That school represents a capital outlay of thousands and thousands of dollars. I do not know what the total cost of the Morley High School was, but I am certain that it must have been very great. Therefore, with the outlay of a few thousand dollars to provide a home for the caretaker and his salary this would enable a building worth \$500 000 or \$1 million to be used by the community in an area where there are almost no facilities.

It seems to me that we are throwing money away when we expend such a large sum on the provision of school buildings, but do not allocate a sufficient amount, which involves only a few thousand dollars, on the provision of a caretaker to ensure that these facilities are put to full use. I therefore hope the Minister for Education will take some notice of this motion in the sense that an attempt will be made to alter the designs of school buildings to make them more suitable for community use, and also to provide the small adjustments that are necessary in regard to cleaning, booking, and looking after the school outside of school hours to enable the local community to use the school buildings.

I notice that members opposite were very smug when the policy of the Liberal Party was mentioned. They seemed to think it is great and comments were made by the member for Karrinyup that the Labor Party policy was easy to grasp because there is nothing in it.

Mr Clarko: I made reference to the particular point you mentioned. There was no reference to it in the speech made by your leader. Only in his policy speech is mention made of it.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: The policy speech of our leader is not the only guide to the policy of the Australian Labor Party. We also have our policy document.

Mr Clarko: It is better, but not much.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: What is important is action and not policy statements.

Mr Laurance: You see plenty of action out our way.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: In another place the Hon. R. F. Claughton asked the Minister for Education the following question—

In its plans to provide for community participation by decentralising school administration, is it proposed to delegate to local boards or committees the power to hire or fire professional staff?

I think Mr Claughton has gone much further than I expected in regard to a school board, but the answer to his question by the Minister was—

Detailed planning has not yet been undertaken.

If I may, I will quote the question I asked in this House on the 14th August, the question being in five parts. It reads as follows—

- (1) Who are the members of the committee established by the former Minister in 1972 to investigate the community use of existing educational facilities and to make recommendations for future design to incorporate increased community use of facilities?

That is what this motion is all about. In the answer to that part of the question a list of the members of the committee was set out. The second part of my question was—

On what occasions has the committee met?

The answer was—

The committee met on 16th August, 1972.

So the committee met once. Meet only once on an important matter like that! The third part of my question reads as follows—

Have any recommendations been made to the Minister by the committee?

The answer was—

A report without containing recommendations was submitted to the Minister for Education on 4th December, 1972.

So a committee was established which apparently met only once. I suppose I could say that the committee is now in abeyance. I would hope that the Minister for Education would establish a similar but more dynamic committee.

If we look at the State Labor Party policy which members opposite feel to be rather indefinite, one little plank in that policy states that the Minister should be advised by a committee representing the whole of the community and not just by the director-general. I make no apology for referring to that plank again as it is so important. I think a committee such as that could advise the Minister on implementation of policy and would prove to be an excellent help to him. Whether it is a departmental committee or a special committee it could look at the school arrangements or facilities so as to modify them to facilitate their use for the benefit of the local community. I think this is an urgent need which the Minister for Education should review.

In *The West Australian* of the 15th August, 1974, the Minister stated—

Parents must have more direct influence over schools.

I agree with that comment by the Minister. I have had something to do with the development of school councils in my area. The people who act on them are very keen but there is no provision for them in the Education Act, and there is not much relationship between the department and the council.

I suggest that if a council is called together and ultimately it is told it has no power and there is nothing for it to do, the members of that council will soon lose interest. If the Government really means what it says in that school councils should be developed and that it is part of its policy to develop them, then it is up to the Government to see that some kind of policy is implemented. It should ensure that the school councils have some role to play. If a school council is formed and then after about 12 months there is nothing for it to do and the members fall away, it will be doubly hard for the present Government or any succeeding Government to try to form new school councils in a year or two years' time, because if a school council is neglected at the moment a sour taste will be left in the mouths of its members and they will soon lose interest. The members of these school councils are undoubtedly very keen and if they are turned away from the role they are playing it will be difficult to regain their interest.

On the 18th September I asked the following question of the Minister representing the Minister for Education—

Is it the intention of the Government to amend the Education Act so as to provide for the implementation of the announced policy to encourage greater participation by the community in the administration and policy making of primary and secondary schools, including the development of school councils?

The answer was—

No amendment of the Education Act is necessary.

I question that very strongly. If the school councils really are to do something constructive and the Government was not just indulging in a little hot air at election time, the Education Act must be amended to give recognition to such bodies. I am certainly not thinking in terms of hiring and firing of staff; but I am thinking that they do have a role to play. Schools will be better if parents are encouraged to take an active role.

One has only to go to independent schools—Catholic and non-Catholic—and attend some of their functions to realise the degree to which the parents are involved. They represent a thriving dynamic

community which is what a school should be. I have in mind in particular a couple of schools in my own electorate and in which the parents take a great deal of interest. This benefits the school and education generally.

I believe the Government is right in the policy it has announced. Parents must be involved to a greater extent, as must be the community. However, we all want some action and those Government members interested in education will want something positive done by the Government. They will want it to reconsider its decision concerning an amendment to the Education Act. I believe it does require amendment. If it does not, as the Minister indicated in his answer, why does it not? If the Act is not amended how will the school councils play any role at all? This matter must be considered because it is important.

On the 26th August the Minister was reported in *The West Australian* as being in favour of increased community participation in schools. I applaud his statement. On the 28th August I asked the following question—

What modifications are being made to the design of schools which will be built in 1976 or later so as to facilitate enhanced community use of them?

The answer was—

Full design for 1976 has not yet been completed, but school facilities are being incorporated with a view to use by the community and somewhat easier access than may have been the case in the past.

That was fairly vague. If I have one complaint about answers to questions generally it is that they are rather vague. Because I wanted more detail I followed up the matter and asked—

Adverting to question 27 of 28th August, what specific "school facilities are being incorporated" with a view to greater community participation in educational institutions?

The reply, even more brief, but perhaps more specific, was—

The present facilities being incorporated include halls and gymnasiums in secondary schools.

Apparently that is the extent of the Government's planning for greater participation in schools—halls and gymnasiums. They hardly touch on the subject. They are important aspects, admittedly, and I hope they will be provided. However, if we look at the work done in Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, and Britain, we find that a great deal more should be done apart from merely supplying a hall which it is hoped the principal will let to the community.

A co-ordinating committee is required for each area. We must draw upon the expertise of those interested in the community as well as the Community Recreation Council of Western Australia. That is a very interested and expert council. I know that Mr John Graham, the director, has been overseas to study buildings of this kind and he is a man with a great deal of expert knowledge and he should be appointed by the Minister to the committee established by the former Minister for Education. Unfortunately that committee met only once. If we get representatives of the Education Department and other State departments, service organisations, church and sporting groups, social clubs, students and staff of the schools, and other interested individuals together in a co-ordinating committee a great deal of good work could be done. Such a committee could study the situation in the Balga electorate, my electorate, Lockridge, or in any other area to ascertain what the community itself desires. The facilities must be tied in with those provided at the schools because the Government will provide them anyway.

The local community must have the opportunity to participate in planning in its initial stages. It is no good imposing upon them, as has been done in the past, facilities for which they may have no use. It is no good providing a hall and then expecting the people to use it. We must give the people what they desire. They must feel that it is their creation. They must feel that they have a hall as a result of their own efforts so that it is theirs in a true sense. In those circumstances they will respond much better and use the facilities to the fullest extent.

Possibly some legal problems may be involved. For instance the Education Act may have to be amended as well as, possibly, the Local Government Act and a few others. But, for heaven's sake, let us look at those Acts which have been placed on the Statute book for our benefit. They are provided to enable us to make our life better and to improve our society.

What is the Liberal Party's education committee doing? I understand that the member for Karrinyup, who is at the moment deep in thought, is a member of that committee.

Mr Clarko: That is correct.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: What has the honourable member been doing about this problem? I suggest he could assist the Minister by recommending plans. He should not merely be drafting policy statements, although they are necessary. They represent the first step. However, the implementation of the policies is what is important.

An area could be selected and the co-operation invited of all those groups to which I made reference earlier. They

could all sit down around the table to decide what is needed in the community and such facilities could be incorporated in any new school being planned. For instance, the Lockridge school is only in the first stages of construction and this is the time when changes could be made to provide more suitable facilities for the community. It is fairly hard to do very much with existing schools, but there is great scope in connection with schools which have not been commenced. I am referring to those schools for which the first brick will be laid in 1976.

This is the time when the Government should be drawing up new plans and calling on all the experience throughout Australia and the rest of the world.

I could mention the kind of scheme operating in South Australia where a co-ordinating officer has been appointed. He, together with part-time workers, consulted those in the community concerning what was required. They conducted surveys and established information booths at shopping centres where, on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturday mornings, people were invited to put recommendations into a suggestion box. Pamphlets were distributed and posters were placed in strategic positions. Neighbourhood discussions were held on the possibility of what could be achieved. Then, of course, the co-ordinating officer has his duty to assess and classify the suggestions. There must be community participation.

Mr Shalders: There was a first-class seminar on the type of thing you are talking about not so long ago.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: That is very good. Sometimes seminars are very inspiring, but sometimes, unfortunately, they result in very little concrete action.

There is a need for flexibility in the design of a school because the buildings must be useful for the school and the community. There must be a flexible use of space. This is most important for multi use.

Talking about the flexibility of space reminds me of a point I wish to raise. I have heard of a new type of classroom which apparently consists of concrete blown up with air to make a dome. It has been approved of in New South Wales, although I do not know how successful such buildings are. I make this reference in passing to please our library reference officer who works very hard and likes his ideas mentioned.

The flexible use of space is important. Facilities must be accessible to everyone of all ages with all kinds of interests. It must be accessible to public transport and should have ample car parks. Ample open space must also be available in the overall landscaping to enable people to walk under

the trees and to sit and talk. The surroundings must be attractive because it is most important that people should want to utilise the facilities.

It is necessary for consulting architects to participate at the base level.

I would mention now that Australia is part of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and that there is now a school buildings standards committee which I believe could be of great assistance to the Government. It naturally will have ideas from all over the world and this is one source of good ideas.

I have already referred to the necessity for a caretaker. For instance, the caretaker at the Morley High School could be used to much greater advantage than is the case at the present time.

We require a noninstitutional type of building which is welcoming and homely. This is very important. Such a building could have meeting rooms, a library, a resource centre, a coffee room, a printing room, art and craft rooms, a theatre, a film-viewing room, a music centre, a film-making and developing room, as well as facilities for squash, tennis, basketball, swimming, soccer, gymnastics, and dancing. It all depends on what the people in the area require. Therefore, it is most important that surveys be conducted to ascertain this instead of imposing on the people something we think they want. In conclusion—

Mr Shalders: It will need an awful lot of money.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I am glad the member for Murray raised that point. We are wasting millions of dollars every year. I am not asking for extra millions to be provided. I am merely asking that we use for this purpose the money we are already spending, but wasting. Our present facilities are empty for over 80 per cent of the time. Let us design them so that the millions we are already spending will be more usefully employed. The Government is already committed to spending this money. I ask that it be spent in this way so that we do not repeat the absurd situation which is evident at Belmont where a quarter of a mile down the road from the Belmont High School, which has just been provided with a new hall, a similar community hall has been erected at the same time. The money was provided for one by the Education Department and for the other by the Community Recreation Council.

As I have said, I am not suggesting that more money should be found for my recommendations. I am saying that the money is being spent already, but that it should be used more wisely. I am glad the member for Murray raised that point because really it is not a question of cost. Enormous sums of money are being spent in the community on buildings which young people are using

for only a fraction of the week and therefore the community is not getting value for its money. The facilities are being used for only 14 per cent of the time available. Once a child leaves school there is a good chance he will not go back into that school again.

It is not good enough to throw the odd classroom open for an occasional meeting. We can do far better than that as is demonstrated by the example set in Victoria—under a Liberal Government; in South Australia under a Labor Government; in Britain; in the United States; and in fact in many places all over the world. All that is required is a Government with imagination and drive to ensure that we break the bad habits of the past and get rid of the concept of a school being a building for kiddies, thus being shut up for most of the time. We must use our imagination and drive.

I know the Premier has tremendous drive. He built the north-west singlehanded! I hope some of that drive will be diverted into education in this new community use concept. I do not mind which Government does it. I will not enter into an argument about who has the best policy. I am not greatly impressed by policy statements. What I want to see is some action.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Mensaros (Minister for Industrial Development).

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HYGIENE

Inquiry by Select Committee: Motion

THE SPEAKER: I must point out that inadvertently the motion moved by the member for Maylands was not seconded. I hesitate, indeed I am loath, to invoke Standing Order 215, which states that the motion may not be further debated and that no entry thereon shall be made in the *Votes and Proceedings*.

Therefore, with the approval of the House, I propose to secure the present situation of the motion by treating it as if it had been seconded.

EDUCATION POLICIES

Condemnation of Government: Motion

Debate resumed, from the 11th September, on the following motion by Mr T. D. Evans—

That in the opinion of this House, the Government should be condemned for having enunciated certain education policies at the hustings and now some six months later is:—

1. Unable to provide any significant rationale or meaningful detail by way of answers to Parliamentary questions as to the implementation of these policies, that is, in relation to:—

(a) lowering the admission age of children into the primary school;

- (b) transferring children from the primary to the secondary school at the end of the year in which children attain the age of eleven years;
- (c) limiting student numbers at high schools to 1 000 and at senior high schools to 400;
- 2. Endeavouring to reconcile patent conflict between certain key essentials in policy of the two coalition parties constituting the Government;
- 3. Unable or unwilling to state clearly and fully the criteria upon which it is expected to proceed with these policies without first having demonstrated the educational merits of the changes inherent therein and having failed, when asked to name those professional educationists, whom were or should have been consulted before enunciation of these policies;
- 4. Refusing to indicate the expected costing of implementation of each and all of these policies.

MR CLARKO (Karrinyup) [9.32 p.m.]: I rise to oppose this motion which seeks to condemn the Government for its educational policies as outlined for the 1974 State election. The motion is very lengthy but it refers *inter alia* specifically to Government policies which support—

- (a) lowering the admission age of children into the primary school;
- (b) transferring children from the primary to the secondary school at the end of the year in which children attain the age of eleven years;
- (c) limiting student numbers at high schools to 1 000 and at senior high schools to 400;

The motion further states that the Government is unable to demonstrate "the educational merits of the changes".

Within the limited time available to me I wish to try to demonstrate the educational merits of the changes that have been enumerated. I would like to begin with a general statement about the respective policies of both the present Premier and the Leader of the Opposition.

I believe the education policy outlined by the present Government aimed at giving the children of this State and the parents of the children who attend our schools a new deal, and, in fact, a better deal to everybody involved with education in this State.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: Have you any idea what it would cost?

Mr CLARKO: It advocated many significant changes which were designed to improve dramatically the educational standards in this State. To some degree this State trails, which is most unfortunate because in many ways Western Australia has been to the forefront in educational policies.

The Leader of the Opposition asked me what it would cost. Now that he has interjected I would like to refer to what he said in his education policy on the 12th March, prior to the last State election. With due respect to the many members of this House who are involved with education, I believe his education policy was an extremely poor one. I will attempt to show how poor it was, and I am sure many members in this House who have been involved with education—

Mr T. D. Evans: What about dealing with yours?

Mr CLARKO:—some 10 of them at least, at the present time, will agree with me. A great deal has been said and questions have been asked about our education policy. When we talk about the rationale of a policy, I assert that our policy is far superior to that which was enunciated by the Labor Party. I will begin by reading from the section headed "Education" in the policy speech of the Hon. J. T. Tonkin.

Mr H. D. Evans: What about the motion?

Mr CLARKO: The policy begins—

In opening with the subject of education, I purposely draw attention to the fact that it is paramount in Labor thinking.

It is important for the individual, whose whole life-style is improved by it, and it is important to the State which can thrive only on the excellence of its citizens.

There is no meat at all in that. The next paragraph is better. It reads—

It is important to the young, who stand to profit from it—and it is important to the older people, who generally have to pay for it.

How much value does that have as an education policy? It continues—

It was a major feature of our policy in 1971, and it is a major feature of our policy in 1974.

If this is a major feature of the policy, the policy must have been rather poor.

Mr Taylor: Furthermore, everything could be paid for.

Mr CLARKO: Further on it says—

Tertiary education is something which we are going to face up to more squarely.

It goes on to say in vague, general terms that the Labor Party will seek to build a couple of colleges; and in case it was making itself responsible for anything at

all it says, "Of course, the Federal Government is taking over the financing of tertiary education in Australia."

The **SPEAKER**: Order! I advise the honourable member he must relate his comparisons to the motion as moved.

Mr **CLARKO**: I understand, Mr Speaker, and I will follow your direction. But I have read the motion very carefully and it takes in just about anything and everything. Paragraph 3 says the Government is—

Unable or unwilling to state clearly and fully the criteria upon which it is expected to proceed with these policies without first having demonstrated the educational merits of the changes . . .

I am coming to the educational merits of the changes and I am trying to show that the Labor Party has an education policy. I thought I might be able to say the Labor Party's policy is outlined in this way and our policy is outlined in a much superior way, and the rationale is included in it.

The **SPEAKER**: Order! I follow your line, and as long as you relate the two things it is quite in order.

Mr **CLARKO**: If I were sitting on the other side and someone were standing over here reading from the Labor Party's policy, I, too, would try to get him to change the subject.

The **SPEAKER**: Order! I do not want the honourable member to reflect on the Speaker. He is only proffering you what he feels to be sage advice. I was not prompted by anything else other than my own feelings as to the course you should pursue.

Mr **CLARKO**: I am sorry, Mr Speaker. My reference was in no way directed to you. I thought I had my victims sitting opposite me. The basis of the State Labor Party's policy in March, 1974, was that the only initiative within the whole of it would come from Canberra. The policy includes many things which I will not deal with to the same depth now that I have been brought to heel, but I would have liked to go through it paragraph by paragraph, pointing out what had begun previously.

The **SPEAKER**: I do not want to interfere with your speech, as long as you relate the policies. The honourable member is quite free to continue along that line as long as he compares the two. I do not want to spoil your speech.

Mr **CLARKO**: I will omit a number of points in regard to policy but I would like to deal with pre-school education, which is a specific point. In this regard the Labor Party's policy states—

We are about to correct the long-standing neglect of Pre-School Education, in which children have been

denied the opportunity to attend kindergarten for lack of premises and cost to parents.

What was offered by the Leader of the Labor Party in March this year? He offered to halve the levy on parents in 1974 and remove it in 1975, but he would leave the cost of running the kindergartens to the local committees, and he would leave the local authorities to find the \$30 000, approximately, to build them. That was the basis of it. No rationale was given and it was not pointed out that the figures given in the Nott report—although they have improved since that date—show that Western Australia had the lowest proportion of children in their fifth year receiving formal or semi-formal education. This State came dead last in this particular field, and the Labor Government of that day did not accept the recommendations in the Nott report.

As a member of the Liberal Party's education committee, I am proud to say almost all the recommendations in the Nott report were adopted by our party some weeks before the Nott recommendations were known. We did not follow the report! I was very interested to hear Mr Beazley make some reference to plagiarism from the Karmel committee. We virtually adopted all those principles before the Karmel committee came together. I suggest many of the recommendations in the Karmel report are plagiarised and, as members opposite who are involved in education know, the truth is there are very few new ideas in education.

Mr Hartrey: That is the trouble.

Mr **CLARKO**: People come up with ideas but many of the things advocated in education today were in vogue 20 years ago, and I suspect that in 20 years' time some of the ideas about open area schools and Achievement Certificates will have been heavily modified. Education seems to be something like a modern waltz in which one goes around the four corners of a square, sometimes going forwards, sometimes backwards, and sometimes sideways.

The Labor Party rejected the suggestion that the school commencing age should be lowered to five years, despite the fact that the Nott report contained a great deal of information on this point, and despite the fact that in relation to the rest of Australia the children of that age in this State were languishing. It is claimed that about half the children who seek to get into a kindergarten today are not able to do so. Others say the proportion is two-thirds. I would say that the situation in this State in this regard is very uneven. In some places children cannot get into kindergartens at all, and in other areas they can. When the Labor Government had the opportunity to adopt this suggestion it failed to do so—not by saying, "We will adopt it in the long term." All it said was, "No".

Mr T. D. Evans: That is not fair or correct.

Mr CLARKO: I believe the Labor Government had a wonderful opportunity to do something but it let the opportunity slide. I will be amazed if the person who prepared this education policy had any experience in education. He certainly was not up with current trends and did not advocate anything new or positive which would make Western Australia if not a leader, at least comparable with the other States.

Mr T. D. Evans: The person concerned has higher academic qualifications than you have.

Mr CLARKO: Instead we had a great deal of criticism levelled at our education policies. In fact, the Leader of the Opposition came up with an argument saying, "What would you do if you were going to implement the situation at Mt. Lawley in regard to the secondary side of it; would you buy up all the houses?" What has been conveniently omitted by every Labor critic so far is the matter of the teachers' charter. Our policy allows for the teachers' charter in many ways, and particularly in regard to the question of class sizes.

With regard to this policy the member for Morley said, "Why not look at our State education policy, because it is better than the election policy?" It is not much better as far as I can ascertain. Labor's policy on education did not include implementation of the teachers' charter in relation to class sizes for February, 1975. Of course, the member for Kalgoorlie knows well, and has known for a long time—ever since the teachers' charter was first introduced in 1971, and subsequently altered in 1972 and 1973—that it was to be implemented by February, 1975. But he and his colleagues did not decide to allow any moneys for this sort of alteration.

I can see no plans in the Labor policy which allow for the fact that schools need more classrooms. I could ask the Leader of the Opposition if he intended to bulldoze down the houses in order to conform with the teachers' charter in that respect. Members opposite either forgot about the charter or deliberately rejected it. A great deal is being said at the moment in an attempt to curry favour with the teachers in this State; but they are aware of the fact that the Labor Party did not make allowance for the teachers' charter.

Consider the question of the lowering of the school age. We were accused of saying that the system would be compulsory. We did not say it would be compulsory. Anybody involved in education would know that children are not compelled to attend school until they reach six years of age. In fact, virtually all children in the community commence school at the beginning of the year in which they turn six. Our policy stated in black and white that this would be semi-formal education;

but many critics, politically motivated, pretended we would compulsorily take these children and put them into formal education. We did not plan that; in fact, we specifically stated otherwise. Therefore, I ask: Should all children be given an opportunity to have a year of pre-school education, or not?

It seems to me the Opposition is in a total dilemma. If it answers that the children should be given this opportunity then it would be supporting our policy and going against its own policy. If it answered, "No" it would be going against its Federal policy. I could give members a quote which indicates that the Federal policy of the Labor Party is in favour of this. So no matter how much members opposite like to wriggle they are well and truly hooked.

Mr Carr: Are you trying to replace the pre-school system with this, or to have the two running one after the other?

Mr CLARKO: Let us consider the opportunity for children to attend kindergarten in my area. Along the coast in my area there are nine kindergartens which at present accommodate 623 children. That is the latest figure provided by the Pre-School Education Board. Based on the June figure, those kindergartens have 958 children on their waiting lists. So at least 300 children will not be able to attend kindergarten next year. It is possible another kindergarten will be built, and so we could deduct 70 from that figure. Perhaps a second kindergarten will be built, and then we could deduct 140. But, as we all know, the waiting lists build up in the last few months of the year, and particularly in an area like mine to the north of Perth in which it has been estimated that 1 000 people—mostly young couples—settle every month.

I have no doubt that in my area two out of every three children will be denied the opportunity of semi-formal, pre-school, or pre-primary—call it what one likes—education. That was our policy formed and clearly and deliberately debated, enunciated, and maintained right up to the last election.

Mr T. D. Evans: You didn't call it pre-primary at all.

Mr Carr: The Federal Government in its Budget has given \$4 million to this State for pre-school education to solve this problem.

Mr CLARKO: I thank the member for his comment. First of all that money is our money; secondly, education is the responsibility of the States; thirdly, in my judgment—and I say this to the member who is an ex-teacher—teachers, administrators, parents, and students in this State are better judges of how the educational dollar should be spent than those who sit in Canberra.

If I had time I could give the House examples of how all sorts of general decisions are made in Canberra about putting money into specific areas. In the case of one kindergarten in my electorate, people in Canberra decided to extend the kindergarten without any reference whatsoever to the committee which is charged with the responsibility of raising money to buy equipment, and its members who give up their time to run it. They were not asked whether they wished the extension to take place, or whether there was a need for it. It was simply announced in the Press. That is Canberra on education! I will not comment further on that aspect except to say the only problem with the Karmel money is that a tremendous amount is being badly spent, and administrators are being rushed into making hurried decisions. I am sure members opposite who have been associated with teaching know that is so.

The problem is that the Australian Labor Party has approached this matter by offering more money for education; but I believe the wiser way of spending it would be to give the decisions to the people in this State who have the experience. I am sure they could spend the money more wisely than those who flock over here by TAA and Ansett in great gaggles of seven and swamp a State officer, saying, "Here is \$1 million; make up your mind how you will spend it by next week."

Mr Carr: Does your party want to replace the pre-school system, or do you want to have school for five-year-olds and push the pre-school area back to four-year-olds?

Mr CLARKO: It is quite clear at the present moment, according to the Education Department report published today, that there are 15 000 children in kindergartens. Of that 15 000, 10 000 are children in their fifth year. The semi-formal education facilities within the Education Department should be located alongside the primary school where possible, and classrooms might have to be modified. Existing kindergartens would then be available for those 15 000 children in their fourth year. That would mean a trebling of opportunities for four-year-olds. That is not only desirable, but it is what the community wants. Therefore, when we talk about our programme in regard to children in their fifth year we would actually be solving the problem of those who cannot at present obtain a place. They will be able to get into our pre-primary schools.

Mr Carr: Does that mean two systems, one for four-year-olds and one for five-year-olds?

Mr CLARKO: It means the kindergarten situation as it now exists would be looking after children in their fourth year—and

one-third of the children in kindergartens at the moment are of that age. But in future all children of that age could attend kindergarten, with the exception of those whose parents might decide against it, because it will not be compulsory.

Clearly there are problems in respect of kindergartens. Many are situated a long way from primary schools; and educational theorists would agree it is much more desirable to have pre-primary and primary schools associated with each other.

I want to move now to the problem of transferring children from primary school, and to try to explain the rationale which the mover of the motion feels is not apparent.

The member for Kalgoorlie quoted the Plowden report, which states that there is no correct age at which to transfer children from primary school to high school, and that it is anywhere between the ages of 10 and 13 years. I would not disagree with that. Again, some people conveniently like to take the Plowden report recommendation, which is that children in the United Kingdom should be transferred at the age of 12-plus instead of at the age of 11-plus as at present. If one seeks the reason for this one finds it was that the Plowden committee desired to strengthen the UK primary system and so it recommended that children should be transferred at the age of 12. Of course, the British Government did not adopt that recommendation.

One advantage of lowering the age at which children enter secondary school is that it will reduce the gap between primary and secondary education. The flow from one particular stage of education to the next stage should occur at the age when the gap is at its narrowest, and when it is simplest and easiest to make the transition.

At the moment anybody associated with secondary schools in our State—and there are a few of us in this Chamber—would know that a great deal of trauma is suffered by many students when they enter secondary schools, because the system is significantly different from that to which they have been accustomed. The gap is tremendous; and furthermore, they have with few exceptions, as mentioned by the member for Morley, to face a totally new approach. Instead of having one teacher in one class, they are in a completely new world. It was in an attempt to do something about this that we proposed the lowering of the age at which the transfer is made. However, we did advocate—and I am amazed that no-one on the Opposition side has come out in favour of our proposal—that high schools have a maximum size of 1000 pupils. I have not heard a single Labor representative or supporter in Western Australia say that is a good idea.

Mr Carr: You think it is a good idea to do it when we can afford to do it.

Mr CLARKO: We can right now. At the moment I think we have something like 50 senior high and high schools in the State, and 28 of them have numbers in excess of 1 000. I said that I cannot find one Labor supporter in Western Australia who has said it is a good idea to keep our high schools down to 1 000. However, a great number of people—and some members will know them—who call themselves the Progressive Teachers' Association—and they certainly do not wear blue shirts—came out in favour of this before the Dettman inquiry into discipline. Furthermore, the parents and citizens' associations came up with a similar suggestion; in fact, they said that 1 000 should be the maximum. The Secondary Students' Association came up with a similar figure. A questionnaire was issued with the report—it was an excellent piece of local research—which was sent to all sorts of people, including high school administrators. They came up with the figure of 1 000 and said preferably it should be 750 but that they would settle for 1 000. Those three major groups all came up with the figure of 1 000, and so did the disciplinary committee.

Mr T. D. Evans: When you refer to the disciplinary committee, in which report is that?

Mr CLARKO: I refer to the report of the disciplinary committee on secondary schools in Western Australia, published in December, 1972. I am looking for one person in the Opposition who will agree that to have a limit of 1 000 is a desirable thing.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: We do agree. You are arguing with yourself.

Mr CLARKO: So far this policy of the Government has merely been attacked. I would have expected academic members, in particular, on the other side to say, "I agree with this, but I do not like that."

That is what I would have thought, particularly as I know many of these people are interested in education. I would say that they have aims and ideals which could be to the betterment of education in this State.

At present, children in the secondary schools are given a term to become categorised into the Achievement Certificate system. As those who have been involved in the education system would know, some children get only six weeks and are then put into, say, one of four levels in mathematics, from which they rarely move in subsequent years. One of the unfortunate problems of the certificate system is that it does not cater for what I shall call the lazy boy who is put into the advanced area. He loafes away and is dropped back to intermediate, where he stays for the remainder of his time at high school, getting high grades when he really should be in a more advanced stream where perhaps he could be encouraged to work a bit harder.

Mr Shalders: When a pupil slides down a grade it is almost impossible for him to go up again.

Mr CLARKO: The movement between grades under this system is low. I am sure it is not as high as educationists want.

When we formulated this policy, we felt we should do something about reducing the gap between primary and secondary schools, and decided on students entering high schools at 11-plus. Their early period at high school would consist of a limited range of subjects and in this way they would be gradually eased into the system. If they went to high school at a younger age, perhaps they would respond better to discipline, and so on. I am sure that all people with high school experience would be aware of the problems in our schools. One is a problem of size, with at present up to 1 400 to 1 500 students at some schools. I am glad the member for Morley agrees with the suggested number of 1 000 students.

We also looked at the question of introducing children at the bottom level. I would hope that we refer to senior high schools as colleges, rather than senior high schools or matriculation colleges. In Tasmania, one of the new schools has dropped the title "matriculation college" and is to be referred to as a "college". What we want in our system is to give the students some form of choice so they may undertake either a tertiary preparatory course or a vocational course to prepare them for their employment when they leave school. If a student were not going to university or to WAIT he could be given some form of subject matter which would prepare him for his career in commerce, accountancy or, if he was going into the Public Service, some form of study in that direction. The Dettman report of 1969 said in regard to secondary education, that it is desirable that the last stage of one section of education should prepare the student for the next. We have failed in that regard in the past. We have virtually provided all the students who have the mental capacity with a tertiary preparatory course, even though they may be going off to work as clerks in the Public Service or in commerce in general. Our opinion is that students at school would be better motivated towards learning a particular skill if it was their chosen vocational preparation.

Mr T. D. Evans: But you have gone against the recommendation of the Dettman report in this regard.

Mr CLARKO: We have been accused of never doing any research. I remind the member for Kalgoorlie of the report of 1954, which was established in 1952 by Watts and put forward by Hegney in 1954. The report contained 14 or 16

recommendations. In 1961 when Watts was again Minister for Education he established another inquiry into secondary education. That inquiry looked at the recommendations which had been implemented to establish what had happened as a result of their implementation. The report of 1954, for example, advocated a six-year secondary set-up; it proposed a four-two arrangement. It made a series of suggestions similar to what we adopted. We did not adopt them just because of that report. As members know, the Wyndham scheme in New South Wales uses the four-two principle. Like the member for Kalgoorlie said, transfer could be anywhere between 10 years and 13 years. We felt 10 years was a little low and that 13 years was a bit high.

We were anxious to follow the lead given by Tasmania. Furthermore, in Canberra I understand that already two colleges are under construction and will be opened in 1976, as a result of the report of the working committee in the Australian Capital Territory. Again, they have proposals of this sort for looking after students in their last two years of school. We strongly believe that with a discipline programme covering those ranging from children as young as 12 years old right through to the 18-year-olds, teachers are presented with insuperable difficulties. It is much better to have them separated.

We feel there is a need for smaller secondary schools. We also feel it is essential that consideration be given to an easier transition from primary to secondary school education. Some say it does not really matter because it does not involve many people. However, if a child in his first year of high school leaves Victoria and comes to Western Australia, he goes back to primary school. I learnt of the experience earlier this year of a person who moved from New South Wales to Amelia Heights, in my electorate. Her child was about to start school in New South Wales, but was not eligible to commence school in Western Australia and could not even enrol at a kindergarten because it had a waiting list of something like 75 children. The same situation applies to migrant children coming from England. It is most undesirable for children to drop back a year when they arrive in Western Australia. So, there are advantages in having some sort of unity.

I am not a great advocate of total unity but I believe that in regard to structure it is a desirable thing. At present, many grade 7 children are in their post-pubescent stage and have a closer affinity with other post-pubescent children than with children in grade 6 and grade 5 who are pre-pubescent. This was a factor in our policy to allow children to attend secondary school at 11 years of age.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: I question your assertion that most male grade 7 children are post-pubescent.

Mr CLARKO: I agree that it is more likely to be females who would fall into this category. As members would know, there has been a tremendous lowering of the age at which females reach pubescence. But I wonder if members would agree that discipline is a problem with grade 7 boys and that the last year of primary school is to a large extent a year of consolidation. The students do not seem to learn much new material. Teachers would know that many problems of discipline in high schools arise with fourth-year students. If members looked at the figures for Western Australia they would see that fourth-year is the problem year in regard to lack of drive and direction in students. In primary schools, this problem year occurs in the seventh grade and, principally, with grade 7 boys.

Many of these changes in education have been anticipated by capable teachers, like Mr Usher at Hamilton Hill, who has anticipated these problems and has established form teaching for first years.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: He is a member of the PTA.

Mr CLARKO: Yes; I praised them a while ago. To return to the primary school situation, I point out that some teachers are using social study achievement booklets in grade 7 and grade 6 which were used recently in secondary schools. The teachers are aware of the bubbling within these students for information and many teachers have anticipated this trend, which I assert is desirable.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: Yes, but the point is that there is no need to shift those students if you are going to deal with them in that way. What worries me is that you are going to put these children into a rigid high school system a year earlier.

Mr CLARKO: We have not proposed that. As I said earlier, we propose that the first year will not be a rigid high school system so that the young students can be easily assimilated into the high school environment. They will be given courses with limited scope and the whole environment will be less brutal than it is for the current one-year-older students and in this way we hope to overcome the major problem that occurs with these students at the moment.

Mr T. D. Evans: Have you costed the implementation of your policy?

Mr CLARKO: Let the honourable member for Kalgoorlie show me where his party costed the implementation of the teachers' charter. It was never costed. As

I said, it is arbitrary at which year we shift the students between 10 years and 13 years. We looked at the bottom end of the scale and we decided that the children in their fifth year were not getting a fair go. We would like to do something about the other end, as they are doing in Tasmania and Canberra. We also would like to separate high schools into two sections. However, when we looked at the recommendations of the teachers' charter in respect of class sizes and teacher-student ratios, we found that we could not put this proposal into effect because there would not be enough classrooms. If we removed one full year from high school, the sort of numbers that would be left would approximately fill the existing high schools. In regard to the primary children, without the grade 7s, there would be more available classrooms and we would have a situation where they would fit into the schools. How was the Opposition going to meet the aims of the teachers' charter, which it had known of since 1971 and which are due to be implemented by February, 1975? I can assume only that it was not going to accept the aims, otherwise it would have publicly endorsed them. The proposals we have put forward would enable both new intakes to be catered for.

We also must consider the problem of people returning to school, some of them perhaps because of the collapse of rural industries due to the fact that someone in Canberra did not understand anything about farming. Many of these people are returning to school and I would imagine these are people who would fit more readily into a senior high school or a college, or whatever one likes to call it. That is what we have planned for, but the Opposition did not plan for it.

Mr T. D. Evans: What did you do about escalating costs? You have not answered that.

Mr CLARKO: I asked the member for Kalgoorlie what did he do. He is a former Minister for Education and I am a former teacher. Does he expect me to sit down and cost these proposals?

Mr T. D. Evans: But this is your policy.

Mr CLARKO: I am talking about so many things; I am not going to talk about dollars.

Mr T. D. Evans: You do not even consider dollars.

Mr CLARKO: I think the arguments I have made show that we did consider dollars. If members opposite had been returned to Government, they would have been in a disastrous situation by February, 1975, which is when the aims of the teachers' charter are due to be implemented. At that time the present Opposi-

sition was in Government, and it had available the services of the bureaucracy to work out the figures.

Mr T. D. Evans: I wonder what situation you would get into with the Teachers' Union.

Mr CLARKO: I have already shown that the present Opposition either deliberately or inadvertently omitted to include one line in its policy which took cognisance of the teachers' charter.

Mr T. D. Evans: Neither did the policy of your party refer to it specifically.

Mr CLARKO: I have already shown how our arrangement dovetails perfectly with the teachers' charter, and I have explained the movement of the 11-year-olds plus into secondary education. The point in our policy is that we had a comprehensive policy in which we provided for pre-school education; but the Opposition failed to understand this. We had a policy which spelt out the function of the primary schools, and the fact that pre-school education would be noncompulsory and there would be a programme of semi-formal education.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has four more minutes.

Mr CLARKO: In regard to secondary education we had a programme which would lead to either higher learning or desired employment, and this would include vocational subjects. We also made some comments on technical education. In this respect I could go back to the earlier comments made by the Opposition in its policy on technical education.

Mr T. D. Evans: Technical education is not mentioned in the motion.

Mr CLARKO: In regard to technical education the Labor Party policy had this to say—

It is inevitable that the future will bring rapid development of technical education in this State, particularly in the rural areas. Already we have made plans for new technical schools in the Eastern Goldfields and at Geraldton, and investigations indicate a need for similar expansion in both the south and north of the State.

Further on it states—

We will seriously consider developing the "community college" concept to provide a major focus for expansion of adult and leisure education in Western Australia.

I presume that the Opposition did not receive a telegram from Canberra to indicate what sort of policy it should adopt

in respect of this educational policy, or it may be that the TAFE report was not available.

If members opposite look at the Liberal Party policy they will find that it contains references to technical education, special education, teacher training, independent schools, tertiary education, remote areas, textbooks, and administration. In respect of the policy on administration I am sure the member for Morley will appreciate that we will bring about the greater use of school facilities by the community. We will extend that area much more, and also expand adult and leisure education.

I am pleased that in this debate one member of the Opposition has supported our idea that intake at high schools should not exceed 1 000 pupils, and I compliment him on taking that stand. I would be very surprised indeed if any member of the Opposition gets up subsequently and says that he prefers high schools with an intake of 1 400 or 1 500 students in one great conglomerate, with all the problems that now exist in the high schools, as against our proposal to have the high schools in two sections.

If one examines the proposal of children in their fifth year entering primary school, one will find that this is a decided improvement. This is the only way we will give these children equal opportunity for education.

In regard to children in their fourth year we will also give them, at no extra cost, places in the kindergartens that will be vacated by children who will move into the primary sector.

Apart from the fact that the Liberal policy places emphasis on support and encouragement of the individual, as against the Labor policy of a collective mass and so on, if members opposite look through our policy they will see that it could have been proposed by the Labor Party. The position could be this: members opposite have not done the work and have not come up with a policy. Instead they have set out to rubbish the policy that we have put forward.

Our policy is backed up by all sorts of research, such as the Nott inquiry and the research it has undertaken, and the research undertaken both overseas and interstate. We took into account the results of the latter research and the recommendations made. We also consulted the local people involved in this area.

When we framed our policy regarding children in their fifth year we discussed the matter with the principal of the kindergarten teachers' training college, and she supported our policy. We also consulted Barbara Jones from the Kindergarten Association, and she also supported

our policy. Furthermore, we consulted the ordinary kindergarten teachers. We framed a policy which took into account the views of people in key positions in Western Australia, as well as the ordinary grass root teachers and parents. That is what our policy has been based on.

Finally I say this is not a party political policy. It is one which is designed for the benefit of the children of Western Australia especially at the pre-primary school level, the primary level, and the secondary level.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr A. R. Tonkin.

House adjourned at 10.20 p.m.

Legislative Council

Thursday, the 3rd October, 1974

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. A. F. Griffith) took the Chair at 2.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (4): ON NOTICE

1.

HOUSING

Pilbara and Kimberley

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

(1) Would the Minister please provide a complete schedule of proposed house building in the Pilbara and Kimberley by the State Housing Commission for 1974-75 in the following categories—

- (a) under the Commonwealth/State Housing Agreement;
- (b) for the Government Employees' Housing Authority;
- (c) for other Commonwealth and State departments and instrumentalities; and
- (d) for others?

(2) Where medium or high density housing development is planned, could figures in question (1) be broken down into various housing forms?

(3) Of the residences built under Commonwealth/State Housing Agreement, will houses be available for purchase, and what proportion of the total?