

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 22 December 1987

THE SPEAKER (Mr Barnett) took the Chair at 2.15 pm, and read prayers.

## DEPUTY PREMIER

*Retirement: Statement*

MR BRYCE (Ascot -- Deputy Premier) [2.18 pm] -- by leave: I wish to confirm and to formally announce my intention to resign from the Ministry as Deputy Premier and from the Parliament as member for Ascot on 25 February 1988.

My reasons are basically family and personal, combined with a belief that the time is appropriate for a new generation of members to assume responsibility for the leadership of the Parliamentary Labor Party. By the end of this Parliament I will have been heavily involved in Western Australian politics for almost 25 years -- approximately 17 years as a member of Parliament, 15 years on my party's front bench, 10 years as Deputy Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party, and more than 10 years as a senior officer of the ALP. During these years I have had a very rich and rewarding experience which has given me the unique opportunity to work on the modernisation of the Labor Party; the rebuilding of the State Parliamentary Labor Party after our very major setbacks in the elections of 1974, 1975, and 1977; an opportunity to lay some useful foundations for the future technological growth of Western Australia; the preparation and the coordination of the policies of my party for the 1983 and 1986 elections; the restructuring of industry policy in Western Australia since 1983; and, fundamentally, the opportunity to work with so many other people to achieve some major reforms in our State's electoral laws.

Three of these areas of political involvement are of very real significance to me. The first was the formation of a new Labor Government in 1983. After our decimation at the polls in 1975 and again in 1977, which had followed the defeat of the Tonkin Government in 1974, a small handful of senior officers of my party in Western Australia accepted that a comprehensive rebuilding job had to be done. Early in the piece we recognised that, to be successful, we needed the right people in key seats and a whole range of other key positions in the political process, we needed a wholesale review and revision of policy, and we needed key people capable of presenting our party's case with expertise to the electors of Western Australia. It all came together for us in 1983 under the leadership of Brian Burke -- I might add, with a good deal of hard work, a certain degree of trauma within, and, as is always the case in politics, more than a modicum of good luck.

The second area of great significance for me was the opportunities that were afforded to me, as the State's first Minister for Technology, to lay a number of important foundation stones for the future technological growth of Western Australia. I emphasise to the House, and I think it comes as news to nobody, that that was without a doubt the toughest assignment I have ever undertaken in my life. For generations Western Australians have believed that our eternal economic salvation depends almost exclusively on more and more exciting primary industry projects related to mining, agricultural, and pastoral activity.

In respect of the world's "sophisticated economies", Australia appears to be one of the few countries, along with South Africa, where the words "intellectual" and "academic" have for so long tended to be terms of derision. My advocacy in the late 1970s and the early 1980s of new high technology sectors of the economy, brain intensive industries, new venture capital sources of funding, quality control programmes and new intellectual property policies, and increasing interaction between universities and industry, caused many of my friends in the Parliament, my own party, the Caucus, the Cabinet, and I must add I am sure at some stages some members of my own family, to believe that I had taken leave of my senses. The surest and perhaps the kindest indication that the perception of the importance of technology has changed is that no fewer than six of my Ministerial colleagues have indicated to me in recent days that they would be quite interested in my portfolio if there were to be a significant reshuffle as a result of my resignation from the Parliament.

Western Australia's first Technology Park at Bentley has been a great success and, now that we are over the hump of demystification, I urge my colleagues in Government to commit a major level of funding to two new technology parks or precincts for Western Australia. One in the vicinity of Cockburn Sound as a "defence technology precinct" specifically to provide a focus for the range of advanced technology facilities and equipment necessary to support defence industry growth. The defence forces relocation programmes with 50 per cent of the Royal Australia Navy Fleet being based in Western Australia over the next 10 years is of enormous importance to our State. By the year 2010 an additional 3 000 jobs will have been generated, and the State's gross economic output increased by more than \$3 billion. The other technology park should be in the Kwinana industrial zone as an "advanced materials engineering park" which would incorporate production of special alternative materials for export, value-added processing of mineral feed stock, and the manufacture of products based on new materials' technologies.

The third issue of real significance to me was the role I was able to play as Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Reform in achieving, as I have said, with the support and cooperation of numerous other members of the Parliament, the modernisation of Western Australia's electoral laws. Few of us are lucky enough in this job to be able to work directly as the Minister responsible on the resolution of a major problem that one highlights in one's own maiden speech, perhaps as a cause celebre. That was my good fortune only after my friend of 20 years' standing, the former member for Morley-Swan, Arthur Tonkin, had led the campaign tirelessly for one and a half decades to focus public opinion on what is all too often discounted as something quite esoteric and of exclusive interest to members of Parliament. Despite our differences in this Chamber in respect of that matter, I do confidently believe that the principle of one-vote-one-value will be implemented during the last decade of this century.

Throughout the life of the past six Parliaments a number of important developments in the political process have occurred.

Members of Parliament are being elected at a much earlier age and there has been a noticeable shift in responsibility to young people. When I entered this Parliament in 1971 the leaders of the three political parties were in the seventh and eighth decades of their lives. Today, the leaders of all three political parties in the Legislative Assembly are in their forties.

The complexity of decision-making has increased quite extraordinarily; not only are decision makers today bombarded with a much greater volume of data, but their decisions are more effectively subject to appeal and more effectively placed under public scrutiny.

The power and the influence of the political party has increased at the expense of the individual, and it will come as no surprise to most of my friends and colleagues in this House that that is not a tendency that I deplore. Strong, viable branches of the Australia Labor Party, the Liberal Party, the National Party and the Democratic Party in Western Australia are, in fact, a vital and important guarantee to the future of democracy as an institution. Notwithstanding the romance that is sometimes attached to the notion of the MP who bucks the party system, the only period in this century when stable Government teetered on the brink of collapse was during the first decade when Governments were made and unmade almost exclusively on the basis of competing egos.

Mechanisms and processes by which political leaders today assess the mood of the electorate have increased greatly in sophistication. The seat of the pants intuitive judgments are now supplemented heavily by scientific research and polling. It is only 10 years ago that the Premier and I -- then very much still wet behind the ears -- caused the wrath of the gods to be brought upon our heads in the Labor Caucus when we dared to suggest that some of the scarce financial resources of the party should be spent on basic scientific political research of the electorate.

The events of 1975, which saw the sacking of the Whitlam Government by those who broke convention and who advocated the right of the second Chamber to reject Supply, injected a note of unforgettable seriousness into politics throughout Australia. In this institution, it went a long way towards developing a form of bitterness that had been hitherto unknown.

On a more light-hearted note, a general warning to my parliamentary colleagues on both sides of the House from the retiring Minister for Technology: Representative democracy as we know it only evolved because people were unable to physically assemble in a practical

fashion for the purpose of decision-making. When I was first elected in 1971, approximately 50 to 60 per cent of my constituents' homes had telephones. Today that figure is close to 95 per cent, and by the turn of the century it is quite conceivable that all households will possess their own small but powerful personal family computer. I do not joke when I say that electronic networking could quite conceivably lead to the possibility of the instant general public response. Perhaps one day there will be no need for members of Parliament to argue endlessly into the night about their assessments of what their electors believe or think.

If a retiring member can be permitted in conclusion -- and I emphasise in shorthand -- to glimpse into the future, I want to refer to a number of emerging issues which I know my colleagues on both sides of the House will have to contend with in the immediate to medium-term future.

The increasing level of violence throughout Australia and the impact of 30 years of television has serious implications for the basic fabric of our society.

I have no doubt this Parliament, in the last decade of this century, will need to seriously address the issue of constitutional reform. Our Constitution was adopted in the last decade of the 19th century and was based upon the 17th century British model. I humbly believe in the limitations of that model, and I have serious doubts that the Westminster system can cope unamended with the demands of the next century.

The increasing problems of salinity, particularly in agricultural areas, but increasingly also in the metropolitan area, and the overall limits to the supplies of fresh water for both domestic and industrial purposes in Perth pose a major threat to the expansion of the State's economy.

The new and emerging sectors of the economy, which undoubtedly will provide the engines for growth well into the next century, include information technology, advanced materials, biotechnology, micro-electronics, aquiculture and medical technology. These new and emerging technologies demand that a much more serious interest in science be adopted by this Parliament. A scientist has never been elected to the Western Australian Parliament, and our first Standing Committee on science and technology has yet to be appointed. If scientists exercised anywhere near as much political clout in Australia as farmers or trade unionists, our country would be in the vanguard rather than simply just emerging from the ruck of the current technological revolution.

Australians in all States have to address the need for an export ethos at all levels of our community. None of us is a stranger to the business of export in a very general sense, but we have left the business of export to a small handful of experts, dealing with mega-contracts. Small countries and companies can and have developed valuable international markets which are market-driven and not product-driven.

I say finally in respect of the question of industrial and commercial restructuring that my friends and colleagues have heard me on countless occasions -- and I guess some of them may be tempted, with the sight of me, rear end in view, to say ad nauseam -- refer to the 1980s as the decade of transition. My last word in this place on that subject is that a society which understands the process of industrial and economic change and which can actually relish the process of change is a society which can go on to manage and direct that process.

A career such as mine, which has bridged two decades, inevitably involves a debt of gratitude to a large number of people. At the top of that list is my wife, Elizabeth, who had to contend with the dislocation of our first election campaign only six months after we were married in 1965. I could never have been as effective or lasted as long without her love, her support, her legendary patience and her quite remarkable ability to bring this particular politician back to earth. My four teenage children have adjusted tremendously to the challenges of a family which tends to live the life of a fish in a goldfish bowl. I will embarrass them publicly by making the point that one by one, at a very early age, they learned the trick of gaining the attention of a preoccupied Labor MP for a father by frequently threatening to vote Liberal when they grew up if they did not get their own way.

Mr MacKinnon: They sound like intelligent children.

Mr BRYCE: I begin to wonder whether their eyes were open when they were saying it.

I also wish to extend my sincere thanks to Brian Burke for his friendship and support. After five or six years of tugging at the bit from different directions, it has been a privilege to work in harness with Burkie for the past seven years. I also wish to extend my sincere thanks to the electors of Ascot, who returned me to the Parliament on six successive occasions; to the

party whose endorsement I have very proudly carried; and to my Caucus colleagues, who inevitably become a form of extended family, whether we like it or not, over so many years. I have no doubt I will miss my regular contact with them. I wish to thank the members of the ALP throughout Australia, with whom I have shared moments of great jubilation and great trauma. I also wish to thank the members of my ministerial staff, who have worked prodigious hours, and my four electorate office secretaries: Maxine Henderson, Betty Willmott, Merrilyn O'Sullivan and Judy Mathieson, who have courageously and reliably handled in my absence many tough constituency problems. I would like to thank finally the members of staff in the institution of Parliament.

In conclusion, when one is worn out in this job, like a maturing athlete, one knows it. It is of fundamental importance to the State, the electors, and the political party that we represent that when that realisation strikes, we should not reach out for the cruise button and seek to continue on for years on the basis of our own political capital or on the basis of the inertia of the system, which tends to work in the interests of the sitting member. In a healthy democracy there are always thousands of keen and competent people to take our place.

[Applause.]

### PREMIER

#### *Retirement: Statement*

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balgownie -- Premier) [2.38 pm] -- by leave: I have been a particularly fortunate man. I had no ambition to be Leader of the Parliamentary Labor Party or of the Government when first elected to this Parliament as the member for Balgownie in July 1983, but it has been my privilege to have held both positions, and I have been particularly fortunate because no-one achieves either office without the help and the love of many others, and the support of the community.

My wife, Sue, and I decided soon after the election in 1983 that, God and elections willing, five years would be the maximum I would spend as Premier. There were a number of reasons for our decision. First, five years was as long as we felt able to deliver the concentration and commitment required. Second, we feared the effect on our family of any decision to stay longer than five years. Third, I have always been conscious of my own shortcomings, of the ability of those about me in the Government, and of the need to fulfil the ambitions of young, able and energetic members. Fourth, my view that the proper and efficient management of change is a major requirement for success in any political party. In the past six months Sue and I have reviewed our decision strenuously. We have been complimented by those who have said that I should stay but have decided the reasons for first making our decision have remained valid.

Accordingly, I stand down as Premier on 25 February 1988, the Government's fifth anniversary. I make this decision believing Western Australia is being governed as well as it has since statehood, the Ministry is able and talented, and the backbench reflects a quality not previously seen in the Parliamentary Labor Party. In social and economic terms the management of our State is in good hands.

Though I am standing down as Premier and as a member of this Parliament I hope that I will still be able to render service to our community. It is the Commonwealth Government's intention to offer me the post of Australian Ambassador to Ireland -- a post which I intend to accept and expect to take up in June.

Mr Speaker, the next decade, while full of promise, will be marked by challenging and difficult economic times. Those challenging times will not be met successfully if political or other prejudice dictates our reactions. If I could be presumptuous enough to think that I might be remembered for anything, I hope it will be as a Premier who encouraged soft, rational debate, who served during a period in which there was a lessening of unkind ideological confrontation and a reduction in the blind, cruel prejudice that too often blights our society. If I have done anything to promote an atmosphere of accommodating genuine debate then that is something I am happy to be remembered for; that was the abiding desire of the man who has been the greatest single influence on my life, both personal and political -- my father, Tom. My achievements are to his credit and I hope I have brought some of his forbearance, humility and unselfishness to this Parliament.

It remains only for me to thank the other great influence in my life -- my wife, Sue. Simply

put, without her I would never have got here in the first place and in the absence of her continuing support would have been long gone.

[Applause.]

## PREMIER AND DEPUTY PREMIER

### *Retirement: Statements*

MR MacKINNON (Murdoch -- Leader of the Opposition) [2.42 pm] -- by leave: Today is an historic day in the Western Australian Parliament with the announcement of two retirements on the one day -- unprecedented I would think in Australian politics and certainly Western Australian politics -- that of the Premier and the Deputy Premier. It is an historic occasion also in that we have the involvement of electronic media in this House for the first time, to my knowledge. I intend to speak to the Speaker about that in due course; our party has in recent times supported that involvement.

In 1988 we will see the political landscape in Western Australia inexorably change, not only due to the departures of the Premier and the Deputy Premier but also because of the challenges ahead of us, some of which were commented on by both the Premier and the Deputy Premier. These issues will challenge all political parties in this House.

The Premier said that he was a fortunate man. Mr Speaker, I put it to all members that we are all fortunate people to be members of Parliament; indeed, I think the Premier has been a fortunate man to have achieved all that he has during his time. The record is there for all to see, and history will be the judge of that contribution -- as it has been for all who have preceded us in this Parliament and all others. History will also judge, as some of the most significant achievements of the Premier, his ability to unite the Australian Labor Party -- together with the Deputy Premier and many others in the ALP -- which was so disunited and in a state of disarray for many years; and to then achieve successive electoral victories -- an achievement which has to be admired even by political opponents, and perhaps more so by those opponents. The Premier has probably brought upon the Western Australian community significant change in the way the Government has handled its media relations. The Premier is well known for his expertise in that area, and his ability to handle difficult issues. I repeat, in terms of policy and achievements of Government, history will be the judge of that particular performance.

I extend our thanks to his wife Sue and to his family. We all know the price our families pay when we are in this business and I am sure that Sue and the family have paid just as big a price. Sue has been outstanding in the manner in which she has carried herself through the difficult times that the Premier in his chosen career has had to face. I know that all members from this side of the House join me in extending best wishes to the Premier, his wife Sue and the family for an enjoyable and productive retirement.

Turning now to the Deputy Premier, I do not think anyone could stand in this Parliament and say that there has been another member -- the Premier included -- who has served his party with equal distinction. The Deputy Premier has put aside his own ambitions in the interests of the party, which is not a common occurrence in politics. A testimony to that is the fact that he has been deputy leader of his party for 10 years, which must be some sort of record.

The Deputy Premier's commitment to his leader has ensured stability on his side of politics, which has been very necessary in terms of electoral victory. Again, history will be the judge of his contribution to technology; undoubtedly his recognition of the contribution technology will make was the correct one. The only discordant note I have to make is that I take issue with his comments about the Constitution, which has served us well and long. We will all enter that interesting debate during our bicentennial year.

I extend to Elizabeth and the Bryce family my thanks for the contribution they have made and acknowledge the price they have had to pay for the career which their husband and father has chosen to follow. All members are aware of the contribution made, and join me in extending to the Bryce family our best wishes for whatever the Deputy Premier chooses to undertake in retirement. We hope the family will now see more of him.

As I have said, 1988 will be a dynamic and challenging year, and one which we will all face with interest. The Opposition is well-prepared for the coming year; indeed, better than at any time since becoming the Opposition. Perhaps my only disappointment in entering 1988, and

the subsequent election, will be that the Premier and Deputy Premier will not be here to see our ultimate victory.

**MR COWAN** (Merredin -- Leader of the National Party) [2.49 pm] -- by leave: Mr Speaker, it seems like only yesterday I was invited by the Premier to visit him at his residence to discuss ways to ensure that the National Party would be given recognition as a political party in its own right. I recall then that the Premier said to me that he felt five years in the office he now holds would be sufficient for him. I took that with a grain of salt until two or three months ago when he reminded me of the conversation we had and told me to wait and see whether he would be one of the politicians who kept his word. It is something I have always had some doubt about, but undoubtedly the Premier had set his mind a long time ago that he would make this particular decision. It must have been a very difficult one because a person who reaches the pinnacle of success has some difficulty in making the determination then that it is time to retire.

Both the Deputy Premier and the Premier have spoken about different matters, but the underlying theme of both of them was that they have been career politicians and their contribution to this place has been that one can have a career and at the same time introduce rationale and reason. I am very pleased to say on behalf of the National Party that there have been many occasions when we have been to both the Premier and the Deputy Premier, and despite their ideological convictions and philosophy being quite different from that of the National Party we have been able to put to both of them our particular point of view and reason has prevailed. We have not been able to achieve all the things that we and the National Party would like, but nevertheless reason undoubtedly has prevailed and I thank them for that. There is no question in my mind that during the period of the early 1970s politics in this place became very career orientated and highly idealistic, and it became difficult for other people to see the argument that was being presented on the other side of the House. The Premier is quite right in that he has been able to say to people, "Let us just examine what the other side has to say and let us present or use some rationale or reason in what we are doing." He can say with a degree of accuracy that he has introduced that.

To the Deputy Premier, who spoke of many things, I say that he has shown outstanding loyalty to his party and to his leader. I am certainly not going to wish both members a very happy retirement because they are both younger than I. On behalf of the National Party and all the people in this Chamber we wish them well in whatever pursuit they intend to take up in the future. I am very proud to have been able to spend some time in this Chamber in the company of the pair of them.

[Applause.]

#### THE LATE MR S.E. LAPHAM, MLA

##### *Condolence: Motion*

**MR BRYCE** (Ascot -- Deputy Premier) [2.55 pm]: It is my sad duty to move --

That this House records its sincere regret at the death of Mr Stanley Edward Lapham, on 14 December 1987, former member of this House and Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, and tenders deep sympathy to his widow, Mrs Ruby Lapham, and his family in their bereavement.

Stan Lapham was born in Kalgoorlie in 1907. He was elected to this Parliament in 1953 as member for the seat of North Perth. He held that seat until 1959 when he was defeated by a relatively small margin by the young and up and coming new member, Mr Ray O'Connor. Mr Lapham re-entered this Parliament for a second six year term in 1968 until 1974 when he was again defeated, as the tide swung against the Australian Labor Party. On that occasion he was defeated by the member for Karrinyup, Mr Jim Clarko, who has held that seat since.

Stan Lapham was a professional accountant who, rather than spend his time in commerce, spent most of his years supporting and assisting the development of trade unionism in Western Australia. Between his periods in Parliament he spent a good deal of time as assistant secretary of the Transport Workers Union, the Clothing Trades and Allied Industries Union, and the Chemical Workers Union. I realise that very few members on either side of the House remember Mr Stan Lapham in a personal sense, and this makes me realise that I am becoming one of the longest-serving members of this institution. Stan

would be delighted to know that this tearaway young individual was the person moving this motion. He might not be so terribly happy that it is on the last day I will participate in this House. Stan Lapham sat precisely where the member for Mitchell sits now, and I took my seat alongside him in the Assembly in 1971 where the member for Canning now sits. He spent the last two years of his career and the first two years of mine urging great caution upon me from all directions in respect of everything I wanted to do in politics. I recently sent him a rather large basket of fruit and chocolates in the hospital with a note reminding him of this only a matter of weeks ago before he died.

He was an individual who taught me a great deal about the importance of integrity and caution in politics. Some members can imagine what life might have been like if Stan Lapham had not got hold of me for the first two years and urged that degree of caution. I have spoken to his colleagues like Colin Jamieson, Ron Davies, and Ken McIver, and I pass on to the House the message that they were unanimous in their memory of Stan as a member of Parliament who worked terribly hard in marginal seats all his life, and a man who was an extraordinarily hard worker. He was a most unusual politician who never went out of his way to seek gratification or kudos. The members I mentioned seemed to come together in their comments on him when they said that Stan Lapham preferred to make things succeed rather than be seen to be successful himself.

In conclusion I quote a reference that he made in his maiden speech to this House in 1953 when members were supporting a condolence motion in recognising the passing of three rather well-known members, Hon A.A. Coverley, Hon Sir Hal Colebatch, and Hon H.W. Kitson. Stan Lapham referred on that occasion to --

... the frailty of human life and the knowledge that there is only a short space of time available to one for the accumulation of wisdom and its application to the common good.

He went on to say in reference to those former members that they worked unceasingly in their endeavours to discharge their duties for the welfare of the people. I suggest that these words could very well apply to Stan Lapham himself, and he would be delighted to think that somebody had cared to refer to his maiden speech and find the relevance in those words.

We thank his wife Ruby and her three daughters and their families, in the words of the Leader of the Opposition, for the sacrifice they made during his 12 years' membership of this House, and recognise that they will miss Stan Lapham very much.

**MR CLARKO (Karrinyup) [3.00 pm]:** Stan Lapham was the member for Karrinyup from 1968 to 1974 when he voluntarily retired, something very few parliamentarians do. He previously served as member for North Perth from 1953 to 1959, and was defeated in 1959 by my friend and former leader, Hon Ray O'Connor. I first stood for Parliament in 1971 and was unsuccessful. The sitting member for Karrinyup against whom I stood was Stan Lapham. We fought a most vigorous campaign and some sections of the Press described it as the hardest fought campaign of the 1971 elections. It was nearly as hard as the election of 1973 when I was the campaign chairman for the Liberal Party for the seat of Balcatta when a member from the Australia China Party, who got 30 votes at the top of the list, gave his preferences to the man who has been the most eminent Premier in this State in recent years. I wonder what might have happened to the Premier had the draw been different.

Stan Lapham was the member of Parliament for the council ward I represented and he would frequently attend functions at which I was present. One evening at the Charles Riley Hall in North Beach, one of the most central parts of my electorate, two weeks after the election which we so strenuously fought, Stan came to me in his very courteous and quiet way and said that if I stood for the seat of Karrinyup in three years' time, he was sure I would win it. He said that he hoped that if I won it, it would be with a handsome margin because he said it was not the best way to be a parliamentarian to win a seat as marginal as North Perth and Karrinyup had been. He said that in such seats it was necessary to put aside one's ambitions in terms of parliamentary promotion in order to attend to the day-to-day matters an assiduous member must cope with. I met Stan at hundreds, if not thousands, of functions of this nature. He was always very warmly respected by the people of my area and is still today. My respect for Stan grew very considerably over those years.

The seat of Karrinyup has been represented by only three members of Parliament: The first was Les Nimmo, the member from 1962 to 1968; then Stan Lapham from 1968 to 1974; and I have represented this seat since 1974. Stan is at odds with the other two because we both had the letter "o" at the end of our names; I am surprised he did not have. The Premier will find that in Ireland many people have the letter "o" at the wrong end of their name. We have all tried in our various ways to represent Karrinyup in recent years; it has been an electorate for a very short time. I am sure that of those members Stan will be at the forefront by virtue of his achievements for the community. He was greatly respected and his constituents developed great affection for him.

I offer my deepest sympathy to his wife and all members of his family. Vale, Stan Lapham, former member for Karrinyup; you served your electorate well.

**MR WILLIAMS (Clontarf) [3.04 pm]:** I wish to say a few words about Stan Lapham, not about his time as a member of Parliament but simply as Stan was known best and most affectionately to me as the Secretary of the Clothing and Allied Trades Industrial Union of Workers. Many members know that I am involved in that trade. Stan used to visit my factories in those days and he always had a smile on his face. He was one of the real true blues of the Labor and union fraternity. He would quietly talk with my employees and I could never understand why, after 15 or 20 minutes, he would disappear into the inner office. One day I walked in and discovered him talking to my father, who had retired as a co-director and was helping me as a young fellow in business. He and Stan were great mates in the old goldfields days. I am rather emotional because I loved my father and he loved Stan. They were lovely days when my father and Stan would sit and talk; I used to listen to them because they were mature people who could relate a lot of history. Stan was a beautiful fellow and so was my father. I miss Stan as a member of the Clothing and Allied Trades Union, and I also miss my father. I wish to God they were both with us today.

**MR COWAN (Merredin -- Leader of the National Party) [3.06 pm]:** On behalf of the National Party, I indicate to the House our support of the motion moved by the Deputy Premier and supported by the member for Karrinyup. It was not my privilege to know the late Mr Lapham, but I am sure if my deputy leader had not been prevented from speaking because of his lack of voice, he would have been able to make more personal remarks about Mr Lapham. The National Party conveys its deepest sympathy to Mr Lapham's family.

**MR RUSHTON (Dale) [3.07 pm]:** As one who knew Stan Lapham in this place and knew of his reputation before I entered Parliament in 1965, I can say he was an old-style Labor man. He was deeply respected by everybody in the House during the time when members of all parties would associate freely with each other. One would always be pleased to sit and have a cup of tea with Stan Lapham, to swap notes and trusts. He typified the integrity of Parliament as I knew it when I entered this place in 1965. He subsequently joined in 1968. I had strong feelings for him as a man; I believe Stan Lapham could have fitted into the Liberal Party team because he had that professional approach; he was a man of integrity whom I highly respected. He set a good example for members of Parliament today to try to emulate. He was a kindly person who was sound and humane, and he respected people. We had a very united Parliament in those days because of people like Stan. I support the remarks made by other speakers and convey to his wife, Ruby, and his three daughters my deepest sympathy.

**MR GRAYDEN (South Perth) [3.09 pm]:** I was not aware that Mr Lapham had died and I am extremely sorry to hear it. In 1956 I was pleased to serve with him on a Select Committee appointed by this House to inquire into the welfare of Aborigines in the Western Desert. As a result of the report of that Select Committee a furore occurred throughout Australia; it was a catalyst for the advancement of Aborigines in Australia. Stan Lapham played a very big part in that Select Committee. He was a very sincere and compassionate individual and, were it not for people such as Stan on that Select Committee, the subsequent report would not have been as presented. I rise to express dismay that Stan has died. He was greatly respected by all who knew him and I join with others in expressing sincere sympathy to his wife and family.

**MR BERTRAM (Balcatta) [3.10 pm]:** I join with other members in support of this motion. I wish to speak only briefly because the things which need to be said have for the most part been said already. When I looked at some parliamentary records recently, I noticed that



when Stan Lapham became a member of this Assembly for the first time representing the seat of North Perth he succeeded one Ted Needham who himself had first become a member of Parliament in the year 1904. An indication of the fluctuations of fortune are shown by the fact that Stan Lapham would not have the privilege and honour of being a member of this Parliament for a lengthy term.

It is important to mention that when he became a member of this Parliament in 1953, he was one of those members who made it possible for the Australian Labor Party to become a Government under Bert Hawke. That Government remained in office from 1953 until 1959. The vicissitudes which overtook the Labor Party at the time were really the reason why Stan was defeated. I wonder whether any other candidate of the Labor Party would have been able to hold that seat in the circumstances prevailing at that time.

I may be wrong in this recollection, but I thought he stood unsuccessfully for a seat in 1965. Be that as it may, he did stand again, this time successfully, in 1968, when he became the member for Karrinyup, and he remained there until the boundary commissioners may have had a little to say about the position of Karrinyup, and he was defeated. He left this Parliament for the last time in 1974.

It has already been said that he was a qualified accountant, an associate of the Australian Society of Accountants, and if my recollection is correct, in 1971, or perhaps in 1973, he was Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, which as the media from time to time reminds us is a most prestigious committee. His qualifications would have held him in good stead in that capacity.

Having left the Parliament, he continued the struggle, and he was always prepared to support candidates in succeeding elections. I have a vivid recollection of Stan being out there doorknocking on the hottest of days -- a pretty tough sort of assignment, as most members will understand. He continued his interest in politics, which was good to see.

One can properly say that he was a good husband, a good father, a good member of Parliament, a good and staunch member of the Australian Labor Party, and a very good citizen indeed. At this time of sadness we convey to his wife, Ruby Lapham, and to the family, our very sincere condolences. It is good to be mindful of the fact that Stan at no time was worried by the fact that he was a socialist. He believed in what happens to be the fact, and that is that socialism is the implementation of Christian precepts through political action. Being aware of that, and what I have already said, he set for us all a good example.

Question passed, members standing.

## PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

### *Victoria Park: Petition*

**DR GALLOP** (Victoria Park) [3.15 pm]: I present the following petition --

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

We, the undersigned petitioners point to the dangerous situation now prevailing at the pedestrian crossing opposite the Commonwealth Employment Service in Victoria Park and request that steps be taken to create a safe crossing for the location.

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

The petition bears 63 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

(See petition No 130.)

**SEX SHOPS***Control: Petitions*

**MR CLARKO** (Karrinyup) [3.16 pm]: I present a petition couched in the following terms —

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

We, the undersigned petitioners are concerned about the recent proliferation of Sex Shops and "Adult" Video/Book Shops operating within shopping centres throughout Western Australia. The ready availability of extremely offensive and degrading, violent and sexually explicit videos and publications in our community is a matter of grave concern to all responsible citizens, particularly the parents of young children and teenagers and those who rightly deplore the exploitation of men, women and children.

Extensive research highlights the destructive and desensitising role of such materials in undermining moral values and encouraging deviant and violent tendencies in our society. Indeed, such materials are a major factor in fuelling the increased incidence of crimes of physical violence and sexual abuse in our community.

Further, the distribution of explicit materials which depict and condone various degrading homosexual and heterosexual activities can only assist the spread of the deadly AIDS virus, Hepatitis "B" and other sexually transmissible diseases.

Your petitioners therefore request the Parliament

To approve amendments to the Local Government District Town Planning Scheme so as to prohibit the operation of sex shops and "Adult video/book shops within shopping centres.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 500 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

*(See petition No 131.)*

Similar petitions were presented by Mr MacKinnon (79 persons), Dr Watson (93 persons), Mr Tubby (16 persons), Mr Wilson (20 persons), Mr Court (64 persons), Mr P.J. Smith (79 persons), and Dr Lawrence (521 persons).

*(See petitions Nos 132 to 138.)*

**TRANSPORT: BUSES***Surfboards: Petition*

**MR MARLBOROUGH** (Cockburn) [3.19 pm]: I present a petition couched in the following terms —

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

We, the undersigned residents of Western Australia, wish to record our objection to the additional fare of 95¢ now charged to allow fare paying passengers to take their surfboard or boogieboard on to Transperth Services.

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

The petition bears 282 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

*(See petition No 139.)*

## RESERVES AND LAND REVESTMENT BILL (No 2)

### *Council's Amendments*

Amendments made by the Council now considered.

#### *In Committee*

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Burkett) in the Chair; Mr Wilson (Minister for Lands) in charge of the Bill.

The amendments made by the Council were as follows --

No 1.

Clause 20:

Page 6, lines 10 to 18 -- To delete the clause.

No 2.

Clause 24:

Page 7, lines 16 to 24 -- To delete the clause.

Mr WILSON: I move --

That amendment No 1 made by the Council be agreed to.

The Government accepts the Council's decision on clause 20; however, it is the Government's intention to pick up statements made in the upper House about this reserve and to ask the Valuer General to value the property and fix a fair rate for it. Other than that, the Government accepts this amendment.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Mr WILSON: I move --

That amendment No 2 made by the Council be agreed to.

We honestly believe that the opposition in the upper House to clause 24 was based on a misunderstanding by a member in that House. However, to save the time of the Chamber we do not intend to pursue the clause at this stage but will bring it back in the next reserve Bill.

Mr COWAN: Before the Minister brings this matter back to the Parliament in the form of another reserve Bill I think he should consult very closely with the Kulin Shire Council on two matters. The first is that the area of the reserve previously has been used for the purpose of taking gravel and some arrangement should be made with the Kulin Shire Council as to the accessibility of that gravel from that part of the reserve. The second point is that the people within the Kulin Shire have used that reserve for recreational purposes, not on many occasions but on the odd occasion. In changing the designation or nature of that reserve it would be appropriate for the Minister to consult with the shire to ensure that the reserve can be put to some recreational use whenever the people of the area so desire. If that consultation takes place I am quite sure that the small hiccup which saw this amendment come through will not be repeated.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

#### *Report*

Resolutions reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

### **BILLS (5): RETURNED**

1. Appropriation (General Loan and Capital Works Fund) Bill.
2. Acts Amendment (Public Service) Bill.
3. Loan Bill.
4. Appropriation (Consolidated Revenue Fund) Bill.
5. Industrial Relations Amendment Bill (No 4).

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

**ACTS AMENDMENT (IMPRISONMENT AND PAROLE) BILL***Council's Message*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Assembly.

**ROAD TRAFFIC AMENDMENT BILL (No 2)***Council's Message*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it did not insist on its amendment No 3.

**CHILD WELFARE AMENDMENT BILL (No 2)***Council's Message*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Assembly, subject to a further amendment.

*In Committee*

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Burkett) in the Chair; Mr Wilson (Minister for Housing) in charge of the Bill.

The further amendment made by the Council was as follows --

No 1.

**New Clause 11:****Review and report**

11. (1) The Attorney General shall, commencing on the second anniversary of the commencement day, carry out a review of the operation and effectiveness of sections 23A to 23C of the principal Act as enacted by this Act and shall prepare a report based on his review of those provisions.

(2) The Attorney General shall cause the report prepared for the purposes of subsection (1) to be laid before each House of Parliament not later than 6 months after the second anniversary of the commencement day and if a House of Parliament is not then sitting, shall cause the report to be laid before such House within 6 sitting days of the House.

(3) In subsections (1) and (2) "commencement day" means the day on which section 8 of this Act comes into operation.

Mr WILSON: I move --

That the further amendment made by the Council be agreed to.

Mr HASSELL: The Minister will no doubt recall that after a somewhat vigorous debate on this amendment to the Act, I told him he would be back here today moving an amendment to try to fix up the mess the Government was making of its own legislation. The Minister is at this moment doing precisely that. The course of action which has been taken is to provide for the Government to have its legislation reviewed.

I am not going to delay the House today in a further fruitless debate, trying to convince the Minister -- who is only representing, and who is not personally responsible for the legislation -- that the clauses as enacted are wholly unsatisfactory and are contrary to the advice given to the Government, but that is my view, based at least in part on the advice given to the Government by the Crown Law Department, and tabled in this House by the Minister representing. All I say is that this is an inadequate method of getting out of the dilemma which the Government has found itself in, and it does not satisfy the fundamental weakness of the provisions being incorporated in the Bill. I make now another prediction that long before this review takes place, the Act will be further amended to fix up the mess the Government is making. Be that as it may, this legislation rests on the Government's own head.

Question put and passed; the Council's further amendment agreed to.

*Report*

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

**RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES BILL**

*Returned*

Bill returned from the Council with amendments.

*Council's Amendments: In Committee*

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Burkett) in the Chair; Mr Taylor (Minister for Consumer Affairs) in charge of the Bill.

The amendments made by the Council were as follows --

No 1.

Clause 7.

Page 6, lines 1 and 2 -- To delete subparagraph (ii).

No 2.

Clause 15.

Page 12, after line 26 -- To insert the following subsection --

- (4) Upon an application with respect to the breach of an agreement, the referee shall take into account any previous breaches by the tenant of the agreement.

No 3.

Clause 22.

Page 16, lines 17 to 20 -- To delete paragraph (b).

No 4.

Clause 42.

Page 27, lines 4 to 6 -- To delete subclause (2).

No 5.

Clause 43.

Page 27, line 12 -- To delete the line and substitute the following --  
in making urgent repairs to premises where --

No 6.

Clause 44.

Page 28, lines 15 to 18 -- To delete subsection (2).

No 7.

Clause 46.

Page 29, line 28 -- To delete the figure "14" and substitute the figure "21".

No 8.

Clause 49.

Page 31, line 8 -- To insert before "consent" the following --  
written

No 9.

Clause 49.

Page 31, line 9 -- To insert after "makes" the following --  
or is deemed to make

No 10.

Clause 49.

Page 31, after line 14 -- To insert the following subsection --

- (3) Where an agreement does not make any of the provisions described in subsection (1) the agreement shall be deemed to contain the provision described in subsection (1)(c).

No 11.

Clause 71.

Page 41, line 20 -- To insert after "breach" the following --  
but in every case the referee shall take into account any previous breaches of the agreement by the tenant.

No 12.

Clause 86.

Page 51, line 6 -- To delete the figure "4" and substitute the figure "2".

No 13.

Schedule 1.

Page 53, line 3 -- To delete the figure "7" and substitute the figure "14".

No 14.

New Clause 90.

Page 52, after line 9 -- To insert the following new clause --

#### Review of the Act

90. (1) The Minister shall carry out, or cause to be carried out, a review of the operation of this Act as soon as practicable after the expiration of 2 years from the coming into operation of this Act.

(2) The Minister shall prepare a report based on his review of this Act and shall as soon as practicable after the preparation thereof, cause the report to be laid before each House of Parliament.

Mr TAYLOR: I move --

That the amendments made by the Council be agreed to.

The amendments are not as onerous as I may have otherwise expected. However, there is a particularly important point I should make regarding one of the amendments which effectively halves the fee a real estate agent can charge an owner for letting his premises from four weeks' rent to two weeks' rent. It is unfortunate because the amendment will impose some hardship on the agents and others involved in the real estate letting business. Nevertheless, I take this opportunity to inform those people involved in that business that the Government will be prepared to have another look at this amendment and, if it is necessary, in the next session of Parliament it will ask the Legislative Council to reconsider its decision. The amendment could have serious effects on the viability of agents, but there may be other ways in which to overcome the difficulty. The Government has no choice but to accept this message, but it gives a guarantee that it will endeavour to ask the Legislative Council to reconsider this matter should the amendment cause hardship in the industry.

Mr MacKINNON: I take this opportunity to address the question of the general conduct of the Government in the Parliament in regard to the legislation which has been presented in the last few weeks. The statistics show that 86 Bills have been debated since September and 25 of those were introduced in the last three weeks prior to the scheduled completion date of the Parliament. Over 25 per cent of those 25 Bills were amended by the Parliament. The worst, or the best, whichever way one wants to look at it in terms of performance, was the Residential Tenancies Bill. Eighty-odd amendments to the Bill were accepted by this Chamber and several others were accepted by the Legislative Council. I hope that in 1988, regardless of whoever leads the Labor Party, we see a better approach to the management of this Parliament.

Mr Cash: Who will lead the Labor Party?

Mr MacKINNON: That is a good question.

Mr CASH: There is a good headline in this evening's paper.

Mr MacKINNON: The evening paper says there is a three-way challenge for the leadership. It may be a five-way fight tomorrow when the member for Bunbury throws his hat into the ring.

I hope that in 1988 there will, first, be a better flow of work into the Parliament and that it is not jammed into the last part of the session, as we have seen in this instance, and when it is difficult for the Government and the Opposition to give proper consideration to the legislation. Secondly, I hope there will be better consultation with the community prior to the legislation being presented to the Parliament. I instance in particular the building societies and credit unions legislation which was brought into this Parliament without any consultation with the industry and which, as a consequence, required a major amendment to be made to the legislation. Finally, if we are to have legislation brought in at the end of the session, some prior consultation should be made with the Opposition so that it is better able to progress that legislation through this Parliament.

To my way of thinking the last few weeks of Parliament have been absolutely crazy. There is no need for parliamentarians to sit in this place at all hours of the night if the Government of the day gives better attention to legislation. This Bill is a classic example of how not to manage a piece of legislation coming into the Parliament if the Government wants it effectively treated.

Mr COWAN: I want to place on record the fact that when members of the National Party first read this residential tenancies legislation we had grave reservations about it. As members in this Chamber are aware, several amendments were made to the Bill which may, or may not, in the eyes of those people who will be subject to it, be the right thing.

However, one of the amendments that is to be inserted in this series of amendments is that which is before us and relates to the review of the legislation. We see that as being very important. It is essential, when breaking new ground with legislation such as this, that it is reviewed. I am quite sure the Minister may have requested his department to conduct such a review, but now there is a statutory requirement that will allow that to happen and it makes the National Party members feel a little easier.

The National Party hopes that once the review has been undertaken it is tabled in the Parliament and we may see some further amendments to this legislation which will only improve it. Nevertheless, we now have a base around which this legislation can begin and, subject to the review, it can be built on to provide some value to those people who are either landlords or tenants. The National Party appreciates the reasonableness of the Government in being prepared to accept the amendments it put forward.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

#### *Report*

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

#### **ACTS AMENDMENT (TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD BETTING) BILL**

#### *Returned*

Bill returned from the Council with amendments.

*Council's Amendments: In Committee*

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Dr Lawrence) in the Chair; Mrs Beggs (Minister for Racing and Gaming) in charge of the Bill.

The amendments made by the Council were as follows --

No 1.

Clause 7.

Page 4, line 27 Paragraph (c) -- To delete subparagraph (iv).

No 2.

Clause 12.

Page 6, after line 21 -- To insert the following paragraph (c) --

(c) by inserting the following subsection --

- (2) The Minister shall not approve the establishment of a totalisator agency in any licensed premises unless the portion of those premises which is to be used as a totalisator agency is clearly defined.

No 3.

Clause 25.

Page 12, lines 2 to 12 -- To delete the clause and substitute the following --

25. Section 42 of the principal Act is amended by deleting the penalty provision at the foot of the section and substituting the following --

"Penalty: \$200."

No 4.

Clause 26.

Page 12, lines 14 to 18 -- To delete the clause and substitute the following --

26. Section 43 of the principal Act is amended by deleting the penalty provision at the foot of the section and substituting the following --

"Penalty: \$200."

No 5.

Clause 27.

Page 12, line 20 to Page 13, line 3 -- To delete the clause and substitute the following --

27. Section 44 of the principal Act is amended by deleting the penalty provision at the foot of the section and substituting the following --

"Penalty: \$200."

Mrs BEGGS: I move --

That the amendments made by the Council be agreed to.

After discussion with the Totalisator Agency Board and members of the upper House who dealt with this piece of legislation, I have no difficulty in accepting the amendments.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

*Report*

Resolution reported, report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.



**BILLS (24): ASSENT**

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

1. Trustees Amendment Bill.
2. Housing Loan Guarantee Amendment Bill.
3. Alumina Refinery Agreements (Alcoa) Amendment Bill.
4. Iron Ore (Cleveland-Cliffs) Agreement Amendment Bill.
5. Solar Energy Research Amendment Bill.
6. Petroleum Amendment Bill.
7. Minerals and Energy Research Bill.
8. Rottmest Island Authority Bill.
9. Local Courts Amendment Bill (No 2).
10. Silicon (Picton) Agreement Bill.
11. Door to Door Trading Amendment Bill.
12. Transport Co-ordination Amendment Bill (No 2).
13. Pay-roll Tax Assessment Amendment Bill.
14. Pay-roll Tax Amendment Bill.
15. Acts Amendment (Port Authorities) Bill.
16. Bills of Sale Amendment Bill.
17. Acts Amendment (Parliamentary Superannuation) Bill.
18. Fisheries Amendment Bill (No 2).
19. Acts Amendment (Child Care Services) Bill.
20. Criminal Code Amendment Bill (No 2).
21. Motor Vehicle (Third Party Insurance) Amendment Bill.
22. Gold Banking Corporation Bill.
23. Stamp Amendment Bill (No 2).
24. Chattel Securities Bill.

**CLOSE OF SESSION***Complimentary Remarks*

**MR BRIAN BURKE** (Balga -- Premier) [4.14 pm]: Mr Speaker and members, we come to the end of the session and, as has been noted, it is probably a historic end of the session for the retirement of the Premier and the Deputy Premier. Nevertheless, it is important that we note the contribution made to the successful and productive running of the Parliament by so many people on whom we all depend. They are in some cases different people, it is true; nevertheless, our dependence upon their support is very marked.

Firstly, I thank the Deputy Premier and the Ministers, as well as the backbench members of the Government, for the way in which they have provided such unstinting loyalty and support to the Government, to me personally, and to each other. In my view, one of the hallmarks of this Government's successful performance has been that, generally speaking, the members of the Government, including the backbenchers, appear to like each other, to get on well together, and try to support each other, certainly to the exclusion in most instances of any personal ambition. While some people might see situations that develop as being situations in which the Deputy Premier or I appear to instruct or to manage, there is no doubt that one can instruct or manage only if the propositions being put forward make sense and if the people to whom one is putting those propositions are prepared to entertain and consider them seriously. I am absolutely grateful for the way in which all of the members of the Government, both here and in another place, have played a role in trying to ensure the Government's persistent success.

I thank you, Mr Speaker, for your forbearance and for the way in which you have discharged your responsibilities. I know that from time to time your attitudes and statements have been a touch controversial, but it seems to me that underlying those statements or actions is the foundation for that controversy, in your view, that there should be changes to the Parliament and that there should be improvements in the way in which members are catered for by the building and by the staff -- by the institution in total. I suppose anyone who sets about to change something that appears to be as consistently persistent as is this Parliament will always suffer the criticism and the attacks of other people. Very often those criticisms and attacks are unjustified and on the occasions that they have been justified I note that you have been the first to acknowledge the justification and to admit your error. So I say to you, Mr Speaker, that your job has been a difficult one but your responsibilities in my view have been discharged admirably and very impartially and this Parliament and its debates have proceeded at a proper level largely because of the way in which you have done your job.

To the Clerks and Officers of the Parliament, can I say thank you very much, not just for the efforts you have made during the past session but for the efforts and intelligent contribution for which you have been responsible for the many years I have been a member of this Parliament. I think that in Mr Okely and Mr Farrell we certainly have officers of rare capacity and impartiality; of course, not just those qualities are reflected in their attitudes -- they are very friendly and accommodating people without side and with a willingness to assist wherever it is possible. To the Clerks and Officers of the Parliament, thank you very much. The Parliament is richer for the way in which you have discharged your obligations. Hansard in the past two weeks has had a fairly torrid time and my thanks go to the Hansard staff on behalf of the Government for the way in which they have stuck to a fairly onerous task into the early hours of the morning, sometimes in difficulty and certainly, in the past few weeks, in tiredness. To the library staff, thank you very much for the way in which you have made your professional services available to assist members. I am sure that all members appreciate the way in which the library has functioned to their benefit.

To the Chief Steward and all of the attendants throughout the Parliament, thank you very much for your unflinching courtesy, particularly in the latter part of the session, in the early hours of the morning, and in the face of sometimes rushed mealtimes and quite stressful situations. I am not aware of any rudeness on the part of any of the staff although I must say that from time to time -- not recently but in past years -- I have been aware that some members have not been as polite as they might otherwise be to stressed and tired but willing staff. So to the Chief Steward and all of his assistants in the Bar and other parts of the building, and to the Controller of the building particularly, who is responsible in the final analysis, I say thank you very much for your willingness and assistance. The job of the ladies in the post office is a difficult one in a fairly restricted space. They have been very courteous and friendly, very confidential, and very helpful in trying to make sure the Parliament proceeds smoothly. To the two young policemen -- and we seem these days to have two; previously we only had one and for many years it was Constable Potter, who among other defects, barracked for South Fremantle -- who have superseded Constable Potter --

Mr Pearce: I bet together they do not weigh as much as Constable Potter.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Together they do not weigh anywhere near as much as Constable Potter, but we are comforted and secured by their presence and we hope that they are not too wide-eyed or at times too worried about the performances of people down here. To the gardeners who make Parliament House look so attractive outside and who provide flowers for its interior decoration, thank you very much. The satisfaction that you must feel in growing such lovely flowers and in tending such fine gardens is, I am sure, very marked and enjoyable. To the Press corps -- and there is only one member of it there now -- thank you very much for your reportage of the proceedings of Parliament. Generally speaking members of Parliament do not really have any substantial complaints, but from time to time perspectives differ and members of Parliament and journalists, too, have jaundiced views about their own performances and, as a result of reflecting those views, they sometimes cross swords as to the quality of reporting. Nevertheless, all members respect and value a free Press and the role the Press plays in publicising debates in this Parliament and in propagating the views that members of Parliament, in Government and in Opposition, hold from time to time about controversial and other issues. I suppose we do sometimes comment that

invariably the concentration of the media's attention is on controversy and not on the orthodox or normal, but that has always been the case as far as I remember in my experience. So, to all the members of the Press corps from all of the different media, thank you very much for your work during the year.

To all of the people whom I have mentioned and to all members of the Opposition, as well as to the members of the public who are present, I extend the very best wishes of the Government for a happy and healthy Christmas and an enjoyable and satisfying New Year. There will be changes in Parliament and I do not suppose anyone will miss the changes more than the Deputy Premier and me. It will certainly be difficult to become used to not crossing political swords or having the political adrenalin running in our veins, but I think that is probably something that can be endured in our view in the quest for the proper management of our party. That is, of course, what the decisions taken today are all about. I hope that everyone has a happy and healthy Christmas --

Mr Thompson: Are you taking Vince to Ireland?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I would be too frightened of the questions asked by the member for Cottesloe.

I hope that everyone's families also have a healthy year and that everyone is as free of worries as they can be.

MR MacKINNON (Murdoch -- Leader of the Opposition) [4.24 pm]: I thank very much my colleagues on this side of the Houses, not just in the Legislative Assembly but in the Legislative Council, for their contribution during this session. The manner in which they have approached debate has been signified by the large number of amendments accepted by the Government and successfully moved by members opposite in both Houses of Parliament. It is a testimony to the long hours that members of the Opposition have been prepared to put into the legislation.

In particular, the last weeks have been very difficult for many of my colleagues, and I thank them for the way in which they have put their shoulders to the wheel and have contributed in a significant way to the improvement of legislation presented to Parliament. I also extend to all of the people mentioned by the Premier who have anything to do with the running of this Parliament -- the Clerks, the Hansard staff, all of the dining room staff, the telephone girls, the bar people, the attendants, and the gardeners and anybody else who has anything to do with the running of Parliament -- our thanks for their contributions throughout the year. I also thank on behalf of members of the Opposition our staff. We have scarce resources, as indeed Oppositions do, but our staff work many long hours above and beyond the call of duty. I thank all of the people in our own offices for their contribution over the past 12 months.

This session has been significant, as the Premier said, not just for the retirement today of the Premier and Deputy Premier, but also, as members will recall, for the resignation of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. It has been an historic session in terms of the retirement of significant parliamentary leaders, and it is one which is not likely to be repeated for some time. The National Party is still present in all its forms. The session was also significant from the Opposition's point of view in respect of the by-elections in October and the election of new members to this House and to the other House. That was a significant result from the Opposition's point of view and one that has laid a very firm foundation for our future success. We welcome very much to this Parliament the member for Darling Range and the member for Gascoyne, and we welcome to the other place the member for South West Province; all of these new members are destined to play a significant role in the future operation of the Opposition, for a short time, and then the Government. As the member for Mt Lawley said, I think in some small way their election has contributed to the decision made by the Premier and Deputy Premier to retire.

I conclude by passing on my best wishes to all involved in the Press Gallery. As the Premier says, when one looks at the reporting of Parliament sometimes one wonders whether one is in the same building as the reporters; nonetheless, they do the job as they see it and over the years we have had a good relationship with the Press Gallery at Parliament House. We thank the Press for its contribution to the running of this Parliament. To all members of Parliament, staff, the police, members of the Press Gallery and all concerned with

Parliament, I extend, on behalf of the Opposition, all the best for Christmas and the New Year. Please drive carefully over this busy time so that there is no addition to the road toll statistics, which we do not want to see growing.

**MR COWAN** (Merredin -- Leader of the National Party) [4.26 pm]: It has been a very exhausting session, which has tested the patience and tolerance both of members of Parliament and all the people who work here and are involved with this place. The legislative programme has, to my knowledge, been one of the longest and most difficult that we have ever encountered in the course of one session. I have never witnessed so much new ground being broken in any one period of time. That has lent to the difficulty of the session itself.

It is very difficult being the third person to speak in this most disorderly debate, without offering some rather tedious repetition, but I think it is appropriate that on behalf of the National Party I convey to all people who work within this Parliament and indeed immediately outside -- the Clerks, attendants, Hansard staff, the steward staff, and everybody involved in this place -- my thanks for their patience and for their willingness to bear with some rather testy, at times, members of Parliament. As the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier have said, this has been an historic session in more ways than one. For the first time a Premier and a Deputy Premier have announced their retirement. There have been some changes on this side of the House and I am quite sure that everybody will look forward to a very interesting new session in the New Year, but of course we have to get through Christmas. I thank my colleagues for their support. To members of the Government and Opposition I say a very merry Christmas and a very prosperous 1988.

**MR HASSELL** (Cottesloe) [4.31 pm]: I did not want to interrupt the very set proceedings that applied in the early part of the day when the Premier announced his position and the Deputy Premier his, but as one of the two Liberal leaders who have confronted the Premier at an election I did not want the day to pass without putting on record a short but sincere tribute to him from my point of view. I think it goes without saying that he was always a formidable opponent, and I never minded that. I was disappointed that in our one election campaign we did not have a face to face debate. I understood very well his political reasons for not doing so -- in a sense it was a kind of tribute in reverse, but he no doubt had very good advice that precluded him from taking up the challenge to a debate. Leaving that aside, and leaving aside any comment about the Premier's Government in general, or its record in particular -- all of those things will be analysed and judged in other places and at other times -- I think the tribute that stands most firmly on the record, although as yet not analysed, about Brian Burke as Premier and as Leader of the Opposition was his capacity for discipline, a discipline that was essential to the success that he achieved. He was able to discipline himself in terms of his own presentation and conduct and in terms of the lifestyle that he lived. It was that strength of self discipline, which is always such an example to others, that I see as the really great strength of Mr Burke in his lead-up to becoming Premier. He was then able to apply that discipline to his colleagues.

As someone who sat in this place through those years I saw a situation of a group of people who sat on this side of the House and presented themselves badly, often behaved badly, and were often dressed badly. Under his leadership we saw a progression to a situation where those people were well behaved, properly spoken, and dropped some of their more extreme utterances in favour of a more disciplined approach, certainly dressed properly and uniformly, and became people who were able to represent a point of view which was acceptable to the people they aspired to govern, and came to govern. To me those are the qualities which gave the Premier, when Leader of the Opposition, his strength and which led to his success as the leader of a team which achieved what it set out to achieve -- the gaining of Government. This allowed him through the years of his premiership to be pre-eminent amongst his colleagues, never to be challenged either in his position -- which was not contemplated -- or, more particularly, in his authority. Those are the qualities in him that I have quietly admired and continue to do so.

**Mr Brian Burke:** Thank you very much.

**ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL**

On motion by Mr Pearce (Leader of the House), resolved --

That the House at its rising adjourn until a day and time to be fixed by Mr Speaker.

*House adjourned at 4.33 pm*

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## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

TRANSPORT: BUSES  
*Westrail: Booking Delays*

2856. Mr HOUSE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware of the long delays being experienced by country booking agents when telephoning to purchase tickets for the country Westrail bus service?
- (2) If yes, what is being done to alleviate the problem?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The present computerised intrastate booking system has unfortunately proved to be inefficient in handling inquiries and processing bookings, particularly during peak booking times. The problem has been compounded recently with heavy bookings associated with the additional patronage of the new *Australind* service. Essentially delays are caused by slow computer response times to operator commands. The slow response times are symptomatic of the inability of the computer's capacity to handle peak work loads. This in turn adds to the time each client spends on the phone making a reservation and causes a backlog of clients waiting for service on the telephone queuing system.

In order to rectify the computer problems, steps are being taken to progressively upgrade the computerised information booking system. It is expected that the upgrading will considerably improve the response times, allowing a booking to be completed more quickly and efficiently. A speed-up of elapsed booking times will effectively enable more customers to be dealt with in the same span of time. It is anticipated the total CIBS upgrade will be completed by December 1988, with significant improvements to the current problems being apparent by late February 1988. However, to improve customer service in the interim period, four extra booking staff have been deployed at the Perth Terminal reservation centre and two extra staff have been deployed at the Bunbury Terminal to assist reservation staff to handle the increase in booking inquiries.

ROADS: CONDITION  
*Comments*

2864. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware of the recent comments of the former Commissioner of Main Roads reported in the *Daily News* on 30 November 1987 in which the former commissioner said, "The department is losing the battle to keep Western Australia's roads in a fit condition for vital service traffic and tourists"?
- (2) Does he support these views?
- (3) What action has he taken since becoming Minister for Transport to reverse this situation of deteriorating roads?

Mr TROY replied:

(1)-(3)

I am, of course, aware of the comments in the *Daily News* of 30 November regarding the condition of the State road system. In his 1985-86 annual report, the former Commissioner of Main Roads, Mr Don Aitken, drew attention to the increasing age of the road system and the fact that the cost of the "four Rs" programme -- restoration, resurfacing, rehabilitation, and reconstruction -- will increase as the road system gets older. The Government is well placed to consider the longer term implications for the

road system as it has received a number of reports on the overall issue from several aspects.

I commend to members careful consideration of the comprehensive report entitled "Roads Outlook Western Australia 1987-1997", June 1987 prepared by the Main Roads Department. The Australian roads outlook report prepared by the National Association of Australian State Road Authorities, November 1987, has now been released. The Federal Bureau of Transport Economics Report 61 "Assessment of the Australian Road System: 1987", November 1987 has just been released. These are all important contributions to the road funding debate and will be taken into consideration by the Government in determining its overall strategy for roads in Western Australia.

I think all members are well aware of the difficulties that State Ministers for Transport have had over the years in obtaining a fair share of road funds from Commonwealth sources. I do not underestimate the task in the future in this regard. Nevertheless, the debate needs to be on a rational plane and involve all levels of Government -- Federal, State, and local. All the Australian States face a problem in meeting the increasing cost of maintaining ageing road systems. In this situation, it is unfortunate that the ABRD programme does not permit expenditure on maintenance. I have already made representations to the Federal Minister on this issue and will take further action to convince him that maintenance should be permitted under the new legislation that will replace the ABRD programme. In the final analysis, the road requirements must be considered in the overall budgetary context.

#### STATESHIPS

##### *Papua New Guinea*

2881. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Further to question 2708 of 1987, how many voyages did Stateships make to Papua New Guinea during 1985-86 in order to generate the \$1.1 million which he suggested Stateships had generated during 1985-86?
- (2) In view of his answer to (2)(c), how does he reconcile his claim that the Stateships deficit has decreased, and that the Papua New Guinea extension has contributed significantly to this achievement when the 1986-87 Budget papers clearly indicate that the Stateships deficit has increased for the period 1986-87?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) Two.
- (2) The audited accounts for the commission for the 12 months to 31 December 1986 -- which includes only three months of operating to Papua New Guinea -- show a deficit of \$17.845 million -- \$18.452 million in 30 June 1987 values. The audited accounts for the 12 months to 30 June 1987, which includes nine months of operating to Papua New Guinea, show a deficit of \$16.321 million. This is an improvement of some 12 per cent in real terms.

#### STATESHIPS

##### *Papua New Guinea*

2882. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When did the Stateships service to Papua New Guinea commence?
- (2) Was he correctly quoted in the *Daily Commercial News* on 20 October 1986 when discussing the proposed Stateships service to Papua New Guinea that "this new service will confer significant benefits on Western Australia that includes cargoes producing gross annual freight revenue of around A\$5 million"?

(3) How much revenue has the first 12 months of the service generated?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) MV *Koolinda* sailed from Fremantle on 24 September 1986 on the first scheduled liner service voyage to Papua New Guinea. The ship arrived at Lae on 13 October 1986 and Port Moresby on 16 October 1986.
- (2) Yes. My belief that potential trade from Western Australia to Papua New Guinea will result in this level of freight has been reinforced by my recent visit to Papua New Guinea with the trade mission from Western Australia.
- (3) As indicated in my answer to question 2310, I do not propose to divulge information which could be of advantage to Stateships' competitors. However, I can say that in the first 12 months Stateships has already achieved gross freight of \$2.24 million.

#### PORTS AND HARBOURS: FREMANTLE

##### *Containers Handled*

2885. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the average number of containers handled per hour at Fremantle?
- (2) How does this rate of handling compare with the ports of Melbourne, Sydney, and Singapore?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) 15-20 containers per hour of working time.
- (2) This information is currently being gathered, and the member will be advised in writing.

#### TRADE: EXPORTS

##### *Papua New Guinea*

2892. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

In his answer to question 2708 on Wednesday, 25 November 1987, he suggested that export trade from Western Australia to Papua New Guinea would amount to --

- |     |         |                         |
|-----|---------|-------------------------|
| (a) | 1985-86 | \$1.1 million;          |
| (b) | 1986-87 | \$12.4 million,         |
| (c) | 1987-88 | \$20 million estimated. |

Can he advise the likely freight revenue which will be generated by Stateships for the transport of these commodities?

Mr TROY replied:

I refer the member to my answers (2) and (3) to question 2882.

#### POLICE: HOUSING

##### *Northam*

2906. Mr TRENORDEN, to the Minister for Housing:

With reference to question 1393 of 1987, has any representation been made by the Police Department for urgent allocation of police housing in Northam above the figure given in answer to question 1393 of 1987?

Mr WILSON replied:

The Police Department has not made representation to me for urgent allocation of additional housing in Northam as all police officers in that town are considered by the department to be adequately housed. I am advised that the Police Department is progressively upgrading police accommodation and will consider making an approach to me upon receipt of factual information which requires intervention on an urgent basis.



**TRANSPORT: WESTRAIL**  
*Corporate Identity*

2909. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Adverting to my question 2835 of 8 December 1987, has Westrail expressed a preference for maintaining Westrail's corporate identity?
- (2) Has the policy of commercialisation of Westrail been deferred or stopped?
- (3) Is the Western Australian Development Corporation managing Westrail's cash balances through FundsCorp and/or is it intended to do so?
- (4) What is the total number of people employed by Westrail, and on what date was the last count taken?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) This question is premature as it is not known at this time what the outcome of the inquiry will be.
- (2) No. The Minister assisting the Minister for Public Sector Management and I are currently finalising a proposal for implementing a commercialisation package.
- (3) No.
- (4) 5 810 as at 27 November 1987.

**ROAD FUNDING**  
*Claims*

2917. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware of the claims by the Country Shire Councils Association of Western Australia, published in the *Daily News* on Tuesday, 8 December 1987, of the Federal Government's "chicken feed" funding for roads?
- (2) Further, is he aware of the comments of the Australian Asphalt Paving Association on the problems associated with the rapid deterioration of some Western Australian roads due to inadequate State road funding?
- (3) What action does he intend to take to immediately improve these situations?

Mr TROY replied:

(1)-(3)

I refer the member to my answer to a similar question asked by him on 9 December -- No 2864. I add to that answer that the road system is not going to fall apart overnight. I agree, however, that the funding issue for roads is a long-term problem which needs addressing. Alternative management strategies can stretch out the asset's life. The Main Roads Department identifies this as one of the critical issues to be faced in the period ahead and is taking positive steps to organise strategies so as to avoid any dramatic downturn in the level of service.

Quite obviously this will require additional resources being allocated to maintenance activities, and I am quite confident that the Government can achieve a balanced programme. This is not to say, however, that I will not continue to press for increased Federal Government funding for roads.

**TRANSPORT: BUSES**  
*School: Forest Crescent*

2923. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Can he advise the proposed bus route to the new Forest Crescent school in Thornlie from Canning Vale to Thornlie?
- (2) Has he inspected the proposed route, and if not will he do so as soon as possible?

Mr TROY replied:

The member will be advised in writing.

**PARLIAMENTARY SUPERANNUATION FUND**  
*Matching Contribution*

2925. Mr STEPHENS, to the Treasurer:

With respect to the Parliamentary Superannuation Act 1970, in each of the previous three years --

- (a) how much was the Government's matching contribution,
- (b) how much did the Government contribute to offset the actuarial deficiency in the fund?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

(a)-(b)

The amount of concurrent contribution and actuarial subsidy paid by the State to the Parliamentary Superannuation Fund during the financial years 1984-85 to 1986-87 is as follows --

Year	Concurrent Contributions	Actuarial Subsidy
1984-85	921 740	1 610 813
1985-86	976 253	1 706 232
1986-87	1 058 436	1 775 102

**TEACHERS CREDIT SOCIETY**  
*Advances*

2927. Mr HASSELL, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Has the Government made any advance of funds to the Rural and Industries Bank in respect of its operation of Teachers Credit Society?
- (2) Has the bank made any request for such funds, and has the request been approved by him?
- (3) Has he yet received any report, formal or informal, interim or of the nature of a briefing, as to the likely overall outcome or impact of the Teachers Credit Society operation by the Rural and Industries Bank?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

(1)-(2)

No advance or request has been made in respect of any losses that may arise in respect of the society.

(3) No.

**ROAD MAINTENANCE**  
*Programme*

2928. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

Is the current Main Roads Department road maintenance programme adequate to reduce significantly the backlog of reconstruction work on roads under the control of the department and based on a life of 35 years?

Mr TROY replied:

In developing the Main Roads Department programme each year, priority is always given to maintenance to ensure that the State's road assets are preserved. If roads had a finite life of 35 years, the department would have to reconstruct an average of 323 kilometres of highways and main roads a year. However, while some sections of road may last less than 35 years, other can last considerably longer. The life can be extended by careful management and the use of rehabilitative measures. The department's 1987-88 programme provides for reconstructing 126 kilometres and rehabilitating some 120 kilometres.

I refer the member to the answer to question 2864, which indicated the severe limitation under the ABRD programme to consider road maintenance expenditure. This matter has been strongly represented to the Federal Government previously on a number of occasions and will again be advanced early in the new year.

# **ROAD BRIDGE**

## *Burswood: Cost*

2929. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

What is the estimated cost of the Burswood Bridge and ancillary roads?

Mr TROY replied:

I refer the member to my response to Legislative Council question 473.

# **MOTOR VEHICLES**

## *Volume*

2930. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware of estimates which suggest that annual vehicle travel is predicted to increase by 54 per cent over the next 10 years?
- (2) If so, will the existing construction and maintenance programmes keep up with this increase?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) I am aware that the "Roads Outlook" document quoted an increase of vehicle travel of 49 per cent for light passenger vehicles and 64 per cent for commercial vehicles for the next ten years.
- (2) Due to the difficult economic situation facing Australia, and the need to provide for the increasing cost of maintaining an ageing road system, it will be very difficult to fund the high cost of maintaining the present level of service. All maintenance requirements will be met and greater emphasis will be placed on traffic management and rehabilitation measures to get the maximum out of the road system. Most of the increase in traffic will occur in the metropolitan region where traffic capacity is being increased by the construction of new roads such as Tonkin Highway, Roe Highway, the Great Eastern Highway bypass, and the extension of Mitchell Freeway.

Because of the growing need for reconstruction, funds may be limited for new construction works. Currently further discussions are being held with the Federal Government on road funding across various road work categories, and until this issue is resolved a clear response is not possible.

# **ROAD CONSTRUCTION**

## *10-year Period*

2931. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Based on a road life of 35 years, what length of highways and main roads will need to be reconstructed over a ten year period commencing --
  - (a) 1984-85;
  - (b) 1985-86;
  - (c) 1986-87?
- (2) What positive action is the Government taking to protect Western Australia's massive capital asset which comprises the road system in this State?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) Figure 3.5 on page 17 of the Main Roads Department "Roads Outlook" document shows that the following lengths would need to be reconstructed over a 10-year period based on a road life of 35 years --

- (a) 2 800 km;
- (b) 3 230 km;
- (c) 3 600 km.

However, the 35-year figure, while being a suitable guide to broad capital needs, is not absolute and is subject to a number of factors which are key elements of an effective highway management programme.

- (2) In drawing up the Main Roads Department programme each year, priority is always given to maintenance to ensure that the State's road assets are adequately preserved.

### ROAD CONSTRUCTION

#### *Remote Areas*

2932. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

Why does the Government continue to build new roads, particularly in remote areas, when the problem of maintaining the existing road network is becoming a major financial burden and contingent liability on the use of available road funds?

Mr TROY replied:

If the member cares to nominate the particular roads he is referring to, I will justify the reason for such priority work.

### TRANSPORT: BUSES

#### *Bunbury: Allocation*

2933. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How much money was allocated from the Australian bicentennial road development programme for the clipper bus service which operates in Bunbury?
- (2) What is the average weekly usage of this bus service?
- (3) Does the Government intend to implement a similar system in Geraldton, and if so how will it be funded?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) None.
- (2) For the three-month period ending November 1987, the average weekly usage of the Bunbury City Transit service was --

Adults	1 119 passenger trips
Pensioners	1 243 passenger trips
Children	621 passenger trips
Students	8 133 passenger trips

- (3) An expanded town bus service was commenced in Geraldton on 9 November 1987. The State Government funded an \$8 000 promotional campaign and will provide financial guarantees to the operator by way of a shortfall subsidy.

### ROADS

#### *Length*

2934. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) In Western Australia, what is the length of --
  - (a) sealed roads;
  - (b) unsealed roads?
- (2) Can he give a broad estimate of the capital value of replacement cost of this road system?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) (a) 40 440 km;  
(b) 125 362 km.

These lengths include road in State forests.

- (2) \$7 000 million.

**STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION**  
*Actuarial Services*

2938. Mr COURT, to the Treasurer:

- (1) What actuarial services does the State Government Insurance Commission have to run its life insurance operations?
- (2) How much capital was provided to enable the State Government Insurance Commission life insurance operations to commence?
- (3) From what source did these funds come?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) The State Government Insurance Commission does not run a life insurance operation. However, the State Government Insurance Corporation, trading as SGIO, is responsible for running a life insurance operation. The actuarial services are provided to the corporation by Campbell, Cook and King. In addition, the corporation employs a student actuarial firm.

The corporation has been instrumental in attracting a third actuarial organisation to the State in MIRA Consultants Ltd, which operates from 657 Murray Street, Perth, telephone number 322 5477. MIRA Consultants Ltd is also assisting the corporation in the design of its future products.

- (2) The State Government Insurance Commission does not conduct a life insurance operation. The State Government Insurance Corporation, trading as SGIO, was established with a share capital of \$20 million. The board of directors for the purposes of ensuring the compliance of the corporation to the Federal Insurance Commissioner and Life Insurance Commissioner has divided the \$20 million into \$5 million, representing the life insurance operation, and \$15 million to represent the general insurance operation.
- (3) The funds come from the investment fund established in the State Government Insurance Commission Act whereby the commission is the shareholder of the corporation.

**ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICES**  
*Accounts: Auditing*

2940. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has the Aboriginal Medical Service had its accounts audited for the past three years?
- (2) If yes, were the accounts qualified in any way by the auditor?
- (3) If yes to (2), what were the qualifications?
- (4) What action has been taken in respect of the qualifications to the accounts?
- (5) Who are the current members of the Aboriginal Medical Service executive committee, and when were they appointed?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

- (1)-(5)

Funding for the Aboriginal Medical Service is controlled directly by the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs. The State has no input into or administrative responsibility for the service.

## ABORIGINAL ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL

*Investigation*

2941. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) Are police officers investigating claims of the misappropriation of funds from the Aboriginal Advancement Council?
- (2) If yes, when do the police expect to complete their inquiries into the Aboriginal Advancement Council?
- (3) Can he advise whether the Australian Federal Police are also involved in inquiries?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

- (1) No. However, officers from the company fraud squad have met with members of the Aboriginal Advancement Council in an attempt to establish whether allegations of misappropriation referred to in media reports have any basis.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) No. The member should refer this part of his question to Commonwealth authorities.

## ABORIGINAL MEDIA ASSOCIATION

*Objectives*

2942. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) What are the objectives and functions of the Western Australian Aboriginal Media Association?
- (2) When was it formed?
- (3) Who are the members of the Western Australian Aboriginal Media Association executive committee, and when were they appointed?
- (4) What are the funding arrangements of the Western Australian Aboriginal Media Association?
- (5) How much was expended by the association in the financial year ended 30 June 1987 and for the period 1 July 1987 to 31 October 1987?
- (6) Where does the association operate from, and does it have a lease on the premises?
- (7) If yes to (6), for what period and how much is the total monthly rental?
- (8) Who is the registered owner of the premises occupied by the association?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

As the Western Australian Aboriginal Media Association is a private organisation, the member should approach that organisation for the details he is seeking.

## ABORIGINAL ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL

*Takeover*

2943. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) Did he attend a meeting at the Department of Aboriginal Affairs office on 21 October 1987 to discuss the handing over of the affairs of the Aboriginal Advancement Council to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs?
- (2) Why was it necessary for the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to take charge of the Aboriginal Advancement Council?
- (3) Who attended the meeting?
- (4) Was the decision to have the Department of Aboriginal Affairs take over the affairs of the Aboriginal Advancement Council supported by the

majority of the general membership of the Aboriginal Advancement Council?

- (5) If not, why was the decision made, given that there is considerable opposition to the takeover by the members of the Aboriginal Advancement Council?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

(1) No.

(2)-(5)

Any questions about a meeting held by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs should be referred to that department for response.

#### WATER RESOURCES: FARMS

##### *Carting*

2944. Mr HOUSE, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Will the Water Authority reduce the radius for farmers carting water in drought declared and water deficient areas from 40 kilometres to 30 kilometres?
- (2) (a) If yes, from what date will the new 30 kilometre radius apply;  
(b) if no, why not?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) As part of my rural water strategy, various options for carting by farmers for drought relief purposes are being considered. To enable the most practical solution, information is being gathered from water deficient areas to better understand the current situation. An integral part of this strategy is to review the minimum cartage distance by farmers.
- (2) Answered by (1).

#### PORTS AND HARBOURS: DREDGING

##### *Yunderup Canals*

2945. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does the Government intend to dredge the channel to Yunderup Canals?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) How much revenue was raised from jetty licences at the Yunderup Canals last financial year?
- (4) How much is anticipated this financial year?

Mr TROY replied:

(1)-(2)

Options for the ongoing maintenance of the entrance channel into Yunderup Canals are under active consideration, and the Department of Marine and Harbours is having discussions with the Shire of Murray on this matter.

(3) \$890.

(4) \$860.

#### WATER RESOURCES: TREATMENT PLANT

##### *Binningup*

2946. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Has a water treatment plant been built at Binningup?
- (2) If so, is the plant operating?
- (3) If yes to (2), when did the plant start operating?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) 12 November 1987.

**WA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
*Buckland Hill Development: Profit*

2947. Mr HASSELL, to the Treasurer:

- (1) What is the expected profit that the Western Australian Development Corporation will make from the Buckland Hill development?
- (2) In what way will this money be used to benefit the public?
- (3) What is the predicted development cost to the Western Australian Development Corporation of the Buckland Hill site?
- (4) When will site development commence?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

In view of the information sought, the member will be advised in writing in due course.

**HEALTH: NURSES**  
*Nursing Homes*

2948. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) He being no doubt aware of increased standards for nursing homes being applied by the Commonwealth as a condition of funding under the "Outcome Standards for Australian Nursing Homes", is he also aware of the need for additional working hours for nursing and personal care for patients?
- (2) Is he further aware that the Western Australian Government requirement is less than in some other States?
- (3) Also that in Victoria and South Australia the Commonwealth pays more by way of subsidy and the State Governments add to the subsidy?
- (4) What does he expect to be the situation here, and will there be any State Government subsidy?
- (5) Can he say, in relation to Western Australia, what care hours will be set as the standard from 1 July 1988, and what subsidies, Federal and State, will apply?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

(1)-(3)

The matter of staffing levels for nursing and personal care are currently being addressed by the Commonwealth-State working party on nursing home standards, and a recommendation to all Ministers will be made early in 1988.

- (4) Not known at this time, dependent on the outcome of question (1).
- (5) Not known at this time.

**SPORT AND RECREATION: GRANTS**  
*Allocations*

2949. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Will the Minister detail the organisations to which grants have been given by the Department of Sport and Recreation during the current year?
- (2) Will the Minister detail within which State electorates those organisations are located?



Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) Yes. I will forward a print-out of grant approvals for the 1987-88 financial year direct to the Leader of the Opposition.
- (2) The department does not make grant decisions on an electorate basis, and does not keep records in that form.

**WA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

*Wanslea: Redevelopment*

2950. Mr HASSELL, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Has the Western Australian Development Corporation been given any brief, instruction, or authority in relation to the future development of Wanslea?
- (2) If so, what is that brief, instruction, or authority?
- (3) Specifically, what instructions have been given as to the protection of the interests and the usage of community groups in future development of Wanslea, or its subdivision and sale?
- (4) Is the Government concerned to preserve the community interest and usage of the site?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

In view of the information sought, the member will be advised in writing in due course.

**LAND: NATIONAL PARKS**

*Mining: Video*

2951. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Has the Government produced a video film in relation to the mining of national parks?
- (2) Was the film shown to a Federal Minister, Senator Richardson?
- (3) If so, what was his reaction?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) The Government has done some preliminary work both in writing and on video on the policies it is developing with regard to access for exploration and mining purposes to national parks and nature reserves. No final product in either medium has been produced.
- (2) Senator Richardson has had a presentation made to him of the Government's proposals in these matters.
- (3) Ongoing discussions are being held with Senator Richardson concerning our proposals.

**VIDEOS: "X"-RATED**

*Discussion*

2952. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Is the Standing Committee of Attorneys General to discuss the problem of "X"-rated videos freely on sale in the Australian Capital Territory but currently exported to the value of \$8 million worth per annum to other States?
- (2) Is the Attorney General to make a request to the Federal Attorney General for a moratorium on sales in the Australian Capital Territory?
- (3) Is it correct that an earlier request to the Federal Attorney General to ban sales in the Australian Capital Territory was refused?
- (4) Has consideration been given to restrictions on sales of "X"-rated videos in the States through the postal regulations and their prohibition on the transmission of certain material?

(5) Is the matter to be raised by the Premier at the next Premiers' Conference?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

(1) Yes.

(2)-(5)

Censorship matters come under the jurisdiction of the Minister for The Arts, and those parts of the question should be addressed to him.

**MINERAL: IRON ORE**

*Sales: Soviet Union*

2953. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

What is the current status of proposals for sales of iron ore to the Soviet Union?

Mr PARKER replied:

During my visit to Moscow in early December at the time of the Prime Minister's visit, interest was shown by the Soviet Government in further discussions about arrangements whereby WA iron ore might supplement Soviet production. To this end, it is proposed that a Soviet delegation should visit Western Australia in the early part of 1988.

**MINERAL: IRON ORE**

*Barter Scheme*

2954. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) What is the present status of his proposal to import millions of dollars worth of Eastern Bloc commercial vehicles and buses into Western Australia as part of the iron ore barter scheme?

(2) What response has he given to concerns expressed to him by industry organisations?

(3) What specific plans are currently in hand?

Mr TROY replied:

(1)-(3)

The response due to the member is naturally the same as that which I give to anybody who wishes to ask. Products from the Eastern Bloc countries obviously have to be proven before "millions of dollars worth" are bought. To this point, one Hungarian bus exporter has sent representatives to Perth in order to study Western Australian bus specifications and to inspect engineering and body manufacturing facilities available in Western Australia. These representatives are currently preparing a detailed proposal for scrutiny by Transperth next year, with a view to two bus chassis being tested under Western Australian conditions later in the year. Whether these chassis are the forerunners of larger orders will depend on orthodox commercial principles. Eastern Bloc bus chassis are to be evaluated no differently from other Transperth bus chassis, all of which are imported from other countries in Europe. In turn, this is a quite normal approach to business, which, to the best of my knowledge, is perfectly well understood by relevant industry organisations.

**MINERAL: COAL**

*Stockpile: Forecast*

2956. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

With regard to the disclosure in the State Energy Commission annual report that the coal inventory has increased from \$46 792 000 to \$88 560 000, an increase of \$41.8 million in one year, what is the forecast for this coal stockpile returning to normal operational levels?

Mr PARKER replied:

The present level of the coal inventory is consistent with projections given previously to the member for Cottesloe. The rate at which the coal inventory is used will be optimised to take account of future market demand for electricity and gas, the draw down of North West Shelf gas inventory, and the ongoing production of Collie coal. On current projections, normal operating levels will be restored in the latter half of the next decade.

#### STATE ENERGY COMMISSION

##### *Offshore Loans*

2957. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

Has consideration been given to the replacement of offshore loans by the State Energy Commission, which are attendant with continuing foreign exchange rate change risks, with local borrowings, in particular having regard to the changed investment climate which would greatly increase the attractiveness of Government backed instrumentality loan raisings?

Mr PARKER replied:

Yes. As part of its ongoing liability management, the commission considers the possibility for the replacement of offshore debt with Australian dollar-denominated debt together with hedging opportunities and the utilization of exchange rate risk management tools such as spot and forward foreign exchange contracts and foreign currency swap contracts.

#### ENERGY REBATES

##### *Commonwealth Contribution*

2958. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

With reference to the State Energy Commission's rebate of the domestic supply charge and the account establishment fee, and rebate for people with dependent children living at home, in each case to holders of Commonwealth health cards, costing in all over \$10 million in 1986-87, is any contribution to this social welfare cost made by the Commonwealth, or is it all borne by State Energy Commission users and the State Government through the Department for Community Services?

Mr PARKER replied:

The Department for Community Services refunds to the commission the amount of the dependent child rebate. For 1986-87, this amounted to about \$2.7 million. All other rebates are borne by the commission.

#### STATE ENERGY COMMISSION

##### *Statutory Contributions*

2959. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

Is he concerned that over the past five years the State Energy Commission has made net profits of about \$68 million, and been required to pay to the State Government statutory contributions of approximately \$88 million, with the result that in that period the State Energy Commission has been drained of approximately \$19.75 million required to be borne by consumers?

Mr PARKER replied:

I am concerned about all costs which have to be borne by energy customers. The three per cent levy referred to was introduced by the Court Liberal Government in 1974, and has remained unchanged since then.

## ENERGY: ELECTRICITY

*Power Stations: Thermal*

2960. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Given that the State Energy Commission has identified that there will be no further need for thermal power stations until the mid 1990s, but also that planning for any such stations is a seven-year process, what planning is currently under consideration in relation to future power needs in Western Australia?
- (2) In particular, is any specific thermal power station at the preliminary planning stage?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Normal long-term planning activities for power generation are in progress at present. Preliminary technical and environmental planning is underway for the next thermal power station and for gas turbine generators.
- (2) Gas turbine power station planning is in hand for Mungarra, near Geraldton, and for a site north of Perth. Thermal power station planning is currently based on the Collie coal basin.

## STATE ENERGY COMMISSION

*Federal Powers*

2961. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) On what occasions has he given a written direction to the State Energy Commission in respect of any function relating to a power given by the Australian Capital Territory, which is a new capacity conferred by Statute on the Minister?
- (2) In particular, did he give any written direction at any time in relation to the employment of any person by the commission?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) The question does not make sense.
- (2) No.

## STATE ENERGY COMMISSION

*Interest: Reduction*

2962. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) What further action, if any, has been taken by the State Energy Commission towards the reduction of its interest costs, and interest as a proportion of total operating expenditure?
- (2) In particular, have any assets been sold or agreed to be sold, or are any specific negotiations continuing?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) The commission is active in its efforts to reduce interest costs through the use of conventional market hedging techniques.
- (2) The commission has consulted several banks and financial institutions in relation to asset management techniques for the purpose of reducing debt and/or borrowing assets. Discussions are in progress.

## ENERGY: ELECTRICITY

*Underground Supplies*

2963. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) The annual report of the State Energy Commission refers to expenditure on the extension of underground power supplies predominantly in the metropolitan area, and in relation thereto, why were Subiaco and Northbridge chosen as the areas for this work to be done?

- (2) Is it not usual for underground power to be paid for by --
  - (a) the developer of land concerned, or
  - (b) the local authority?
- (3) What rules, regulations, or arrangements apply in relation to the provision of underground power in areas of long established overhead power supply?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) The two areas mentioned were not "chosen". The local authorities involved selected underground reticulation and paid the associated costs.
- (2) (a)-(b)  
Yes.
- (3) The State Energy Commission will retro-fit underground mains if the local authority or customers affected agree to pay the costs involved, including the costs of dismantling overhead mains and modifying household switchboards.

#### STATE ENERGY COMMISSION

##### *Statutory Contribution*

2964. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Why did the State Energy Commission have to make a payment of almost \$25 million to the State Government in respect of 1986-87 when it made a very small profit of less than \$500 000 after a budgeted loss of \$14 million?
- (2) Is this not the imposition of a tax on electricity consumers, as distinct from an income or profits tax such as applies in the case of the State Government Insurance Commission?

Mr PARKER replied:

Refer to the answer to question 2959 on the same subject.

#### ENERGY: GAS

##### *Dampier-Wagerup Pipeline*

2965. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

With reference to the statement in the annual report of the State Energy Commission that "a SCADA system costing \$10.1 million to provide secure management and control of the Dampier to Wagerup natural gas pipeline, is a major work in progress", is this a new SCADA system or costs involved in solving the serious problems of the SCADA system supplied under the original pipeline contract?

Mr PARKER replied:

It is a new SCADA system. It will supersede the previous SCADA system which was never put into service. The figure does not include any costs from the original SCADA contract.

#### SEX SHOPS

##### *Control: Cabinet Consideration*

2966. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for The Arts:

- (1) Are he and the Government concerned about the proliferation of sex shops and "adult" video and/or book shops operating within shopping centres throughout Western Australia?
- (2) Has the matter been considered by Cabinet?
- (3) What decisions were made?
- (4) Can the Government take any urgent action to prevent this growth industry?

- (5) Does he mind that the spread of this material in the community is potentially as damaging to society as the spread of high-powered weapons, on which the Government is about to act as part of a national effort?
- (6) What is his response to the numerous petitions lodged in Parliament on this subject?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) I am aware that some sections of the community are concerned about the establishment of sex shops and adult book shops in shopping centres.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Any decisions will be announced at an appropriate time.
- (4) On 9 November, 1987, the State Planning Commission issued an advice to all local authorities dealing with the possible amendment of local town planning schemes.
- (5) See (3) above.
- (6) Answered in (4) and (5).

#### BROOKTON HIGHWAY

##### *Upgrading*

2967. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the timetable of the road upgrading programme for Brookton Highway between Roleystone and Karragullen?
- (2) To what standard is this portion of Brookton Highway to be raised during the upgrading programme?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) No firm timetable has been set for this work. The timing will be dependent on the assessment of relative priorities of the many projects competing for the scarce road funds.
- (2) The present planning is for the road formation to be widened to 11 metres of which 8.5 metres would be sealed.

#### IDENTITY CARD

##### *Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs: Submission*

2968. Mr HASSELL, to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Government completed and submitted its response to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs with reference to the national identity card issue?
- (2) If so, when was the submission made?
- (3) Will he table a copy please?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 7 December 1987.
- (3) It is not the standard practice of this Government or its predecessors to table in Parliament submissions made to inquiries. However, the member should note that submissions to the Senate Standing Committee may be subject to formal release by the committee. The Government has not requested any variation to this accepted procedure for its submission.

**TRANSPERTH**  
*Revenue Source*

2969. Mr TUBBY, to the Minister for Transport:

Was the actual revenue source for the listed Budget item under Capital Works -- Metropolitan Transport Trust, \$13 million -- from the bicentennial road development trust fund or the bicentennial trust fund as indicated?

Mr TROY replied:

The source of funds for \$13 091 000 of the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust's proposed 1987-88 Capital Works Programme is the Australian bicentennial road development trust fund. In the printed Estimates, this source has been abbreviated to the bicentennial trust fund.

**WA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
*International Insurance Exchange*

2970. Mr HASSELL, to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Western Australian Development Corporation proceeding with the Australian International Insurance Exchange?
- (2) What is the progress?
- (3) Is he aware that such exchanges have closed down recently in New York and Canada?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

In view of the information sought, the member will be advised in writing in due course.

**MARGARET RIVER HOSPITAL**  
*Rebuilding*

2971. Mr BLAIE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) With the further deterioration of the Margaret River Hospital following discovery of a further white ant infestation, when will the Government make a public and financial commitment to commence building a new hospital?
- (2) When will building commence?
- (3) When is the new hospital expected to be completed?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

- (1) The Government has agreed to the provision of a replacement hospital.
- (2) Building will commence following completion of contract documentation and tendering.
- (3) The construction period would be expected to be approximately 12 months.

**JENNIFER LOCKWOOD CHILD CARE CENTRE**  
*Problems*

2972. Mr CASH, to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Services:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the current financial problems being experienced by the Jennifer Lockwood Child Care Centre?
- (2) If yes, can the Minister advise the likely reduction in child-care places which will occur if financial assistance is not forthcoming?
- (3) Is it considered the Jennifer Lockwood Child Care Centre provides a necessary and worthwhile service to the community?
- (4) Is it considered the capital grants for children's facilities advertised by her department on Wednesday, 9 December 1987 in *The West Australian* could be modified to assist the Jennifer Lockwood Child Care Centre?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) It is not envisaged that there will be any reduction in child-care places.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No.

### DIVING TASK FORCE

#### *Training Agencies*

2973. Mr CASH, to the Minister representing the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

What were the reasons for the Underwater Diving Task Force not including the Scuba Diving Federation of Western Australia as one of the training agencies which were recommended as being suitable to teach or train safe diving procedures in Western Australia?

Mr WILSON replied:

Scuba Diving Federation of Western Australian training courses are not recognised as part of the national coaching accreditation scheme by the Australian coaching council. The federation is currently negotiating the status of its training course, which, if accepted, would then result in the federation being recognised as a training agency in Western Australia.

### EDUCATION: PRIMARY SCHOOLS

#### *Support Units*

2974. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the future of the education support units in primary schools?
- (2) Will the existing education support units operate in the same capacity and with the same funding as in 1987, and if not will he explain any proposed changes?
- (3) Will the equivalent number of education support unit staff currently employed at the head office in East Perth continue in that role during 1988, and if not will he explain any changes?
- (4) Is it intended to modify or phase out education support units in primary schools, and if so will he advise of the proposed changes?
- (5) Have parents of children enrolled in education support units been consulted on the proposed changes, and if not why not?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Education support units in primary schools will continue their present role and function. There will be an increased number of education support centres in 1988.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Support services will be provided from both the central and district offices in 1988 and will employ a similar number of full-time equivalent personnel.
- (4) No.
- (5) As there is no change in role and function, consultation has not been necessary.

### ARTS

#### *Multilingual Books: Macedonian*

2975. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs:

- (1) Is it a fact that the State Reference Library, in conjunction with the Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission has published a poster promoting multilingual books in libraries?



- (2) Is the section on Macedonia written in Bulgarian, and if so can he explain why?
- (3) Will he take the appropriate action to have the section on Macedonia written in Macedonian and if not, why not?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

(1)-(3)

The Secretary of the Macedonian United Society has, quite rightly, already written to me about this matter. In my reply to him, I have clarified that the poster referred to was fully funded and initiated by the Western Australian Library Service. In accordance with their policy to promote multilingual information so that people of a non-English speaking background have access to information, the commission agreed to distribute the printed posters. However, as the matter caused some concern, the Commissioner of the Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission has already liaised with the library service, which has taken the necessary steps to rectify this mistake in the next edition of the poster.

#### STATE ENERGY COMMISSION *Union Negotiations*

2976. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Is he now in a position to answer question 2798 of 1987?
- (2) What is the answer?

Mr PARKER replied:

I have replied to this question in writing, as indicated in my initial reply of 2 December 1987.

#### POLICE PUBLIC RELATIONS *Mr Darcy Farrell*

2977. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) Have interests associated with Mr Darcy Farrell been appointed to handle police public relations?
- (2) If so, what was the basis of that appointment?
- (3) What is the term?
- (4) Were tenders called?
- (5) How was the appointment made?
- (6) What is the brief?
- (7) What payment is to be made?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

- (1) A business with which Mr Farrell has an association is handling the present police advertising campaign.
- (2) A decision based on a view of the professionalism and competence of that business.
- (3) Duration of the present campaign.
- (4) No.
- (5) By Cabinet decision.
- (6) To competently design, produce, and manage a campaign intended to inform the public on various policing matters and to counter persistent attempts to denigrate the status of police officers and their work in the community.
- (7) Reasonable payment for professional services rendered.

**TRADE MISSION**  
*Papua New Guinea*

2978. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Further to question 2627 of 1987, have the costs associated with the recent trade mission to Papua New Guinea been finalised?
- (2) If so, what was the amount?

Mr TROY replied:

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

**ENERGY: GAS**  
*Pipeline Monitoring System*

2979. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) In connection with the State Energy Commission pipeline monitoring system, was a substantial purchase in the United States abandoned?
- (2) What was the loss on this transaction?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) A contract for a pipeline supervisory control and data acquisition system for the Dampier to Perth natural gas pipeline was terminated.
- (2) The SEC took legal action to recover losses incurred by the termination of the contract. The legal settlement requires that the terms remain confidential.

**SPORT AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**  
*Land Lease*

2980. Mr CASH, to the Minister representing the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (a) Does the department lease land and or premises in the Woodman Point recreation area to persons trading as Cockburn Pleasure Boat Storage;
- (b) if so, for what period is the lease, and are there conditions as to the upkeep and maintenance of the land and premises and the general operation of the business?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (a) Yes;
- (b) the lease has yet to be finalised, but the proposed period of lease is five years, with an option of renewal subject to agreement. Conditions have been imposed regarding maintenance and general operation of the business.

**CLERK OF THE COURT, NEWMAN**  
*Relocation*

2981. Mr CASH, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Is the Clerk of Courts at Newman to be relocated?
- (2) If yes, will he provide details of the reasons behind the proposed move?
- (3) When is this to occur?
- (4) Is it considered the proposed move will disadvantage the people of Newman and others who require the services of a full time Clerk of Courts in Newman?
- (5) (a) Was the proposal to relocate the Clerk of Courts from Newman discussed with justices of the peace who serve the area, and  
(b) if not, why not?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

(1)-(3)

No. This service is provided part-time by the officer in charge of police. However, the Local Court element of those duties will be discontinued as from 1 January 1988, when the records will be transferred to the Port Hedland Clerk of Courts. Generally, police officers are appointed to country centres for a term of three years. This practice has tended towards inexperienced persons assuming the role of Clerk of the Local Court, and recent changes to legislation, including the introduction of pretrial conferences, rendered the continuance of this role for police officers inappropriate.

(4) No. Any Local Court trials can still be heard in Newman.

(5) (a) The role of justices relates to the Court of Petty Sessions, which is unaffected by this decision;

(b) not applicable.

#### GROUP LIBEL

##### *Legislation*

2982. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs:

(1) Has he or his department given consideration to introducing legislation in the area of group libel?

(2) If yes, will he provide details?

(3) Does he or his department consider there is a need for group libel legislation in Western Australia?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) No, as these have not been finalised.

(3) I have not yet decided. However, I invite the member to forward a submission to me for consideration within my deliberations.

#### POLICE

##### *"Kimberley Echo" Comments*

2983. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

(1) Is he aware of the article in the *Kimberley Echo* newspaper on 28 November 1987 under the banner headline "Locals upset with Police Minister"; and is he further aware of the full page advertisement placed in the *Kimberley Echo* by a group of concerned Kimberley residents under the banner headline "Help us defend our Cops"?

(2) Does he support the comments made in the newspaper article and advertisement?

(3) If not, why not?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

(1) Yes

(2) I agree with those comments consistent with my view that the majority of police officers are hard-working, diligent, and dedicated, and are entitled to be publicly defended against unjust criticism. I disagree with the remainder of the comments on the basis that they reveal an ignorance of the facts upon which my own comments were based.

(3) It appears that the comment and anonymous advertisement were inspired by either a person or persons who have genuine concerns but are misinformed, or by an irresponsible minority element, or a combination of both. If any of the people associated with the comment and advertisement are interested in the facts of the matter, they need only correspond with me.

**FAMILY COURT**  
*Powers: Enlargement*

2984. Mr CASH, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Has the Attorney General considered enlarging the powers of the Family Court of Western Australia to enable the court to vary restraining orders made in the Court of Petty Sessions in relation to matters before the Family Court?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) Is he aware of requests from barristers and solicitors practising in the Family Court of Western Australia of their support for wider powers for the Family Court in relation to the matter raised in (1) above?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Yes. Representations have been made along the lines of this question. The matter has also been addressed by the task force on domestic violence. Changes in procedure have recently been introduced designed to resolve a number of issues relating to restraining orders, including the conflict of jurisdictions. Details of these changes have been conveyed to the Law Society of Western Australian and the Family Law Practitioners Association of Western Australia (Inc).

**FIREARMS**  
*Offences*

2985. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) Can he advise the number of firearms used in offences recorded by the police during the following periods --
  - (a) year ended 1984;
  - (b) year ended 1985;
  - (c) year ended 1986?
- (2) How many of these were licensed firearms at the time of the offence?
- (3) How many offences were committed by the licence holder of the firearm at the time of the offence during the above period?
- (4) How many offences involving firearms were committed by persons other than the licence holder of the firearm during the above period?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

I am informed by the Commissioner of Police that statistics are not maintained in a form which enables the information sought by the member to be readily obtained.

**WA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
*Investments: McLean Brothers and Rigg*

2986. Mr COURT, to the Treasurer:

- (1) (a) Has the Government invested in McLean Brothers and Rigg through the Western Australian Development Corporation;
- (b) if yes, what was the extent of that investment?
- (2) (a) Was the Western Australian Development Corporation given the offer of selling out at 50 cents in the dollar;
- (b) if yes, was this offer accepted;
- (c) how much was lost as a result of this investment?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

In view of the information sought, the member will be advised in writing in due course.

**DEPUTY PREMIER**  
*Rural and Industries Bank Position*

2987. Mr COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) Has he held discussions with the Deputy Premier related to his taking a senior position in the R & I Bank next year?
- (2) Is he aware of any commitments that have been entered into by the Deputy Premier in relation to this appointment with the R & I Bank?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

(1)-(2)

Discussions between the Deputy Premier and me are confidential, and I will neither confirm nor deny having discussed any matter with him.

**DEPUTY PREMIER**  
*Rural and Industries Bank Position*

2988. Mr COURT, to the Deputy Premier:

- (1) Has he, while he has been the Deputy Premier, been negotiating with the R & I Bank to accept a senior position next year?
- (2) If yes, what commitments have been made in this regard?
- (3) If no, will he give an assurance that he will not arrange a senior Government position if he retires from the Parliament in 1987 or 1988?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) I have been approached to sit on several boards and committees.

**OLD SUPERANNUATION FUND**  
*Withdrawals*

2989. Mr COURT, to the Treasurer:

- (1) How many people withdrew from the old State Government Superannuation Fund between 1 July 1986 and 30 June 1987?
- (2) What were the main reasons for these people withdrawing?
- (3) When were contributors to the old scheme advised the terms of the transitional offer to the new fund?
- (4) Why did not the Government fully disclose the benefits of the transitional offer that would be available to the existing fund members when they closed the old scheme in 1986?
- (5) Is the Government aware of any people who have been detrimentally affected by making an early withdrawal decision before the Government disclosed what it was proposing to offer?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

In view of the information sought, the member will be advised in writing in due course.

**PREMIER**  
*Intimidation*

2990. Mr COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) Are the words used by the Government in the Legislative Assembly on 3 December 1987 -- "there's more to come" -- coming as they did after the

attack on Perpetual Trustees and the Chairman, my brother Mr Ken Court, and the Court family generally, to be taken as intimidation?

- (2) Was it the Government's intention to be intimidating?
- (3) Does he intend to take any further action in this matter?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

See reply to question 2992.

#### SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

*Actions: Debate*

2991. Mr COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) In view of his declining to seek the Attorney General's opinion on whether the action of the Speaker on Thursday, 19 November contravened the Criminal Code, will he honour his undertaking to have the matter of the Speaker's behaviour which occurred on Thursday, 19 November fully debated on the floor of this House?
- (2) If no to (1), will not a precedent have been set whereby a member of Parliament has been allowed to intimidate other members of Parliament on the floor of the House when it is sitting?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

The member is referred to the debate in *Hansard* on Tuesday, 24 November, 1987, pages 6387-6395; Wednesday, 25 November, page 6578; and Thursday, 26 November, pages 6372-6376.

#### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

*Attack: Offence*

2992. Mr COURT, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware that it is an offence under section 125 of the Securities Industries Code to misleadingly attack a Western Australian financial institution?
- (2) If yes, is he also aware that this is an indictable offence with the penalty being a fine of up to \$20 000 or imprisonment up to five years or both?
- (3) If the answers to (1) and (2) are in the affirmative, will he still exercise his right under parliamentary privilege to make further attacks upon financial institutions, of the kind he made against Perpetual Trustees in recent debate in this House?
- (4) If no to (3), will he, under parliamentary privilege, make further statements which attack financial institutions in Western Australia?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

Unless the member is oblivious to his own actions over recent months with respect of endangering the stability of financial institutions, I recommend he consider his own behaviour in relation to the matters raised in this question and question 2990.

### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

#### EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

*Director of Operations*

514. Mr CLARKO, to the Minister for Education:

How does the Minister justify his statement in the Press that there were no suitable applicants for the position of Director of Operations in the Education Ministry, which necessitated the appointment of a non-applicant, Mr Frank Usher?

Mr PEARCE replied:

The simple answer is that I do not justify that statement. The judgment about the applications for the position was not made by me; I play no part in the process of the senior appointments in the Education Department.

Mr Clarko: Did you not say in one of your Press statements there were no suitable applicants?

Mr PEARCE: I do not believe so.

Mr MacKinnon: Who determined that there were no suitable applicants for the position?

Mr PEARCE: If I did say that, I was reflecting advice given to me by the Public Service Board. It advised that it had interviewed a range of applicants for four directors of operations positions; it had appointed three but there were no suitable applicants for the fourth position.

Mr MacKinnon: Who suggested Mr Usher?

Mr PEARCE: I do not have any idea.

Mr MacKinnon: You have to be joking!

Mr PEARCE: That is the truth. I can assure members that I do not come to the Parliament and tell lies. The Public Service Board advised me that it had approached Mr Usher. It is not up to me to say what I would have done in those circumstances, but I played no role in the appointment of Mr Usher. I was merely advised by the department that it proposed to appoint Mr Usher. I could have gone to the Public Service Board and made some recommendation in opposition to that proposal, but it has not been my policy to do that with regard to appointments in the Education Department, and so I allowed that appointment, along with the others, to go forward.

If the member for Karrinyup is trying to make a claim or suggestion that the processes of appointment were interfered with by me, he is casting aspersions on a number of senior and significant people in the Education Department, and the Public Service Board, who sat on the boards that made the recommendations and saw them put into effect.

#### OLD BREWERY SITE

##### *Redevelopment*

515. Mr CLARKO, to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) What is the present stage of progress on the redevelopment of the old Swan brewery site?
- (2) Is it Government policy that the redevelopment, as publicised, should go ahead?
- (3) Is the Minister concerned about the road safety aspects?
- (4) Is the Government still negotiating with Brewtech on this development?

Mr PEARCE replied:

(1)-(4)

Brewtech has a development application currently before the State Planning Commission. Talks are taking place between the Western Australian Development Corporation and Brewtech with regard to the financing of the operation. I am concerned about the road safety aspects, but I have given an undertaking that any redevelopment approved by the State Planning Commission, and subject to my supervision, would be on the basis that the road safety elements were attended to; that is, the design meant the road elements of the brewery proposal were safer than the roads currently are. The discussions and applications must be close to finality, but I am not able to give a time when they will be finalised.

## NATIONAL PARKS

*Mining*

516. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

Is the Minister prepared to continue pushing his proposals for exploration and mining in national parks, despite the fact that the State Executive of the Labor Party has not supported him on this issue?

Mr PARKER replied:

Firstly, the State Executive of the Labor Party has yet to take a position on this issue. It is not true there has been no support. It has not adopted a position, although it has adopted a report from the conservation and environment committee of the State Executive, which has been referred to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management and me, with which we have a great deal of sympathy. Secondly, in the final analysis on this issue as on others, the Government, in accord with the policy it has and the Labor Party has, will make its decision on the matter.

## INDUSTRIAL AWARDS

*Annual Leave Loading*

517. Mr THOMPSON, to the Minister for Labour, Productivity and Employment:

- (1) Does the Minister agree with the Premier's statements in support of abolishing the 17.5 per cent leave loading?
- (2) If so, what action is he taking to bring this change into effect?
- (3) If he does not agree, what is the official Government policy?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

(1)-(3)

Armed with the precedent of the Liberal Government in the early part of this decade, somewhere about 1980 or 1981, granting an annual leave loading of 27.5 per cent to a group of workers, I find the question an extraordinary one, particularly as in those circumstances Australia was looking down the barrel of a huge economic recession. However, there was, at the time the Premier made his comments in relation to the 17.5 per cent annual leave loading, a very important debate about the issue of productivity and the conditions under which certain workers operated. That debate has become much more sophisticated than talking simply about the 17.5 per cent annual leave loading, and it is addressing the fundamental issue, which is to ensure that whatever conditions workers have, they do not have work and management practices which interfere with that productivity.

As has been pointed out time and time again, it is not fair to take away from workers conditions of pay or emoluments and expect them to continue to operate as though nothing had happened. In those circumstances I would not now support a move to remove the 17.5 per cent annual leave loading. I say to the Opposition and to all of the people who think there is any quick fix to the issues of productivity that there is not. We need to address the fundamental issues of work and management practices in order to ensure that we do not have to take away basic entitlements from the ordinary men and women of Australia.

## TRANSPORT: SCHOOL BUSES

*Private Vehicles*

518. Mr SCHELL, to the Minister for Education :

- (1) In a minor school bus contract, does the Minister consider the situation satisfactory when an operator uses a private car to transport from five to eight children when only four can be placed in seat belts?
- (2) Has he considered increasing the kilometrage rate for minor contracts in



these cases to cover the operator's costs of running a larger suitable vehicle to give the children more comfort on the longer bus routes over rough roads and, most importantly, to raise the standard of safety?

Mr PEARCE replied:

(1)-(2)

Obviously no-one will stand up in this place or anywhere else and say it is satisfactory to have eight children riding in a car with four seat belts. But that is not really the question the member is asking. He is trying to put in a plug for somebody in his electorate to have a standard of transportation in an area which does not qualify for it.

Mr Cash: You do not have to impress us.

Mr Hassell: Get us a vote in Caucus and we will all vote for you.

Several members interjected.

Mr PEARCE: I think everyone knows I am not looking for votes in Caucus.

An Opposition member: We are disappointed.

Mr PEARCE: It has been no great disappointment to me.

Several members interjected.

Mr PEARCE: It will save me a fortune in haircuts.

If the people do not qualify for bus contracts in the normal way, let me know the circumstances of the case and I will see if the matter cannot be satisfactorily resolved. A review of bus contract arrangements has been running for some time now to reach a more equitable situation, though not necessarily a more costly one. I have agreed to almost all the recommendations where it has been possible to do so, and I am in discussions with the independent schools and with the Catholic Education Commission about a small number of matters concerning the carriage of children, and I hope to have that matter finalised early next month.

#### EDUCATION: SCHOOLS

##### *Cleaning Contractors*

519. Mr LEWIS, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Minister come to an agreement with the Miscellaneous Workers Union to remove cleaning contractors from all primary schools and replace them with day labour?
- (2) What is the basis of that agreement, if that is the case?
- (3) Does it not repudiate previous assurances by the Minister to maintain a given level of school cleaning by contractors?

Mr PEARCE replied:

I do not think I have had as many questions as this in the whole session.

Several members interjected.

Mr PEARCE: Members opposite have not heard.

Mr Brian Burke: You ought to worry; no-one has asked me a question at all.

Mr PEARCE: I appreciate the attention, but someone should know that I am not running.

Mr Hassell: We will campaign for you.

An Opposition member: We want you to run.

Several members interjected.

Mr PEARCE: If anyone writes in votes which are illegible, it will be me.

(1)-(3)

The situation is that we propose to put all the primary schools over to day labour for cleaning. At the same time we may increase the number of high schools which have contract cleaning. We are having a rationalisation in the approach to this matter, the basis of which is to get a fairly complicated deal with the Miscellaneous Workers Union relating to an improvement in the efficiency with regard to working conditions for school cleaners. This bears on arguments taking place over the four per cent productivity claim and the new work practices involved. It is a complicated business, and if the member writes to me I will give him a more detailed explanation.

## LIBERAL PARTY

*Dissension*

520. Mr READ, to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Premier seen the cartoon in tonight's *Daily News*?
- (2) Can he say if the information contained in that cartoon is accurate?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

(1)-(2)

I have seen the *Daily News* cartoon and believe it is a pretty accurate reflection of the situation, which situation is also reflected in the figures which show the comparative increases in State Government taxes and charges under the last Liberal Government compared to ours. We face the next election with a great deal of confidence, based upon, for example, third party insurance, which, under the Government of members opposite in its last three years, increased by 21.4 per cent, whereas under Burke and Bryce the increase in three years has been just two per cent.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr Williams: I think you have just kissed the Blarney stone.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I do not want to tire the House by going through them all, but it is sufficient to say that in terms of taxing and charging the Burke-Bryce Government has been a lesson in moderation. I have no doubt that in the next three, six, and nine years of the continuing Labor Government -- I have been reminded that should be the next four, eight, and 12 years -- we will continue to tread very lightly on the taxing and charging concerns of the public.

## PREMIER

*Return to State*

521. Mr MacKINNON, to the Premier:

In view of his announcement today that he has accepted the appointment, to be taken up in June, as the Ambassador for Ireland, will he assure this Parliament that he will return to Australia should any court action in this State require him to do so?

The SPEAKER: Do you want to answer it? It is out of order.

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

Absolutely. The wording that I used was that the Federal Government intends to offer me the post, and I intend to accept it. That was a specific Crown Law invitation under the office proffered by the Crown.

The SPEAKER: It is becoming the practice of some members of this House as part of their questions to make a purportedly factual statement, and that is entirely out of order. It is not satisfactory to ask questions in that manner, and I will not allow them again. The only reason I allowed that question was because of the matter raised in the second part.

SHIPPING

*Barge Service: Broome-Koolan Island*

522. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Did BHP seek his approval some three months ago to operate a barge service between Broome and Koolan Island?
- (2) If yes, when might BHP expect a decision in this matter?
- (3) Has the delay in giving approval to BHP been exacerbated by representations from Stateships which currently provides the service?

Mr TROY replied:

(1)-(3)

BHP has approached my office with regard to this application. The matter has been under negotiation between the Department of Transport and BHP, and I anticipate it will be resolved shortly.

FREMANTLE PORT AUTHORITY

*Unloading Levy*

523. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Transport:

Is the \$2.30 per tonne charged by the Fremantle Port Authority as a levy on unloading authorised by statutory authority and have some importers who have resisted the levy been exempted from payment of it or been given a preferential, lower rate?

Mr TROY replied:

I am not sure from the question whether the member is referring to the restacking of container boxes, which is a function undertaken by the Fremantle Port Authority. If the member puts the question on notice I will be happy to respond.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION

*Water Payments: Arrears*

524. Mr THOMPSON, to the Treasurer:

Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity of asking the Premier and Treasurer the last question he will have the opportunity to answer in this House. Can I just pass on to him that when I passed my good wishes on to his family, while everyone else in this Chamber saw as the central issue here today the retirement of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Government respectively, his little daughter saw Christmas as being more important. She told me it is only three days to Christmas.

- (1) Is the Treasurer aware that the State Government Insurance Commission is in arrears with respect to payment to the Metropolitan Water Authority by some tens of thousands of dollars and that some of that money has been outstanding since 1 July this year?
- (2) Does the Treasurer think it fair that the SGIC be in the market for buying shares at a time that it seems it is not able to pay its bills?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

(1)-(2)

I am not sure about the correlation between the two and I think perhaps the SGIC is able to pay its bills. I am not aware that it appears to be behind in paying its water rates, and it may be that there is some argument surrounding some part of the rates. I will have the matter drawn to the attention of the State Government Insurance Commission and they will rectify any problem, I am sure.

I will also speak to Mary about talking to strange men.

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