

disposal of wastes. These matters require frequent and close attention by highly-trained staff.

Local authorities have, not unreasonably, pointed out that the annual registration fee for these major works falls far short of the expenditure incurred in providing supervision and advice to the industries concerned.

The Bill seeks to raise the maximum permitted fee from \$10 to \$100.

Fees would be fixed according to a graduated scale so that small works, or those which call for little service would be charged a low fee, but major establishments could be called upon to pay up to the new proposed maximum of \$100.

I am sure Mr Clive Griffiths will welcome this Bill because he has written to me in recent times concerning the cost involved to local authorities.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. Thompson (Leader of the Opposition).

## ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

**THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON** (South-West—Minister for Education) [11.08 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, the 8th April.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 11.09 p.m.*

# Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 26th March, 1975

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

## QUESTIONS (107): ON NOTICE

### 1. POLICE

#### *Assault Charges and Convictions: Metropolitan and Country*

**Mr A. R. TONKIN**, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) What have been the number of—
  - (a) aggravated assaults;
  - (b) indecent assaults;
  - (c) common assaults,
 reported to the police for the years 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, in—
  - (i) the metropolitan area;
  - (ii) the country areas?
- (2) How many charges were made for each of the above years in the two areas?

- (3) What was the total number of such people found guilty and—
  - (a) gaoled;
  - (b) fined;
  - (c) otherwise dealt with?

**Mr O'CONNOR** replied:

The answers to the questions involve a considerable amount of research and as the Police Department is in the process of preparing to move to new headquarters this presents some difficulty. The information will be forwarded to the Member as soon as it is available.

### 2.

#### POLICE

#### *Assault Charges and Convictions: Morley*

**Mr A. R. TONKIN**, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) What have been the number of—
  - (a) aggravated assaults;
  - (b) indecent assaults;
  - (c) common assaults,
 reported to the Morley police station for 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974 and so far in 1975?
- (2) How many charges have been made for each of the categories in each of the areas mentioned above?
- (3) How many convictions have been recorded as a result of those charges in each of the categories for each of the years referred to above?

**Mr O'CONNOR** replied:

The answers to the questions involve a considerable amount of research and as the Police Department is in the process of preparing to move to new headquarters this presents some difficulty. The information will be forwarded to the Member as soon as it is available.

### 3.

#### SCHOOL BUILDINGS

#### *Community Use*

**Mr A. R. TONKIN**, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has he or the Local Government Department received from the Local Government Association requests for the accelerated use of school buildings for community use?
- (2) If so, what were the details of their requests and what action does the Government intend to take on the matter?

**Mr RUSHTON** replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).

## 4. SCHOOL BUILDINGS

*Community Use*

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

- (1) Has the Minister or the Education Department received from the Local Government Association requests for the accelerated use of school buildings for community use?
- (2) If so, what were the details of their requests and what action does the Government intend to take on the matter?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Local Government Association has forwarded a copy of a letter from the City of Nedlands. The proposals embrace the control of school facilities by the local authority in which the school is located.  
The proposals are being investigated fully.

departments. The committee is now proceeding to prepare its findings.

- (2) Apart from 28 submissions from organisations, 49 submissions were received from individuals. There were many more from local authorities, local authority organisations, and government departments.
- (3) No, but any member of the public wishing to give information to the Committee was invited to do so and, in fact, many individuals and representatives appeared before the committee.
- (4) As many of the submissions dealt with persons' individual financial affairs, it was considered undesirable to discuss them in public.
- (5) No.
- (6) Answered by (5).
- (7) The committee has only just completed the hearing of verbal evidence and, at this stage, it expects to complete its report by the end of this financial year.

## 5. WATER SUPPLIES

*Uniform Rates Inquiry*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Has the committee which was appointed to study the possibility of a uniform scale for water charges and other rates completed its hearings?
- (2) How many members of the public made submissions?
- (3) Were the hearings open to the public?
- (4) If (3) is "No" what is the rationale for such secrecy?
- (5) Has a report been presented to the Government by the committee?
- (6) If (5) is "Yes" will he table the report in this House?
- (7) If (5) is "No" when is it expected that the report will be presented and will it be tabled in the Parliament?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

Before I answer the question I wish to point out that the committee did not have a specific task to investigate the possibility of a uniform scale of water charges. It was a committee set up to investigate all matters of charges associated with land values. Having made that preliminary statement, the answer to the question is as follows—

- (1) It has completed the hearing of verbal evidence from members of the public, statutory authorities, local government and government

## 6. HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE

*Government Acquisition*

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

What has the Government done to fulfil its promise to investigate the acquisition of a city property such as Her Majesty's Theatre for use by theatrical and cultural organisations?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

Investigated the acquisition of a suitable theatre with special reference to Her Majesty's Theatre.

## 7. TEACHER-LIBRARIANS

*Training and Qualifications*

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

- (1) How many teacher/librarians have been trained for each of the past three years and how many are being trained at present?
- (2) What qualifications are required before a teacher is admitted to such course?
- (3) Of what does the teacher/librarian course consist and what is the duration of study?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) This department commenced the in-service education of teacher-librarians for service in primary

schools in 1974. The course output figures are as follows:—

1974—45 teacher-librarians.

1975—46 teacher-librarians.

- (2) The qualifications for selection for training in school librarianship are of two kinds, essential and desirable.

It is essential that persons selected for training should be trained and certificated teachers, in good standing with the Education Department and with a minimum of three years recent primary teaching experience. It is desirable that their professional attitude should support the integration of resource materials into teaching-learning programmes and that they possess personal qualities appropriate to enthusiastic leadership in the development of resource utilisation programmes.

- (3) (a) The school librarianship course involves intensive study in each of the following areas:—

- (1) the school library in education,
- (2) the role of the teacher-librarian,
- (3) teaching through the library,
- (4) selection of library materials—non-fiction,
- (5) imaginative literature in the primary school,
- (6) cataloguing and classification,
- (7) school library administration A. principles,
- (8) school library administration B. systems and procedures,
- (9) the curriculum,
- (10) the resource consultant,
- (11) non-book materials: selection, organisation and use,
- (12) aspects of contemporary fiction.

Each course consists of lectures, workshops, tutorials and seminars with a generous allowance of time for related private study resulting in the presentation of discussion papers. There are periods of observation and practice under the guidance of experienced teacher-librarians.

- (b) Six months' duration.

## MURDOCH UNIVERSITY

### Mature Age Students

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

How many students classified as "mature aged students and people from disadvantaged groups" who have the ability to study at University level, have been enrolled at Murdoch University for this year and to what various faculties do they belong?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

We are not able to classify students from disadvantaged groups because although we encouraged such people to apply to us, we did not in any way classify them at admission, and therefore we cannot identify them readily among our student population.

Concerning mature students, the numbers of students 25 and over, that is undergraduate students, are as follows, and are classified by schools of study:—

Environmental and life sciences	33
Education	43
Human communication	79
Mathematical and physical sciences	12
Social inquiry	97
Choice of final degree deferred	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>

Approximately one-third of these 305 are full-time students, a further one-third are part-time and the remaining one-third are external students, but I cannot give exact figures at this time.

## 9. MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS

Mr N. A. Backshall: Prosecution

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

Does Mr Noel Anthony Backshall, who was found guilty in the District Court for misrepresentation in respect of a motor vehicle that he had sold, have a vehicle dealer's license, a yard manager's license or a salesman's license under the authority of the Motor Vehicle Dealers Act?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

No license has been issued to this person since the Motor Vehicle Dealers Act became operative on the 12th August, 1974.

## 10. POLICE

*Government House*

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

What are the details of the numbers of police who are on duty at Government House at various times, and what is the cost for the salaries of such officers?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (a) One Police officer is on duty at all times.
- (b) Approximately \$31 314 per annum.

## 11. POLICE

*Illegal Abortion: Raids*

Mr HARTREY, to the Minister for Police:

In reference to searches of doctors' surgeries and private citizens' homes, reported by the metropolitan Press on 22nd November, 1974 to have been carried out by Perth police on the previous day—

- (a) were "four surgeries and nine homes raided" as he is reported to have told the *Daily News* on 22nd November, 1974;
- (b) if not—
  - (i) how many surgeries; and
  - (ii) how many private houses, were actually searched on 21st November, 1974;
- (c) were each of such surgery searches and domiciliary visits by police authorised by a duly obtained search warrant;
- (d) if answer to (c) is "Yes" were search warrants issued pursuant to the provisions of section 711 of the Criminal Code;
- (e) if not, by what authority were such searches conducted;
- (f) if section 711 of the Criminal Code was relied upon to authorise such searches, who in each instance was the complainant seeking the warrant;
- (g) if in any (or all) instances such person was a member of the police force, upon whose information did he or she swear that there were in the particular surgery or home to be searched—
  - (i) anything with respect to which the crime of performing an illegal abortion had been or was suspected on reasonable grounds to have been committed; or
  - (ii) anything as to which there were reasonable grounds for believing that

it would afford evidence as to the performance of any illegal abortion; or

- (iii) anything as to which there were reasonable grounds for believing that it was to be used for the purpose of performing an illegal abortion;
- (h) did the said surgery searches or domiciliary visits by police detect or discover any (and if so, what) evidence of the commission of any such crime, or of any attempt to commit the same, or of any person's having aided or abetted the commission of the same?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (a) No.
- (b) (i) One medical centre operating in partnership by four doctors was visited. On the request of Police, records relating to abortions were handed over. No search was made.
- (ii) Nine private houses were searched.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Answered by (d).
- (f) Detective Sergeant Mulvey.
- (g) Sources of information are confidential.
- (h) Searches failed to obtain sufficient evidence to justify prosecution.

## 12. MINING

*Parallel Range, and Paterson Range Files*

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Apropos figure 45 appearing on page 113 Department of Mines Annual Report 1973, what is the known origin of the name "Parallel Range" shown thereon and who does his department acknowledge as being the author of this name?
- (2) When was this said name adopted by his department?
- (3) Will he please table the file or files relating to Paterson Range, the discovery of gold and minerals therein and mining development thereof?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The unofficial name "Parallel Range" was supplied to the inspecting geologists by Newmont Pty Ltd, however, the department does not acknowledge any official author.

(2) This name has not been adopted by the department as an official name. On figure 45 there are no official names available consequently several unofficial locality names being used by the exploration company were shown. This is normal practice until official names are approved or provided by the Lands Department.

(3) Mines Department files contain information regarding mineral exploration which is confidential while the tenements are held and accordingly I will not table the required file.

### 13. SUPERANNUATION AND FAMILY BENEFITS ACT

#### *Workmen's Inspector of Mines: Coverage*

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

- (1) Would the Minister please seek advice from his department as to whether there is a legal impediment in the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act to a Workmen's Inspector of Mines appointed pursuant to the Mines Regulation Act being eligible to participate in the scheme of the former Act and advise me by letter of his findings?
- (2) If there is such an impediment would the Minister please advise me in his letter referred to in (1) as to whether the Government will consider legislating to remedy the situation?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.

### 14. CARAWATHA SCHOOL

#### *Representations by P. & C. Association*

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

- (1) Is the Minister in receipt of correspondence dated 26th February, 1975 from the president and secretary jointly and the president individually of the Carawatha primary school parents and citizens' association?
- (2) If so, has he replied to the many questions asked therein?
- (3) When is the earliest possible date it can be expected that it will no longer be necessary for children who should be attending the Carawatha primary school to travel to Willagee primary?
- (4) (a) Is a primary school scheduled to be built at Kardinya for occupation at the commencement of the 1976 school year;

(b) if not, when will a primary school at this centre be available?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Both letters referred to were received at the Minister's office on the 5th March, 1975.
- (2) At the Minister's request the Director-General replied to the letter which was signed jointly by the President and Secretary of the Carawatha Primary School's Parents & Citizens' Association. A reply is at present being prepared for the second letter mentioned.
- (3) No specific date can be given. The discontinuance of the daily bussing of a class from Carawatha primary school to Willagee primary school will be dependent on a demountable classroom becoming available for erection on the Carawatha primary school site. The present demand for demountable classrooms exceeds the supply necessitating bussing of children from schools which have accommodation problems to nearby schools which have spare classrooms.
- (4) (a) The construction of a new school at Kardinya has been listed, but consideration in priority must be given to other schools with more temporary accommodation or greater potential for growth.  
(b) The final decision must be dependent on the degree to which costs of buildings continue to escalate.

### 15. KELLERBERRIN SCHOOL

#### *Representations by P. & C. Association*

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

- (1) Is the Minister in receipt of correspondence from the secretary of the Kellerberrin parents and citizens' association of date 17th March, 1974?
- (2) Has he received representations in respect of same from the Deputy Premier?
- (3) When will the requested accommodation for teachers at Kellerberrin be available?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.
- (3) Tenders which were called early this year were not acceptable. Tenders are being recalled this week and it is hoped that a satisfactory response will be received. If a contract is let the urgency of the situation will be stressed to the builder with a view to achieving early completion.

16. **MT. LAWLEY TEACHERS' COLLEGE**

*Drama and Music Wing*

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

- (1) Will the capital expenditure as reported in *The Sunday Times* of 23rd March, 1975 of \$586 000 for the construction of a drama and music wing at Mt. Lawley Teachers' College be entirely met by the Australian Government?
- (2) Was the said report in *The Sunday Times* pursuant to a Press release issued by the Minister for Education?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2), did the Minister mention in such Press release the source of the funds to be so expended; and if not, why not?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) No. It is being financed in the proportion of 10% State and 90% Commonwealth.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Yes. It was stated that the project was being financed jointly by the State and Commonwealth Governments.

17. **TOTALISATOR AGENCY NO. 104**

*Closure*

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) What was the capital cost to the Totalisator Agency Board in constructing the TAB agency No. 104?
- (2) When was this agency opened in the brick premises now existing?
- (3) Does he confirm that at the expiration of the 25 years lease held by the said board, the improvements being agency No. 104, being part of the freehold, become the absolute property of the registered proprietor of the freehold and not the property of the board?
- (4) In the light of the answers given to the above questions and bearing in mind that under the terms of the lease I understand the TAB cannot use the said premises for any other purpose than a TAB agency, how can the continued closure of this agency be justified?
- (5) Is he personally satisfied with the board's attempts to justify its closure decision, particularly after reading together parts (5) and (6) of question 37 of Wednesday, 19th March last and the answers given thereto?

- (6) Will he please request the board, again having given scrutiny to the answers supplied to question 37 of 19th March last (parts (5) and (6)) to review at its next meeting its closure decision in respect of agency 104 and also agency 99?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) \$22 393.66.
- (2) 9th September, 1974.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The savings made justify its closure.
- (5) Yes. Subject to seasonal and other fluctuations, the turnover in the Kalgoolie/Boulder area has decreased by less than one-half of one per cent since the closure of the two agencies and it is expected that this reduction will be eliminated in the future.

The board is therefore obtaining approximately the same turnover at a lower cost and operational charges for the two agencies (99 and 104) do not apply.

In addition, it is possible that the premises previously occupied by agency 99 can be leased at a figure which will equate shut-down costs.

- (6) Yes.

18. **PRE-PRIMARY CENTRES**

*Government Expenditure, and Children's Commission Finance*

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

- (1) Was the Minister correctly quoted in *The Sunday Times* of 23rd March, 1975, wherein he is reported as saying that \$871 000 had been made available by the interim committee of the Children's Commission to finance the pre-primary centre programme?
- (2) If "Yes" was he referring to this said sum, but in round figures, when he made a statement in the Legislative Council on 18th March, 1975 and referred to a sum of \$900 000?
- (3) During the term of his Government how much—
  - (a) State moneys; and
  - (b) Australian Government moneys,
 have been made available for—
  - (i) capital purposes;
  - (ii) operating expenses;
 for—
  - (A) pre-school centres; and
  - (B) pre-primary centres?

- (4) Is the Minister satisfied that by fair comparison with pre-primary centres equitable sums of money have been made available for the operation and development of pre-school centres?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.  
(3) The moneys below refer to the 1974/75 financial years:

	\$
(A), (a), (i) ....	80 000
(A), (b), (i) ....	924 880
(A), (a), (ii) ....	1 533 400
(A), (b), (ii) ....	1 857 742
(B), (a), (i and ii) ....	250 000
(B), (b), (i and ii) ....	871 000

These figures do not include moneys specially made available for Aboriginal pre-school education. Nor do they take into account moneys that may become available from the Commonwealth Government during the course of the present financial year.

- (4) Yes.

## 19. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

### *Procedure: Call by Speaker*

Mr DAVIES, to the Speaker:

- (1) What Standing Order requires a member to sit down when the Speaker is not on his feet and has given the "call" to another member?  
(2) If two members rise to speak is the one who does not get the call required to sit?

The SPEAKER replied:

There is no particular Standing Order requiring a member, who has sought the call, to sit down following the Speaker giving the call to another member; however, common courtesy and the orderly conduct of debate vests with all members, and such a member who fails to obtain the call should straightaway resume his seat.

There is a very long time-honoured tradition that one of the prime tasks of the Speaker is to endeavour to preserve good Parliamentary manners.

Generally speaking, Standing Orders give the Speaker authority to control the House.

## 20. FRUIT-FLY BAITING SCHEME

### *Withdrawal of Districts, and Records*

Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) As in reply to my question 24, part (2) of 19th March, 1975 his answer

is "No", but in answer to part (4) of the same question the answer is "Yes", but it must be the district as "a whole", what is the way for a district to withdraw from a fruit fly baiting scheme other than by seeking a referendum?

- (2) Is a list of all owners or occupiers of registered orchards kept; if so, where and what number of orchards are registered in the south suburban fruit fly baiting scheme area?  
(3) Is a record kept by the secretary of the south suburban district fruit fly baiting scheme of the spraying done on each individual "orchard"; if so, would he give the date of such spraying?  
(4) Does the owner or occupier of a registered orchard receive any advice as to the date of such individual spraying; if not, why not?  
(5) What supervision, if any, is carried out by the committee of the south suburban fruit fly baiting scheme to check on such spraying?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

- (1) It is regretted that the answer to question 24 (4) was partly incorrect and the reply should have read—

No. The discontinuation of a scheme is provided for under section 12C of the Act but applies only to a district as "a whole". However it is at the committee's discretion as to whether all or any fruit trees are treated.

There is no statutory provision for a district to withdraw from a baiting scheme other than by a poll.

- (2) Details of names and addresses of registered orchards are recorded on individual cards at the Department of Agriculture but no list is maintained and the information requested cannot be readily provided from departmental records.  
(3) The south suburban scheme has advised that a record is kept of all properties bait sprayed but not the dates of each spraying.  
(4) No advice of the dates of individual spraying is given to owners or occupiers of orchards because of the prohibitive cost of such a service.  
(5) The south suburban scheme advises that bait spraying operations are supervised by the secretary organiser.

## 21. HIGH SCHOOL AT GOSNELLS

### *Establishment*

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

- (1) In view of the increased housing development taking place in the Gosnells area, will the Minister advise if a high school is to be constructed in the Gosnells area?
- (2) If "Yes" what will be the location and when can development be expected to commence?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Gosnells High School site is located in the area between Walter Street, Chamberlain Street, Compton Road and Southern River Road. A portion of the site has already been acquired and negotiations are proceeding for the acquisition of the remainder of the site. The construction of the Gosnells High School is listed at a high priority on the 1975-76 school building programme.

## 22. PRE-SCHOOL CENTRES

### *Metropolitan and Country*

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

- (1) How many approved pre-school centres were existing as at 31st December, 1974?
- (2) What were the respective numbers of centres in the metropolitan area and in country areas at the above date?
- (3) (a) Is there any alteration in the numbers given to questions (1) and (2) as of this date;  
(b) if so, would he please indicate?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) to (3) Statistics as at the 31st December are not compiled. As of 1st August, 1974, there were 296 kindergartens affiliated with the Pre-School Education Board. As of 1st March, 1975, 327 pre-school centres were affiliated with the Pre-School Education Board and of these, 144 are located in the metropolitan area and 183 in the country.

## 23. AUSTRALIAN PRE-SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

### *Government Financial Assistance*

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

- (1) Apropos my question 13 of 31st July, 1974, has the Government provided any financial assistance

to the Western Australian Branch of the Australian Pre-School Association?

- (2) If so, to what extent and if not why not?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) \$4 000.

24.

## WATER SUPPLIES

### *Kalgoorlie and Boulder: Consumption Classifications*

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Under water charge scales now applying in Kalgoorlie and Boulder, what is the consumption classification(s) for water consumed by the Town of Kalgoorlie for watering parks, gardens, street trees, etc., and also at the Lord Forrest Olympic Pool?
- (2) Under what consumption classification will—  
(a) Non-Government schools at the above centres; and  
(b) Agricola College, fall?
- (3) What will be the average percentage increase in the cost of water consumed by non-Government schools in Kalgoorlie-Boulder compared with charges prevailing before the introduction of the 1974-75 State Budget?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) General purposes.
- (2) (a) General purposes.  
(b) General purposes.
- (3) The previous charge for water consumed by non-Government schools was—

All water consumed—5.5c per kilolitre.

The new charge is—

First 455 kilolitres at 7c per kilolitre.

Next 1 818 kilolitres at 11c per kilolitre.

Over 2 273 kilolitres at 22c per kilolitre.

The percentage increase would depend on water consumed.

25.

## WOMEN'S HEALTH IN A CHANGING SOCIETY

### *Delegates to Conference*

Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) Will the Government be sponsoring any delegates to the conference to be held at the University of Queensland 25th-29th August, 1975, with the theme "Women's Health in a Changing Society"

which is being organised by the Australian Government as a contribution to International Women's Year?

- (2) If so, what are the Government's intentions?
- (3) If not, what are the reasons?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (3) As far as can be ascertained, no approach has been made by any organisation or individual, and therefore, this matter has not been considered.

## 26. COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES

### *Establishment: Approaches to Commonwealth*

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

- (1) Have any approaches been made to the Australian Government for the establishment of any further community health centres?
- (2) If so, when was/were submission(s) made and where were the location(s)?
- (3) If not, is a programme being prepared and can details be made available?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Busselton health centre is now operational and the Mandurah centre is under construction. There is approval in principle for establishment of health centres at Geraldton and South Hedland. Submissions for these were made in July 1974. Further submissions will be made on 27th May, 1975.
- (3) Not applicable.

## 27. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

### *Tunnel Design*

Mr MAY, to the Premier:

- (1) According to the Premier's statement published in *The West Australian* on 22nd March, the Metropolitan Regional Planning Authority restricted consideration to two alternatives when considering traffic flow problems south of Canning Bridge—why was the scope of their planning so restricted?
- (2) Is he aware of a new type of tunnel design which is particularly appropriate under Perth conditions, and is said to be substantially cheaper than the tunnel structure costed by the Main Roads Department?

- (3) Has a firm with wide international experience in tunnel construction been asked to make a joint submission related to the new design?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) My statement referred to alternative courses of action that the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority could adopt in respect of the proposed amendment to the Metropolitan Region Scheme after considering the objections. It had nothing to do with the alternative alignments that had been proposed before and during the hearing of objections. That aspect is fully explored in the Authority's report and supporting documents tabled in both Houses and of which copies have been made available to all Members.
- (2) No, unless reference is made to a proposal put forward by the Playford group.
- (3) No, not by the Government.

## 28. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

### *Fauna, Aquatic Recreation, and Flora: Effect*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

- (1) What effect will the proposed alignment of the Kwinana Freeway extension have on the bird life and other fauna habitats in the Mt. Henry peninsula?
- (2) What effect will the major obstruction caused by a 2200 feet long bridge have on aquatic and recreational activity using the reaches of the Canning River?
- (3) What steps will be taken to preserve existing flora along the foreshores of the Canning River if freeway construction proceeds along its eastern banks?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Advice from relevant experts is that it will have no significant effect.
- (2) Answered by question 30 part (3).
- (3) The Main Roads Department is currently seeking advice from appropriate experts to ensure that the effect on the existing flora and fauna is minimised during construction and that appropriate techniques are used to ensure rapid recovery of existing conditions where practicable.

## 29. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

### *Air Currents*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

- (1) What air currents prevail in the Canning River basin between Mt. Pleasant and Mt. Henry?
- (2) Do prevailing air currents affect the pattern of fogs in the area where it is proposed to extend the freeway?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Not known.
- (2) After discussion with meteorological experts it was considered that the climatic conditions affecting the freeway extension would not be significantly different from those affecting the existing freeway. The existing freeway does not experience problems of fog.

## 30. CANNING RIVER

### *Effect of Reclamation, Bridge, and Tunnel*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

- (1) What is the likely long term effect of dredging, reclamation and tunnel construction on the estuarine life of the river?
- (2) Is it feasible to move salt-water paper-bark trees on a temporary basis?
- (3) What are the likely short term and long term effects of bridge and tunnel construction on the use of the river for recreational purposes?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Page 30 of volume I of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority report tabled in Parliament yesterday elaborates on this question as far as dredging and reclamation are concerned. The answer to question 32 part (3) is relevant in relation to tunnel construction.
- (2) Present indications are that it would not be feasible.
- (3) Short term effects of a bridge will be minimal and much less than a tunnel. Long term effects of a bridge will not be significantly different from a tunnel for the presently existing recreational users of the river.

## 31. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

### *Environmental Protection Report*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

- (1) At what stage in the planning for

the southern extension of the freeway was the Department of Environmental Protection asked to comment on the environmental aspects of the proposal?

- (2) Was the Department of Environmental Protection asked to comment on any of the alternative proposals raised at the MRPA hearings?
- (3) What alternatives other than those involving bridges along the Main Roads Department preferred route and the Parliament approved route has the Department of Environmental Protection considered?
- (4) Has the Department of Environmental Protection been asked for its opinion on sections 109 and 110, the comments by Mr Jay on the design of freeways, and alternative methods of road design described in the Second Report of the Australian House of Representatives Select Committee on Road Safety?
- (5) Was the Department of Environmental Protection's report on the proposed extension available at the MRPA hearing of objections?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) After preliminary design work on the southern extension carried out by the Main Roads Department, the Director of Environmental Protection was invited to join a senior level advisory committee which guided the detailed development of the preferred route. This committee first met on 19th June, 1973.
- (2) No. However, in formulating its report the Environmental Protection Authority gave consideration to the alternative routes that had previously been advanced.
- (3) The only proposal not requiring a bridge along the routes mentioned would be one that involved the construction of a tunnel. This has been discussed with but not considered in detail by the Department of Environmental Protection. The answer to question 32 part (3) is relevant.
- (4) and (5) No.

## 32. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

### *Environmental Protection Report*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

- (1) What environmental experts were consulted in preparing the PERTS 1970 report?

- (2) What environmental experts were consulted in preparing the Main Roads Department plan for the southern extension to the Kwinana Freeway?
- (3) The Main Roads Department has recently costed a tunnel project along the Canning River at \$71 million—what environmental consultants assisted with the preparation of the report on that study?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) The PERTS 1970 report was prepared on the basis of a multidisciplinary study team comprising—Dr R. S. Nielsen, Study Director. Miss N. C. Buscaglia, Staff Assistant.

Mr C. A. Basell, Engineering Draftsman, Main Roads Department.

Mr F. G. Bottoms, Transportation Planner, Main Roads Department.

Mr R. A. Cochrane, Senior Engineer, Maunsell and Partners.

Miss M. S. Dilly, Secretary, Main Roads Department.

Mr R. F. Grace, Draftsman, Town Planning Department.

Mr K. F. Haynes, Senior Planning Officer, Town Planning Department.

Mr E. R. Lloyd, Engineer—Investigations and Systems, Main Roads Department.

Mr H. C. Morris, Senior Engineer, Town Planning Department.

Mr S. J. Osborne, Technical Assistant, Main Roads Department.

Mr N. H. Parkhurst, Traffic Engineer, Main Roads Department.

Mr P. G. Van Der Kull, Planning Officer, Town Planning Department.

Mr C. B. MacLennan, Civil Engineer, Mains Roads Department and the technical consultants—

Alan M. Voorhees and Associates, Inc., Virginia, U.S.A.

Harris, Lange-Voorhees, Melbourne, Australia.

De Leuw Cather of Australia Pty. Ltd., Perth, Australia.

Maunsell and Partners Pty Ltd., Melbourne, Australia.

- (2) Expert comment was obtained from the following departments:

Mines, Metropolitan Water Board, Public Works, Town Planning, Fisheries & Fauna, State Herbarium, Swan River Conservation Board, Environmental Protection Authority, Environmental Protection Council, Department of Environmental Protection and Main Roads Department.

- (3) Appendix III of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority Report tabled in Parliament identifies areas of environmental concern that would have to be studied if a tunnel was considered to be a practical proposition.

### 33. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

#### *Mt. Henry Peninsula*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

- (1) Has an application been submitted for the purpose of obtaining the Mt. Henry peninsula as part of the National Estate?
- (2) How many species of wildflowers have been found on the peninsula?
- (3) What is the area of the peninsula?
- (4) Are any of the botanical species found there unique?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) This is recorded in appendix IX of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority submission and report on objections, tabled in Parliament on the 25th March and available to Members.
- (3) The area commonly referred to as the Mount Henry peninsula is approximately 14 hectares.
- (4) Answered by (2).

34.

### CANNING RIVER

#### *Effect of Reclamation*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) What will be the ecological impact of filling in parts of the Canning River?
- (2) Has any study been done on river life along the Canning River from Canning Bridge to the proposed new bridge approaches?
- (3) Would infill of the Canning have long term effect on marine ecology?
- (4) Would the dredging of the mud flats east of Salter Point cause damage to river ecology?

- (5) Would infill of Prawn Bay affect breeding grounds for marine life?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) The ecological impact on the Canning River system will be minimal.
- (2) No, but observations have been made.
- (3) Answered by (1).
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Breeding grounds for marine life are usually in the ocean and thus infill of Prawn Bay would have little effect.

35.

### CANNING RIVER

#### *Fishing Industry*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) What is the annual value of the fish netted in the Canning River?
- (2) How many people are permanently employed fishing in that area?
- (3) Are any of the species of estuarine life in the area unique?
- (4) How are the species of fish in the area likely to be affected by reclamation?
- (5) How seriously would changes in the hydrology of the area affect the estuarine life?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) The official fisheries statistics are on a block system and one block covers the whole of the open-water areas of the Swan and Canning Rivers. The annual value of fish netted in the Canning River is, therefore, not known but the estimated value is \$12 000.
- (2) The area is a preferred fishing zone for about five professional fishermen.
- (3) Not aware of any unique species.
- (4) By reduction of productive shallows that are the habitat for species important in the food chains of the edible fishes.
- (5) If the question refers to changes in hydrology as a result of the proposed freeway extension—the likely effect on the estuarine life would be minimal.

36.

### CANNING RIVER

#### *Dredging at Shelley*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is dredging near the Shelley area planned?
- (2) If so, to what extent and when will dredging commence?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).

37.

### KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

#### *Resumptions: Mt. Henry*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Works: What is the anticipated cost for resumption of 40 acres of land in the Mt. Henry region?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

A single owner is involved and it is not policy to publicise anticipated cost of resumption pending finality.

38.

### CANNING RIVER

#### *Planned Public Works*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Works: Are any public works affecting the hydrology of the Canning River planned?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

No.

39.

### KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

#### *MRPA Inquiry: Objections outside of Area*

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

What number of objections received by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority in relation to the southern extension to the Kwinana Freeway came from outside the area directly affected by the freeway?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

The term "directly affected" is capable of varying interpretations but I suggest the Member will find the information he requires in the tabled report and appendices, a copy of which has been made available to him.

40.

### KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

#### *MRPA Inquiry: Objections from Manning Area*

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

- (1) How many objections to the proposed southern extension to the Kwinana Freeway were received by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority?
- (2) What proportion of the objections received came from outside the Manning area?
- (3) What proportion of the objectors presented these in person before the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority?
- (4) When and where will the results of these objections be published?

- (5) Were the objectors interviewed by members of staff of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority or Main Roads Department prior to the formal interview?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) to (5) The answers to these questions are contained within the Report and appendices tabled on Tuesday 25th. Copies of the report have now been made available to all Members.

#### 41. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

##### *MRPA Inquiry: Witnesses and Alternatives*

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

- (1) How many witnesses were objectors permitted when presenting their cases to the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority regarding the southern extension of the Kwinana Freeway?
- (2) Were complaints received regarding the use of closed hearings at these interviews?
- (3) Did any objectors indicate a desire to call more than the maximum allowed number of witnesses?
- (4) How many proposals for alternatives to the Main Roads Department preferred plan were received in the course of the MRPA inquiries?
- (5) How many of the proposed alternatives were considered in detail?
- (6) Did any of the proposed alternatives involve using links to the city other than the Narrows Bridge, what was the cost of these proposals, and what were their capacities in vehicles per day?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) No specific numbers. Objectors were asked to restrict the number of persons accompanying them and witnesses asked to confine themselves to the subject of the amendment.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) No—refer to (1).
- (4) to (6) This information is contained in the tabled report and appendices.

#### 42. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

##### *Water Table: Effect*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) By how much will the water table be lowered near the freeway in

the Brentwood area if the construction goes ahead according to the Main Roads Department preferred plan?

- (2) What will be the effect of the lowering of the water table on neighbouring properties and what compensation will be made for any changes which occur?
- (3) What method of dewatering is proposed for the construction of the freeway in the Brentwood area, and what is the estimated cost of the process?
- (4) What will be the annual running cost of the dewatering system?
- (5) Does he know what will be the effect of lowering of the water table on the ecology of the surrounding area?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Accurate estimates cannot be made until final detailed designs are complete.
- (2) Preliminary estimates indicate little significant effect.
- (3) The dewatering of the Brentwood cutting, if necessary is not expected to present any engineering difficulties. The method employed would depend on the final detailed design and contractor's choice.
- (4) The Brentwood cutting is expected to be self-draining and therefore no annual running costs are expected.
- (5) No injurious effect is considered likely.

#### 43. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

##### *Traffic Noise Level*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the mean noise level at Edgewater Road at the present time?
- (2) What is the peak noise level at Edgewater Road arising from traffic at the present time?
- (3) What is the expected mean noise level at Edgewater Road if the southern extension to the Kwinana Freeway is in operation?
- (4) What is the expected peak noise level at Edgewater Road if the southern extension to the Kwinana Freeway is in operation?
- (5) Is the mean noise level alongside the Narrows Bridge higher than that on the Kwinana Freeway opposite South Terrace, and if so, by how much?

- (6) What is the peak noise level expected at the Esplanade Brentwood, when the southern extension to the Kwinana Freeway is in operation?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) The descriptive unit commonly used by traffic and highway authorities is based on the noise level exceeded for 10% of the time. Using this unit ambient noise levels range from 50 dB(A) on week days rising to 55 dB(A) at weekends. These levels are similar to residential suburbs in the Perth metropolitan area.
- (3), (4) and (6) Until detailed design including attenuating devices is completed no information on noise levels can be accurately predicted. However, based on planning information, predictions of possible noise levels identify locations which will require special design consideration. One design will be to minimise noise levels to adjacent properties.
- (5) Not known.

#### 44. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

##### *Cloverleaf Interchanges, and Traffic Flow*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) (a) What would be the cost of installing squared cloverleaf interchanges at the junctions of Canning Highway with Reynolds Road, Riseley Street, Stock Road, and Ardross Street, and doubling of the Canning Bridge;
- (b) how would this affect the flow of vehicles along the Kwinana Freeway and what would be the cost-benefit ratio for such upgrading?
- (2) What percentage of the vehicles using the Kwinana Freeway come from—
- (a) south of Leach Highway and east of Bull Creek;
- (b) south of Leach Highway and west of Bull Creek?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) (a) No examination has been made of providing interchanges along Canning Highway and therefore no costs are available, but they would be extremely costly and disruptive.
- (b) It would not be expected that any significant change in traffic would occur on the

Kwinana Freeway. No cost benefit ratio has therefore been undertaken.

- (2) (a) and (b) No traffic survey has been carried out to enable this information to be provided.

#### 45. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

##### *Traffic Flow*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the expected traffic flow in vehicles per day on the southern extension to the Kwinana Freeway, the Kwinana Freeway just north of Canning Bridge and the Narrows Bridge when the southern extension is opened, and what annual increase is expected in these traffic flows?
- (2) On completion of the southern extension and the Judd Street interchange, what is the expected waiting time for vehicles entering the freeway at South Perth, and how much is this expected to increase on an annual basis?
- (3) Is it expected that doubling of the Narrows Bridge will be necessary, and if so, in what year?
- (4) What is the likely cost of doubling the Narrows Bridge and how much reclamation of river would be required?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Assuming the opening of the extension is 1979, the estimated traffic flows at the following points are:—

Across Mt Henry Bridge—Approximately 50 000 v.p.d.

Existing Kwinana Freeway—Approximately 65 000 v.p.d.

Narrows Bridge—Approximately 80 000 v.p.d.

If the current trend continues indications are for a growth rate in the order of 8% per annum.

- (2) No significant waiting time is expected.
- (3) Duplication of the Narrows Bridge is not planned although the PERTS Study indicated that it could be required in about 20 years if past trends are continued.
- (4) Not known.

#### 46. NARROWS BRIDGE

##### *Tunnel and Duplication*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the estimated cost of

linking the Narrows Bridge via a tunnel to Thomas Street?

- (2) What is the capacity of the interchange between the Kwinana Freeway and the Mitchell Freeway?
- (3) What would be the capacity of the Narrows Bridge if it were doubled?
- (4) What upgrading of roads in the central business district would be necessary if the Narrows Bridge were doubled, what would be the cost of this upgrading, and how much reclamation would be involved?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Such a link is not in the Metropolitan Region Scheme and has not been examined or costed.
- (2) Capacity will be adequate for daily volumes but some peak period congestion is to be expected.
- (3) This is not known because it would be dependent on the provision made in the approach road system. There are no proposals for duplicating the bridge.
- (4) Not known. See answer to (3).

#### 47. KWINANA FREEWAY-CANNING BRIDGE INTERCHANGE

##### *Proposals*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

What types of interchange were considered before arriving at the present plan for the Canning Bridge/Kwinana Freeway interchange?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Many interchange configurations were examined to suit the traffic requirements of the area. These included variations of diamond, directional and partial clover-leaf types.

#### 48. KWINANA FREEWAY-CANNING BRIDGE INTERCHANGE

##### *Multilevel Structure*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

What housing resumption, if any, would become unnecessary, if a multilevel interchange were used at the intersection of Canning Highway and the Kwinana Freeway?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

No reduction in housing requirements could be expected from an alternative interchange design of the required standard without further reclamation of the river. The design as recommended was the least disruptive to housing, property and the river.

49.

#### KWINANA FREEWAY-CANNING BRIDGE INTERCHANGE

##### *Traffic Lights*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many traffic lights are there on the Canning Highway within the space of the interchange?
- (2) What bank up of traffic on the Kwinana Freeway at peak hour will result from the use of traffic lights on the interchange?
- (3) What would be the cost of an Olivero type interchange at the Junction of the Canning Highway and the Kwinana Freeway, and what would be the diameter of that interchange, and what speeds would be possible thereon?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) For the proposed Canning interchange three sets of traffic control signals are envisaged on Canning Highway.
- (2) There are no proposed traffic control signals on Kwinana Freeway at the Canning interchange and it is expected that any queue at the Canning Highway signals will not affect traffic operations on the freeway.
- (3) It was considered that an Olivero type interchange would not have adequate capacity for this junction and therefore was not costed.

50.

#### EARTHQUAKES

##### *Protective Structural Designs*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What experience has the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation on designing structures to withstand seismic shock?
- (2) What are the recommendations of the Architectural Institute of Japan on foundations for concrete structures in seismic areas?
- (3) What are the SMEC recommendations on foundations of concrete structures in the Perth area?
- (4) What areas in Perth were most affected by seismic shock as a result of the Meckering earthquake?

- (5) What sections of the Narrows Bridge and Kwinana Freeway were most affected by the earthquake?
- (6) Has the Architectural Institute of Japan made any statement on the stability of areas under seismic shock within 25 years of reclamation?
- (7) Was there any evidence for subsidence in the vicinity of the Canning River south of Canning Bridge in the Meckering earthquake?
- (8) Were uniformly thin-walled structures considered as a possibility for constructing a tunnel along the line of the proposed southern extension?
- (9) Does the Architectural Institute of Japan consider it possible to reduce seismic shock by the use of components of structures with a different natural frequency for vibration?
- (10) Is sand-ballast in a thin-walled concrete tunnel structure likely to have a higher or lower natural frequency of vibration, and how strongly damped would that motion be?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) SMEC has had very wide experience in major civil engineering works both in Australia and overseas, and no doubt would either have expert knowledge or seek advice in this field when required.
- (2) Not known.
- (3) The Main Roads Department has not asked SMEC to carry out any design work.
- (4) Minor damage to above ground structures occurred throughout the metropolitan area. Areas by the river where mud had been displaced during earlier reclamation suffered further movement.
- (5) The Narrows Bridge suffered no damage or displacement. Relatively large movements occurred in the area adjacent to the north abutment of the Narrows Bridge on the north west corner of Mill Point and between Cale Street and Canning Highway. These movements were all in areas where mud had been displaced by large amounts of sand.
- (6) and (7) Not known.
- (8) Yes. However, this type of structure was rejected on technical grounds.
- (9) Not known.

- (10) Not known. We are advised that the response of subsurface structures to seismic shock is not fully understood, but it appears that the cross sectional detail of tunnels is not significant, hence internal damping would be likely to be unimportant.

51.

#### MINING

*Pilbara and Kimberley Projects: Inspection*

Mr MAY, to the Premier:

- (1) Has further consideration been given to arranging an inspection of the Pilbara and Kimberley projects by Members of Parliament during the recess period following the autumn session of Parliament?
- (2) If not, would he indicate when a visit to the northern areas is envisaged?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The prospect of such a visit has not been overlooked, but it is unlikely to eventuate this year.

52.

#### TECHNICAL SCHOOL

##### *Esperance*

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

- (1) Is it the intention of the Government to construct a technical school at Esperance?
- (2) If so, when is it anticipated construction will commence?
- (3) Will he advise details of the location of the proposed technical school?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) to (3) The needs of all major centres for technical education are under frequent review and priorities are determined accordingly. There are no proposals to construct a technical school at Esperance in the immediate future.

53.

#### WATER SUPPLIES

##### *Rates: Kalgoorlie and Boulder*

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What were the charges for water in Kalgoorlie and Boulder—
  - (a) for commercial; and
  - (b) industrial,
 purposes before changes contemplated (or effected as the case may be) by the 1974-75 State budget?
- (2) Did the recent review of rural water charges affect the cost of commercial and industrial water

at the above centres, and if so, would he please indicate in tabular form as follows:—

- (a) before the 1974-75 budget;
  - (b) charges proposed by the budget;
  - (c) charges as a result of the review?
- (3) Apart from domestic, commercial and industrial consumption categories, under what other heads, or categories, was water consumption charged at the above centres before the said budget, and what other categories now exist?
- (4) What has been the percentage increase in water charges that will have to be met this calendar year by the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Racing Club (assuming no change in the consumption for 1974) as a result of increased charges and change of category relating to charges?
- (5) Does he confirm, as far as domestic consumption of water in Kalgoorlie-Boulder is concerned, that the charges (based on 100 000 gallons or 455 kilolitres) by way of comparison with the scale of charges prevailing before the said budget and those announced in the budget would have reflected a percentage increase in the vicinity of 45%?
- (6) If he does not so confirm, what percentage increase does he claim would have resulted?
- (7) Does he confirm that under the scale of charges for domestic consumption at the said centres, referred to by the Treasurer in introducing the 1974-75 budget a consumption of 100 000 gallons or 455 kilolitres would have cost \$32 and under the recent review the corresponding charge will be \$31.85 a saving of 15 cents?
- (8) If he does not so confirm what will be the appropriate saving?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) (a) First 275 kilolitres at 4.4c per kilolitre.  
Next 180 kilolitres at 5.5c per kilolitre.  
Next 454 kilolitres at 6.6c per kilolitre.  
Over 909 kilolitres at 8.8c per kilolitre.
- (b) All water consumed at 8.8c per kilolitre.
- (2) No.
- (3) Apart from domestic, commercial and industrial, the other categories

ies of consumption charges before the Budget were—

Mining, shipping and stock watering purposes,  
Irrigation purposes vegetable and fruit growing for market.  
General purposes.

The other categories after the Budget were—

Mining.  
Irrigation purposes vegetable and fruit growing for market.  
General purposes.  
Shipping, stock watering, building, railways and vacant land.

- (4) 293%.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) See answer to (5) above.
- (7) This saving of 15c arose from the conversion of 100 000 gallons at 32c per 1 000 gallons to 455 kilolitres at 7c per kilolitre.
- (8) See (7) above.

54.

#### LAND

##### *Wilderness National Park*

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

- (1) What are the Government's plans for the proposed 116 000 hectare Wilderness National Park which is recommended by the Conservation Through Reserves Committee Report?
- (2) Is this substantially the same area referred to in questions 13 and 14 of 26th November, 1974 as being endorsed by the Conservator of Forests and by the W.A. Wildlife Authority?
- (3) Has any action been taken by any member of the Government or by any of its servants to congratulate the foresters who made the submission for their foresight and devotion to the public weal?
- (4) Has any action contrary to the sentiments expressed in (3) been taken by any member of the Government or by any of its servants?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Recommendations will not be made by the Environmental Protection Authority to the Government until all public comments have been considered. I feel that it is important that Members be generally aware that the Environmental Protection Authority has published without endorsement the Conservation Through Reserves Committee report and has made it generally available for public comment before 30th June, 1975.
- (2) and (3) Yes.
- (4) No, not to my knowledge.

## 55. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

*Overhead Charge to Development Costs*

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

- (1) Has he seen the statement "it was not the policy of the W.A. Government to add an environmental overhead charge to development costs" ascribed to Dr B. O'Brien in the *Weekend News* of 22nd March, 1975?
- (2) Was the statement correctly ascribed to Dr O'Brien?
- (3) Is it a fact that this is the Government's policy?
- (4) Does the Environmental Protection Authority's policy exactly coincide with the Government's on this issue?
- (5) If the answer to (4) is "No" to what degree do the two policies conflict with one another?
- (6) Does the Government subscribe to what is generally known as the "polluter pays" principle?
- (7) If the statement in (1) *supra* is an accurate reflection of the Government's policy, does this in any way conflict with the "polluter pays" principle?
- (8) If (7) is "Yes" how can the apparent conflict be rationalised?
- (9) If (7) is "No" what is the rationale for such an answer?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Dr O'Brien's actual statement which he read to the fourth national congress of urban developers in Adelaide, 21st March, 1975 was "I wish to add, however, that this in no way implies a West Australian policy at this time of adding such an overhead charge for Environmental Management".
- (3) Answered by (2).
- (4) At this time the Environmental Protection Authority has not had a clear policy on this issue and indeed Dr O'Brien's statement was intended to be a thought provoking statement so that the Environmental Protection Authority could receive comments from professional bodies such as the congress of urban developers and the public on this matter.
- (5) Answered by (3) and (4).
- (6) No. Government policy has been declared on this principle which requires careful description of what such a principle means.
- (7) Answered by (1).

- (8) and (9) Answered by (7).  
I might add for the Members' information that copies of Dr O'Brien's paper are presently being produced and will be tabled at the earliest possible opportunity.

## 56. NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS

*Environmental Impact*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Premier:

As in his answer to part (3) of question 13 of 18th March, 1975, the Premier stated that my statement was not correct will he refer to the latter part of the Minister for Conservation and Environment's answer to my question 2 of 21st August, 1974 and state whether it is a fact or not that the Minister for Conservation and Environment deprecated environmental impact statements because they may "produce unnecessary paper work which would not really contribute to appropriate environmental management"?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The Member's statement in part (3) of question 13 of 18/3/75 is not correct, as he well knows by reading the whole of the answer to question 2 of 21/8/74, rather than quote a part out of context.

I would also refer the Member to *Hansard* proof No. 17 of Thursday, 28/11/74, page 3993 where, in the debate on the Estimates, the subject of environmental impact statements was further elaborated.

The whole argument of the Member is essentially one of semantics. The department is, in effect, wherever necessary, carrying out an environmental review or management programmes on major projects. This produces a similar result, but at this stage of our development is considered preferable to a formal environmental impact statement.

As previously stated from experience gained, codification of guidelines can be expected. At no time has the Minister for Conservation and Environment "deprecated" environmental impact statements, as alleged.

## 57. CORPORATION AND SECURITIES INDUSTRIES BILL

*Opposition by State Government*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware of the statement attributed to the New South Wales Attorney General, Mr Maddison, that the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia would fight

"tooth and nail" to prevent the Federal Government's Corporation and Securities Industry Bill from becoming law?

- (2) Does this statement accurately reflect the policy of the Western Australian Government?
- (3) To what extent is the Bill repugnant to the Government?
- (4) What does the Government intend to do to act upon the need for regulation of the industry as outlined in the Senate's Committee of Inquiry Report into Securities and Exchange?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes, the Western Australian Government is opposed to the Bill in its present form, as stated in the newspaper report.
- (3) To the extent that it impinges on the constitutional rights of this State, and creates uncertainty in the law and confusion in the business community resulting from unwarranted intrusion into the administration of State functions.
- (4) It is to be borne in mind that regulatory action has already been taken by the implementation of the Securities Industries Act, 1970, and substantial amendments to the Companies Act, 1961.

Additionally, the State has announced its intention to join the Interstate Corporate Affairs Commission in order to provide a constant uniform review of legislation, and to achieve more effective regulation of the industry, in the interests of the investing public.

## 58. TRADE

### *International Markets: Government Interference*

Mr A. R. TONKIN: to the Premier:

As the second part to question 11 of 20th March, 1975 has been ruled by Mr Speaker as inadmissible because the answer would be too lengthy, will he make a statement to the House detailing his views on the subject matter of the question?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:  
No.

## 59. HOSPITAL

### *Wanneroo: Site*

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

- (1) What is the location of the site upon which will be built the hospital in the Wanneroo area?
- (2) What is the present status of the site?
- (3) How will the hospital be funded?

- (4) Of how many beds will it consist?
- (5) What stage has planning for the hospital reached?
- (6) When was the decision made to build the hospital and by whom was it made?
- (7) Is the proposed hospital part of the MRPA plan for the Lake Joondalup hospital?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) and (2) As Crown land had been set aside on the corner of Okely Road and Mullaloo Drive for hospital purposes, it is intended to build on this site subject to further discussions which are taking place with the Town Planning Department, following which a final decision will be made.
- (3) It will be incorporated in the State's loan programme at the appropriate time.
- (4) 75.
- (5) Preliminary planning will commence as soon as practicable.
- (6) On 11th March, 1975, by the Minister for Health.
- (7) This will depend upon the outcome of discussions referred to in (1).

## 60. WATER SUPPLIES

### *Rivers and Brooks: Flow Measurements*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

Will he table the results of the flow measurements and water quality tests for each of the past ten years in respect of—

Brockman River;  
Woorooloo Brook;  
Jane Brook;  
Gooralong Brook;  
Cooralong Brook;  
Murray River?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

With permission I table the available stream flow and water quality records, as requested.

*The information was tabled (see paper No. 112).*

## 61. AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

### *Meeting and Seminar*

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

- (1) What are the reasons that there was no meeting of the Australian Environmental Council during the whole of 1974?
- (2) Will he table the papers relating to the seminar of November 1974, referred to in the answer to question 16 of 20th March, 1975?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) The sixth meeting in Adelaide was originally planned for 5th April, 1974. It was then delayed to 3rd May, 1974, because of insufficient time to prepare material. This meeting was postponed because of Federal elections on 10th May, 1974. The meeting was then called on 22nd November, 1974 but had then to be postponed until 7th February, 1975 because of an airline strike.
- (2) My department is endeavouring to obtain copies of the papers which will be tabled when available.

62. **NORTH MORLEY SCHOOL**  
*Enrolment and Additions*

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

- (1) How many students are enrolled at the North Morley Primary School?
- (2) What are the class numbers and what grades are being taught in each class?
- (3) How do these numbers compare with the teachers' charter requirements?
- (4) How many classroom teaching areas are available and what other areas are being used for teaching?
- (5) How many classroom teaching areas would normally be provided for the number of children enrolled?
- (6) Is it a fact that plans were drawn up for new buildings?
- (7) What are the details of these plans?
- (8) Why has no building taken place?
- (9) How many demountables are being used at this school?
- (10) Is it intended to take the students to other schools by bus?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

(1) 477.

(2) Year	Number of children	Number of teachers
1	29	1
1	31	1
1	31	1
2	21	1
2	36	1
2 and 3	70	2
3 and 4	38	1
4	36	1
5	38	1
5 and 6	38	1
6	37	1
6 and 7	72	2

- (3) Whilst a number of classes exceed the charter, most approximate the principles accepted in discussions between the department and the union for progressive improvement.
- (4) There are 12 permanent classrooms, 1 demountable classroom and 4 wet areas. One wet area is used as a classroom, one as a library and two as withdrawal spaces.
- (5) Fourteen teaching areas.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) Six learning areas, one of which will be used as a library and one as a dental therapy unit.
- (8) The escalation of building costs has necessitated a review of all proposed work.
- (9) One.
- (10) Not at the present time.

63. **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COUNCIL**

*Membership*

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

- (1) Who are the members of the Environmental Protection Council at the present time, what "interests" do they represent and what were the dates of their appointments?
- (2) Who has been a member of the council at any time but who is not a member now, what "interests" did they represent and what are the dates of their appointments and the dates of their ceasing to be members?
- (3) What were the reasons for the cessation of membership, of those members referred to in (2) above?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Dr B. J. O'Brien, Director of Environmental Protection (Chairman), 15/12/71.

Mr J. F. Morgan, Surveyor General (Deputy Chairman), 15/12/71.

Dr K. F. M. Carruthers, Commissioner of Public Health, 14/12/74.

Mr B. M. Rogers, Under Secretary for Mines, 14/12/74.

Mr B. K. Bowen, Director of Fisheries and Wildlife, 15/12/71.

Dr I. D. Carr, Town Planning Commissioner, 24/1/73.

Mr R. M. Hillman, Director of Engineering, Public Works Department, 15/12/71.

Mr B. J. Beggs, Conservator of Forests, 9/8/72.

Mr A. A. Mills, representing local government bodies, 9/8/72.

Mr E. F. Broad, representing primary industry, 9/8/72.

Mr E. P. O'Callaghan, representing secondary industry, 15/12/71.  
Mr L. C. Brodie-Hall, representing mining and allied primary processing interests, 15/12/71.

Two vacancies exist for persons representing environmental interests. Until these vacancies have been filled their places are taken by the deputies, respectively Mrs L. E. de la Hunty and Mr W. E. Ewers.

(2) and (3)—

Name; Interest; Appointed; Ceased; Reason.

Dr W. D. Ride; Environmental Interests; 15/12/71; 7/10/74; left W.A.

Miss V. M. Knowles; Environmental Interests; 15/12/71; 14/12/72; private.

E. H. Lee-Steere; Primary Industry; 15/12/71; 13/6/72; became Lord Mayor.

G. H. Cooper; Mines Department; 15/12/71; 14/12/74; became Chairman P.S.B.

Dr W. S. Davidson; Comm. Public Health; 15/12/71; 14/12/74; retired as Comm. Public Health.

J. E. Lloyd; Town Planning Commissioner; 15/12/71; 28/12/72; retired Town Planning Commissioner.

D. W. R. Stewart; Conservator of Forests; 15/12/71; 8/8/72; retired as Conservator.

Sir Thomas Wardle; Local Government; 15/12/71; 10/5/72; retired as Lord Mayor.

Sir Thomas Wardle; Environmental Interests; 14/12/72; 2/3/75; private.

#### 64. HOUSING

##### *Representations by Members of Parliament*

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Housing:

Further to my question 10 of 14th September, 1974 could he advise how many representations have been made by Members on constituent housing problems, month by month, since August 1974—

(a) through the State Housing Commission Parliamentary liaison officer;

(b) directly to the Minister?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

(a) Recorded inquiries from Members through the Parliamentary Liaison Officer for each month from September 1974 to March 1975 (inclusive) were as follows.

September 1974	194
October 1974	222
November 1974	253
December 1974	178
January 1975	260
February 1975	279
March 1975 (to 23rd instant)	236
Total for the seven months period	1 622

Note: These figures are the total of the recorded inquiries but some of the telephoned inquiries which are answered immediately are not recorded.

(b) Recorded inquiries from Members referred to the Minister for Housing for each month from September 1974 to March 1975 (inclusive) were as follows:

September 1974	31
October 1974	17
November 1974	27
December 1974	14
January 1975	19
February 1975	17
March 1975 (to 23rd instant)	7

Total for the seven months period 132

Note: These figures include all approaches made by Members direct to the Minister for Housing and do not necessarily represent appeals against previous decisions, records of which are not kept separately.

65.

#### HOUSING

##### *Calista: Duplex Units*

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Housing:

How many three bedroom duplex units are owned by the commission in Calista?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

28 three-bedroom duplex units.

66.

#### HOUSING

##### *Kwinana: Vacant Units*

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Housing:

With respect to the Kwinana area, what was the number of—

(a) two bedroom single detached units;

(b) three bedroom single detached units;

(c) four bedroom single detached units;

(d) three bedroom town houses;

(e) four bedroom town houses, which became vacant and available for reallocation—

- (i) between 1st January and 31st December, 1974; and  
 (ii) since 1st January, 1975?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (i) Homes vacant and available for re-allocation between 1st January and 31st December, 1974, were as follows:

(a) two-bedroom single detached homes	56
(b) three-bedroom single detached homes	42
(c) four-bedroom single detached homes	Nil
(d) three-bedroom town houses	20
(e) four-bedroom town houses	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>

- (ii) Homes vacant and available for re-allocation between 1st January, 1975 and 25th March, 1975, were as follows:

(a) two-bedroom single detached homes	11
(b) three-bedroom single detached homes	10
(c) four-bedroom single detached homes	1
(d) three-bedroom town houses	8
(e) four-bedroom town houses	Nil
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>

## 67. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### *Veterinarians*

Mr MOILER, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) How many veterinary surgeons are employed within the Department of Agriculture?  
 (2) Will he list them and also the towns in which they are stationed?  
 (3) Are all at present being gainfully employed, or could they absorb further work load?

Mr McPHARLIN replied:

- (1) 54.  
 (2) Gardiner, M. R. — Perth.  
 Armstrong, J. M. — Perth.  
 Lewis, P. B. — Perth.  
 Wilkinson, F. C. — Perth.  
 Robertson, A. G. — Perth.  
 Franklin, D. A. — Perth.  
 Hill, R. J. — Perth.  
 Mercy, A. R. — Perth.  
 Ward, G. A. L. — Perth.  
 Anderson, J. L. — Perth.  
 Barker, D. J. — Perth.  
 Nairn, M. E. — Perth.

Dickson, J. — Perth.  
 Edgar, J. — Perth.  
 Smith, V. W. — Perth.  
 de Chaneet, G. C. — Perth.  
 MacKenzie, R. M. — Perth.  
 Allen, J. G. — Perth.  
 Lewis, R. D. — Perth.  
 Robertson, G. M. — Perth.  
 Bond, M. P. — Perth.  
 Peet, R. L. — Perth.  
 Harris, D. G. — Fremantle.  
 Gwynn, R. V. R. — Kununurra.  
 Besier, R. B. — Kununurra.  
 Saunders, P. J. — Kununurra.  
 Suijdendorp, P. J. — Derby.  
 Williams, A. W. — Geraldton.  
 Nickels, R. J. — Geraldton.  
 Hunt, B. R. — Three Springs.  
 Fenny, R. E. — Moora.  
 Rose, M. — Moora.  
 Johnston, J. M. — Northam.  
 Collopy, D. J. — Northam.  
 Buckman, P. G. — Merredin.  
 McKenzie, D. P. — Narrogin.  
 Truscott, G. C. — Narrogin.  
 Dixon, F. F. — Bunbury.  
 Turnbull, P. A. — Bunbury.  
 Mitchell, R. K. — Bunbury.  
 Sutherland, R. J. — Bunbury.  
 Main, D. C. — Bunbury.  
 Moir, D. C. — Bridgetown.  
 Brighton, P. G. — Manjimup.  
 Hopkinson, W. I. — Albany.  
 Kay, B. E. — Albany.  
 Edwards, J. R. — Albany.  
 White, J. B. — Albany.  
 Richards, R. B. — Albany.  
 Berry, P. H. — Katanning.  
 Nottle, F. K. — Katanning.  
 Gardner, J. J. — Esperance.  
 Norris, R. T. — Esperance.  
 Mayberry, C. J. — Esperance.

- (3) Yes, but work priorities are continually kept under review. With changes in Government policy or developments in industry the duties of Government veterinarians can be, and are adjusted from time to time.

## 68. EASTERN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

### *School Bus Services*

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

In reference to the school bus services to Eastern Hills High School and Mount Helena Primary School, will the Minister list the dates when the contracts between the Education Department and the following owner-drivers were commenced and the dates of termination—

- (a) R. Becker;  
 (b) R. Baker;  
 (c) K. Angel;  
 (d) J. Fairhead;  
 (e) M. Earnshaw;  
 (f) B. Ryan?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (a) R. C. & B. V. Becker, commenced 20th August, 1972; terminates 19th August, 1977.
- (b) A. B. & E. L. Baker, commenced 5th February, 1973; terminates 4th February, 1978.
- (c) K. M. Angel, commenced 21st March, 1973; terminates 20th March, 1978.
- (d) R. J. & M. E. Fairhead, commenced 1st July, 1974; terminates 4th November, 1978.
- (e) M. W. & C. Earnshaw, commenced 19th March, 1973; terminates 30th June, 1977.
- (f) B. P. & A. F. Ryan, commenced 1st January, 1974, terminates 31st December, 1978.

#### 69. TOWN PLANNING

*Swan View: Lot 22 Pechey Road*

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

- (1) With reference to Lot 22 Pechey Road, Swan View, which is subject to reservation by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority, is he able to indicate an approximate date when the land will be required by the authority?
- (2) If "No" will he explain why not?
- (3) Does the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority intend to purchase the land during 1975-76 financial year if the owners are unsuccessful in their genuine efforts to dispose of the land?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Approximately 1982.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) If the owners are unsuccessful in their attempts to sell the property and submit evidence to this effect, the authority will determine the matter in accordance with the Metropolitan Region (Valuation Board) Regulations 10 (1) and 10 (2).

#### 70. TOWN PLANNING

*Private Properties: Reservation*

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

How many privately owned properties are subject to reservation by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

The information required is not readily available and I am unable to agree to staff being committed to this time-consuming study.

If the member wishes to be more specific, I will give such a request further consideration.

#### 71. RAILWAYS

*Wood Chipping Industry: Capacity of Locomotives*

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

- (1) What is the maximum quantity which the locomotive ordered for the transport of woodchips from Diamond Tree to Bunbury over each of the following sections of railway line—
  - (a) Diamond Tree to Jardee;
  - (b) Jardee to Manjimup;
  - (c) Manjimup to Bridgetown;
  - (d) Bridgetown to Donnybrook?
- (2) Is the statement contained in *The West Australian* newspaper and attributed to the general manager of W.A. Chip and Pulp that trains loaded with about 1200 tonnes of chips will be expected to leave the forest site every eight hours correct, and can the WAGR ensure that this amount of woodchips is transported?
- (3) Is it a fact that the RA and DA class locomotives are the largest which can be used on the Manjimup-Bunbury railway line because of weight limitations of the line?
- (4) Can a single locomotive of the type on order for the haulage of woodchips from the forest site to Bunbury port haul the 1200 tonnes indicated by the W.A. Chip and Pulp Co. to be load size?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The maximum quantity of woodchips which can be transported by one only new "N" Class locomotive over the four sections mentioned is as follows:—

Tonne

- (a) 528 (eleven wagons)
- (b) 576 (twelve wagons)
- (c) 480 (ten wagons)
- (d) 480 (ten wagons)

However the normal operating pattern will be two locomotives hauling 20 wagons, for which the total load of woodchips will be 960 tonne.

- (2) So far as the Railway Department is concerned the statement is correct in regard to trains leaving at eight hour intervals. However, to meet the tonnages projected by the company, the Railway Department plans trains ralling 960 tonnes of woodchips.

- (3) No. The line is capable of taking the existing "D" class and the new "N" class locomotives which are more powerful than the "DA" and "RA" classes. It is anticipated the "N" class will haul approximately 5% more load than the "DA" and "RA" classes which haul identical loads.
- (4) No. Please refer to answer to (1).

## 72. PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION BOARD

### *Proposals to Minister*

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

- (1) Did the Pre-School Education Board make any proposals to him last week concerning the operation of pre-school education and administration?
- (2) If so, what were these proposals?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) No official "proposals" were received from the Pre-School Board "last week".

## 73. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

### *Resumptions: Valuations*

Mr MAY, to the Premier:

- (1) In connection with the Kwinana Freeway extensions and because of the sharp rise in local real estate values and the extreme inconvenience likely to occur to residents under threat of resumption, will the Government guarantee equivalent new property value and site location plus resettlement compensation to those who will be forced to move?
- (2) If "Yes" could such valuations be made by independent assessors acting for legal representatives of those who are forced to move and the results be decided by the Minister for Housing?
- (3) If "No" will the Government state reasons for not ensuring that civil rights of displaced persons are protected?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) It is the Government's policy to negotiate the purchase of property.
- (2) and (3) Endeavours will be made to negotiate with property owners in these cases but, if it is necessary to resort to compulsory acquisition, and the owner is dissatisfied with the settlement offered, legislation provides alternative independent means of determining compensation.

## RAILWAYS

### *Manjimup Barracks*

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

- (1) Is it proposed to call tenders for a railwaymen's barracks at Manjimup; and if so, when?
- (2) How many men will be provided for in the proposed barracks?
- (3) Is the reason for the building of barracks at Manjimup connected with the proposed woodchip industry or the moving of the Bridgetown depot to Manjimup, or both?
- (4) Would it not be more economic to defer the building of barracks at Manjimup until the report of the committee studying the effect of the removal of the railway depot from Bridgetown is received and the total railway accommodation requirement at Manjimup is known, and if not, what is the benefit of proceeding at the present time before all decisions have been taken?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) A contract for a trainmen's barracks at Manjimup was awarded in March, 1975.
- (2) Eighteen.
- (3) The barracks for which the contract has recently been awarded is solely to fill requirements for the ultimate train service for woodchips traffic.
- (4) No. Regardless of any proposals to move the railway depot from Bridgetown to Manjimup, the Railway Department must make provision for woodchips traffic which is expected to commence in September, 1975 and for which the department is contractually committed. The barracks planned are of the modular type and modules can be added, or taken away, to suit requirements.

## 75. EDUCATION

### *Kearnan College: Manual Arts and Home Science Classes*

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

Now that the Principal of Kearnan College has advised the Director-General of Education that classes conducted outside normal school hours at Manjimup Senior High School will not create any school bus difficulties because the College runs its own bus to Pemberton and will make provision for other students, will the Minister give approval for these classes to be commenced?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

Approval will be granted for out of school classes to be conducted during 1975, provided a teacher is available at the appointed time.

#### 76. PRE-PRIMARY CENTRES

##### *Greenbushes and Balingup*

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

- (1) On what date is it expected that the pre-primary school centres proposed for Greenbushes and Balingup be in operation?
- (2) How many children is it expected will attend each centre?
- (3) (a) What will be the total cost of establishing each of these centres;  
(b) on what items will this amount be expended and what will be the expenditure on each item?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) The Greenbushes pre-primary centre is scheduled to commence in June, 1975, and the Balingup pre-primary centre early in the second half of the year.
- (2) Up to 15 children.
- (3) (a) The estimated costs for building and establishing the centres are:—  
(i) Greenbushes—\$16 500.  
(ii) Balingup—\$17 000.  
(b) Of these amounts in (a) \$13 000 has been set aside for equipment and associated items. The remaining amounts have been provided for construction costs.

#### 77. CRUDE OIL

##### *Price Increase: Government Policy*

Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Premier:

- (1) Does the Government endorse the policy of the Leader of the Australian Country Party that the price of crude oil should be increased by 40%?
- (2) Is he aware that the additional cost of such a move would amount to as much as \$500 for each farmer throughout Australia, with a total bill of \$40 million imposed on the Australian farming community?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) The member seeks to over-simplify the statements by the Federal Leader of the Country Party about oil prices.

I share Mr Anthony's concern about the serious threat to Australia's petroleum supplies and our overseas financial reserves if

the present policies of the Commonwealth Labor Government continue much longer. Mr Anthony's comments go far beyond price, and the end result of what he proposes could mean cheaper petroleum and more security of supply over a period of years, rather than make the assessment on a short-term and an uninformed basis.

I have been advised by Mr Anthony that he has never suggested a 40% increase in oil prices. He has called for a review of pricing policy in line with the published policies of the Federal Liberal and Country Parties.

I understand the 40% figure arose when Mr Anthony gave an example of the effect such an increase would have on petrol prices, and he put this at two or three cents a gallon.

78.

#### HOUSING

##### *Manjimup*

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

- (1) (a) Of the five three-bedroom dwellings, four two-bedroom dwellings, two single pensioner units, two pensioner couple units, which he indicated on 2nd October, 1974 the State Housing Commission proposed to build in Manjimup for the 1974-75 financial year, for how many have tenders been let;  
(b) how many of the dwellings referred to in (a) are under construction?
- (2) If there is any delay to the housing programme proposed in Manjimup will he explain the full reasons for the situation?
- (3) (a) Has construction of the four three-bedroom dwellings and two-bedroom dwellings for which he stated tenders would be called in November 1974 commenced;  
(b) If "No" to (a) when will a commencement on these dwellings be made?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) Nil.
- (2) Yes; the delay is due to the unavailability of State Housing Commission fully serviced home sites in Manjimup. At the present date the commission and the local authority have commissioned engineering consultants to study the feasibility of draining commission land on Leman and Lintott Streets which is also affected by run-off of water from adjacent privately held land.

(3) (a) No.

(b) Until such time as the commission and the local authority have resolved the drainage problem no commencing date for the construction of dwellings can be determined.

## 79. BUNBURY POWER STATION

### *Shift Rosters*

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

- (1) Is it correct that the Bunbury power station is divided into two sections A and B?
- (2) At what date did "A" section commence to operate around the clock on a three shift roster seven days per week?
- (3) At what date did the "B" section commence to work a two shift roster, i.e., day and afternoon shift, from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.?
- (4) Is "B" section still operating on this basis?
- (5) If (4) is "Yes" could he please advise with the high cost of fuel oil, why the Bunbury station has not been operating at maximum load in preference to the Kwinana oil burning station?
- (6) Is it correct that in recent months in order that personnel employed at the Bunbury power house could be employed for 40 hours a week, two workers were employed on jobs usually performed by one worker?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) May, 1957.
- (3) October, 1968.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) No.

## 80. COURTHOUSE AND POLICE STATION

### *Donnybrook: Replacement*

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

- (1) Has he received any complaints from the Bunbury Branch of The Royal Association of Justices of W.A. (Inc.) complaining about the conditions of the Donnybrook courthouse?
- (2) In view of the complaints and the deplorable conditions at the Donnybrook courthouse, police station and police quarters, when will new buildings be erected?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes, a copy of a letter to the Donnybrook-Balingup Shire Council was forwarded to me by the Shire Clerk.
- (2) It is proposed to build a new police station, quarters and court facilities in the financial year 1976-77 subject to funds being available.

81.

## SEWERAGE

### *Collie: Extensions*

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

Will he advise what sewerage extensions are to be carried out at Collie and the expenditure involved?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

A contract for \$74 694 has been signed for the construction of a pumping station, pumping main and reticulation sewers to provide sewerage facilities to lots 42 to 48 Wittenoom Street and the area bounded by Burt Street, Throssell Street, David-Hay Street and Venn Street. Work is expected to commence immediately after the Easter break.

82.

## GERALDTON HIGH SCHOOL

### *Enrolment and Accommodation*

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

- (1) What is the enrolment of the Geraldton Senior High School?
- (2) Does he still believe that John Willcock high school will cause a substantial reduction in numbers at Geraldton senior high school, or does he now accept the opinion that the enrolment at Geraldton senior high school will always stay well above 1 000?
- (3) How many "temporary" classrooms are in use at Geraldton senior high school?
- (4) When was the first of these "temporary" rooms located at the school?
- (5) Is it a fact that on two separate occasions in this school year, panels of fibre board have fallen from the ceilings of "prefabs" onto students below?
- (6) What is considered to be the optimum number of students to be accommodated by the permanent buildings at Geraldton senior high school?
- (7) Is the Minister satisfied with the amount of suitable accommodation at the school?
- (8) If "No" to (7) when can action be expected to rectify the position?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) 1 249 pupils at 1st March, 1975.
- (2) John Willcock High School will substantially reduce the numbers at Geraldton senior high school. It is not possible at this time to prognosticate whether or not the enrolments at the Geraldton senior high school will always stay above 1 000.
- (3) 8 demountable classrooms, 4 Bristol classrooms.
- (4) 1952.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Because of the range of subject courses offered at the different year levels and the varying number of pupils who take these courses, it is not possible to provide an optimum figure. This figure must vary each year according to the intake and the choice of electives.
- (7) and (8) The accommodation problems are fully appreciated. However, since enrolments at the school are expected to drop significantly in the coming years, finance for the construction of additional classrooms must be channelled into other projects.

### 83. ELLIS HOSPITAL

#### *Bus Service*

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

- (1) Is the Minister aware that 183 workers are employed at the Ellis hospital linen services?
- (2) In view of the number of workers involved, will he give favourable consideration to having an MTT service provided for the area?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) In March, 1974, the MTT commenced a service to Ellis Hospital laundry (route 516). As only approximately 2 people used it the Management suggested that the service be deleted until numbers of employees at the laundry increased.

The Management promised to advise when this was so. Up to date the MTT has not been advised.

### 84. BUNBURY POWER STATION

#### *Coal Consumption*

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

What is the anticipated coal burn at the Bunbury power house for period the 1st January, 1975 to the 31st December, 1975?

Mr MENSAROS replied:  
400 000 tonnes.

### 85. MEDIBANK HEALTH SCHEME

#### *Points of Disagreement*

Hon. J. T. TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) Has Western Australia along with New South Wales and Victoria, dropped several major objections to the Medibank hospitals scheme?
- (2) Has a new list of 12 proposals drawn up at the State Health Ministers' meeting in Melbourne last week abandoned many of the demands included in the original 16 point plans proposed by New South Wales and Western Australia?
- (3) Did Western Australia previously demand that hospital patients pay a third of their bills in public wards?
- (4) If so, was this the major point of disagreement between the State and the Federal Government?
- (5) Has Western Australia softened the demand on coverage for pensioners and is now asking merely that the Federal Government contribution be increased from \$18 a day to something more?
- (6) Is another modification of the demands a request for short term coverage—up to 28 days—of patients in psychiatric hospitals?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) No.
- (4) Answered by (3).
- (5) No, and we want more than offered.
- (6) No.

### 86. JOHN WILLCOCK HIGH SCHOOL

#### *Stage 2*

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

- (1) In view of the fact that construction of the John Willcock high school stage 1 has fallen considerably behind schedule, causing considerable inconvenience to staff and students in the early stages of this year, will the Minister indicate what stage of planning has been reached with regard to stage 2?
- (2) What measures are planned to see that the same inconvenience does not occur at the beginning of 1976?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) The building at present under construction has been designed to provide for the year 8

and year 9 students who will be enrolled at the school to December, 1976.

A further stage in the building will not be required for February, 1976.

#### 87. GERALDTON MARITIME MUSEUM

##### *Amalgamation*

Mr CARR, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it intended that the Geraldton maritime museum should become a branch of the Western Australian museum?
- (2) If "Yes" when is it intended that this should occur?
- (3) Are there any barriers to this occurring?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) When funds are available.
- (3) Yes, the availability of funds.

#### 88. HISTORIC WRECKS

##### *Location of Relics*

Mr CARR, to the Premier:

Is it the policy of his Government that relics from Dutch ships wrecked at the Abrolhos Islands, be located in Geraldton or in the metropolitan area?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The disposition of material recovered since the Museum Act Amendment Act, 1964, from Dutch ships wrecked off the Western Australian coast, is the subject of review by an Australian-Dutch Committee set up by the Commonwealth and Dutch Governments in accordance with an agreement made by the Netherlands and Australia in November, 1972.

Under that agreement, any rights to the material preserved by the Dutch East India Company were made over to the Commonwealth. The Government of Western Australia has agreed to co-operate fully in the spirit of the arrangement.

Material recovered to date from the wreck of the *Batavia* in the Abroholos Islands will be the subject of review at the next meeting of the Joint Committee which is due to take place in Perth late in May, 1975.

In the meantime, representative selections of objects from Dutch wrecks are displayed, both at the Maritime Museum in Geraldton, and at the Fremantle branch of the W.A. Museum.

#### 89. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

##### *Retrenchments: Wages Staff*

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Is he aware that some thought has been given in the past to the proposition that non-salaried employees of both departments and instrumentalities should in the event of a redundancy be transferred to a like vacancy within other branches of Government service?
- (2) Has a survey or have surveys been carried out in an endeavour to have possible vacancies in both departments and instrumentalities made known to other departments and instrumentalities so that employees may be transferred in their employment rather than stood down?
- (3) If "No" to (2), will he have an immediate survey done to determine what departments and instrumentalities may be intending to stand down any employees in the near future and as to whether any other department or instrumentality is likely to be able to employ such employees without loss of continuity?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Where large scale redundancy occurs in a Government establishment, it is practice for arrangements to be made to place the employees in other departments and instrumentalities where possible.
- (2) As the employment situation in departments and instrumentalities changes from day to day, it would not be a feasible proposition to institute a scheme for transfers from department to department.
- (3) Now that the departments and instrumentalities are putting on additional workers under the current employment assistance schemes, it would not serve any purpose to carry out a survey because of the large number of varied projects operating across the widespread areas of the State.

#### 90. UNEMPLOYMENT

##### *Geraldton*

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

How many people were registered as unemployed at the end of February 1974 and 1975 in—

- (a) the Geraldton district;
- (b) the Town of Geraldton?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

	Registered unemployed	
	February 1974	February 1975
	persons persons	
Geraldton district ..	334	713
Geraldton town ....	not known	410

91.

## EDUCATION

### *Transport of School Children: Subsidy*

Mr CARR, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Are there any circumstances in which a subsidy or other form of assistance is available to parents who have to drive their children to school?
- (2) If "Yes" will he give details?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) Where public transport is not available and children live more than 8 kilometres from the school, or more than 6.5 kilometres from a school bus service, a subsidy of 2.3c per kilometre for one return trip per day is payable to parents driving their children to school.

92.

## KWINANA POWER STATION

### *Retrenchment of Tradesmen*

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Has the State Electricity Commission indicated that it intends standing down some tradesmen presently employed at the Kwinana power station?
- (2) If "Yes" will he direct the Commission immediately to contact all Government departments and instrumentalities in an endeavour to find possible vacancies so that there may be no need to stand down such workers?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 40 of 49 employees to be progressively stood down after Easter will be offered employment in other State Electricity Commission projects.

93.

## ROADS

### *Signposts: RAC Approach*

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has any approach been made to the Government by the Royal Automobile Club to take over the signposting of country roads?

(2) If so, what were—

- (a) the circumstances of the approach;
- (b) the Government's response?

(3) If not, does he believe this is an important activity which would best be carried out by the RAC with Government (State or Australian) support?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Before the Royal Automobile Club made a decision to discontinue signposting of country roads they were advised by the Main Roads Department that there would be no objection by that department to such action in respect of main roads.
- (2) and (3) The Main Roads Department accepts responsibility for direction signing on main and controlled access roads and some important secondary roads, and local authorities are responsible on other roads. It is not expected that the decision will cause any real difficulties to the Main Roads Department. Local authorities will no doubt consider their own position.

94.

## CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

### *Instrument*

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

- (1) Further to question 80 of 19th March, 1975 and the answer thereto, was the weapon used for the corporal punishment of the Aboriginal males aged 10½ to 15½ years and young women 12 to 15½ years branches from an oleander bush?
- (2) If "No" what was the nature of the weapon used?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Sticks from an oleander bush were used.
- (2) Answered by (1).

95.

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

### *Lighting*

Mr BERTRAM, to the Speaker:

A number of members being of the opinion that the lighting in the Assembly Chamber is substandard and deleterious to their eyesight, will he take any necessary action to improve the lighting?

The SPEAKER replied:

I propose to request the Minister for Works to have meter readings taken as to whether the lighting in the Chamber is substandard and/or injurious to eyesight.

In due course I expect he will give me a brief report following which necessary action can be taken.

# 96. LIQUOR LICENSE

*Kimberly John Flatman*

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

(1) Is it true that Kimberly John Flatman was recently granted a license under the Liquor Act?

(2) If "Yes"—

(a) when was the license granted;

(b) what type of license was he granted;

(c) what is the name of the business and the address of the premises to which the license applies;

(d) is one Dorothea Flatman the wife of the said Kimberly John Flatman and one of the proprietors of the business conducted at the said premises;

(e) has said Dorothea Flatman been convicted of any offences relating to prostitution, and is she one and the same person as the Dorothea Flatman whose statutory declaration was tabled by him on 5th September, 1974;

(f) bearing in mind the provisions of the Police Act and the Liquor Act as to prostitution and the public desire that there shall be no link and will not appear to be a link between licensed premises and prostitution, does the Government intend to withdraw the said license from Kimberly John Flatman;

(g) If (f) is "Yes", when, and if (f) is "No", why?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

(1) Yes, by transfer from another licensee.

(2) (a) 15th November, 1974.

(b) Cabaret license.

(c) Tramp's Nightclub, 104 Murray Street, Perth.

(d) Yes.

(e) A person named Dorothea Flatman has been convicted of an offence relating to prostitution, and no statutory declaration was tabled by me on the 5th September, 1974 relating to a person of that name.

(f) This would be a matter for the Licensing Court to decide upon presentation to it of evidence supporting such an action.

(g) Answered by (f).

# 97. LIQUOR LICENSE

*Kimberly John Flatman*

Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Police:

Will he table the police file relevant to the application of one Kimberly John Flatman for a license under the Liquor Act for premises situated in Murray Street, Perth, and known as the Tramps?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

No. Police reports are considered confidential and their publication would tend to inhibit completeness of future reports by Police officers. In this case an investigation was carried out for the Licensing Court which comes under the jurisdiction of the Minister for Justice.

# 98. HOUSING

*Coolbellup and Kwinana: Single Parents*

Mr TAYLOR to the Minister for Housing:

Will he advise the number of single parent families in—

(a) detached units;

(b) town houses;

(c) flats,

in—

(i) the Coolbellup area;

(ii) the Kwinana area?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

It is not possible to provide the information requested by the member from the records kept at the State Housing Commission.

# 99. RING ROAD SYSTEM

*Implementation and Cost*

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) When is the ring road system in Perth likely to be implemented?

(2) What would be the cost, in terms of to-day's prices, of the upgrading of the roads for the ring system?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No timetable has been established.
- (2) No detailed plan has been established for the ring road system, therefore costs cannot be provided.

# 100. RECREATION *Como Foreshore*

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

What was the estimated number of people using the Como foreshore for recreational purposes—

- (a) in 1954;
- (b) in 1974?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

To the best of the Minister's knowledge there are no survey data or other objective information which enables the estimates requested to be made.

# 101. CRAWLEY FORESHORE *Retaining Wall*

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) What is the annual maintenance cost for the retaining wall along the Crawley foreshore?
- (2) Under what conditions are lines of reeds or rushes preferable to stone walls for retaining the river bank?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Nil.
- (2) Lines of reeds or rushes are preferable to stone walls under those conditions where public access to the foreshore is limited.

# 102. NARROWS BRIDGE *Effect of Meckering Earthquake*

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Did the Meckering earthquake have any measurable effect on the piles at the Narrows Bridge?
- (2) Has there been any movement of the piles of the Narrows Bridge, other than that due to earthquake since the bridge was constructed?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) No.

# 103. BRIDGES *Swan and Canning Rivers: Cost*

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the estimated cost of the Burswood bridge?

- (2) What would be the cost of duplication of the Causeway?
- (3) What other bridges, if any, are planned to cross the Swan River and/or Canning River?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) \$7 million for bridge only and \$9 million for approach roads.
- (2) No plans have been developed but the cost would be about \$7 million for bridge only.
- (3) The Metropolitan Region Scheme makes allowance for bridging in the following new locations:  
Swan River  
(a) at Burswood  
(b) Swan River Drive  
(c) Beechboro-Gosnells Controlled Access  
(d) North Perimeter  
Canning River  
(a) Kwinana Highway extension  
(b) Leach Highway  
(c) Roe Controlled Access Highway  
(d) Beechboro-Gosnells Controlled Access Highway

In addition a new location is being considered across the Canning River between Maddington and Thornlie.

# 104. RING ROAD SYSTEM

*Effects on Narrows Bridge and Causeway*

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Transport:

What will be the effect of the ring road system on the loading at—

- (a) the Narrows Bridge;
- (b) the Causeway?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (a) and (b) The ring road system is not expected to affect traffic to any extent on the Narrows Bridge or the Causeway.

# 105. HOUSING

*Midland: Maintenance*

Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) (a) Has the State Housing Commission commenced any maintenance this year to its homes in the Midland area that have been the subject of criticism, because of their dilapidated condition, by the Swan Shire Council;
- (b) if not, why not?

- (2) If this maintenance has been carried out what houses were involved in such upgrading maintenance, what was the extent of the work in each instance and its costs?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) No. The area is under consideration for redevelopment involving demolition.

## 106. HOUSING

*Swan Electorate: Waiting List*

Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many people are on the waiting list for State Housing Commission rental homes comprising of four or more bedrooms in the Koongamia, Midland, Guildford, Bassendean and Lockridge areas?
- (2) Will the commission undertake the erection of such houses in the areas mentioned in (1) so that large family units will be able to live in houses suited to their needs?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) For Koongamia-Midland 17 applications are listed and for Bassendean-Lockridge 37 applications are listed. Since the Commission has no four or five-bedroom houses in Guildford applicants seeking housing in this locality may be assisted in the above areas.
- (2) As there are no serviced home sites immediately available in these localities the commission would look to assisting these applicants in the turnover of the existing larger houses and the enclosure of sleepouts to three bedroom houses which may become available.

## 107. DENTAL CLINIC

*Camboon School*

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

- (1) What is the cost of the dental clinic at the Camboon Primary School?
- (2) What population is it intended to serve, that is, how many schools will send their students to this centre?
- (3) Is it intended that people or children other than primary school students will be served by the clinic?
- (4) What type of dental work will be done at the clinic and by whom is it staffed?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Building costs—\$25 536.  
Equipment and furnishings—\$9 500.
- (2) Approximately 1 500 school children.  
Schools to be serviced include:  
Camboon  
North Morley  
Morley high school.
- (3) Pre-school and secondary school children under 15 years will be included.
- (4) The clinic provides comprehensive dental care but excludes specialist services.  
The clinic is staffed by school dental therapists. A dental officer supervises the service and carries out all treatment beyond the scope of the therapists.

## QUESTIONS (6): WITHOUT NOTICE

### 1. ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

*Imprisonment for Nonpayment*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many persons are currently serving sentences for nonpayment of road maintenance tax?
- (2) How many of these persons have been given prison sentences since April, 1974?
- (3) Has the previous Government's policy of waiving sentences, provided the person concerned leaves the industry, been continued by the present Government?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) The Department of Corrections advises that this information is not readily available. However, it is not thought that there would be as many as 6 people currently serving prison sentences in respect of offences committed under the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act.
- (3) Yes, in cases where it is established that the person concerned is unable to meet his commitments.

### 2. MEDIBANK HEALTH SCHEME

*Points of Disagreement*

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Premier:

My question relates to the answer the Premier gave to question 85 on today's notice paper. I ask the Premier whether he has seen the article which appeared in *The Australian* of the 21st March, 1975, at page 3. The article states

that the States have agreed to ease the demands for Medibank, and, in part, reads as follows—

NSW, Victoria and Western Australia have dropped several major objections to the Medibank hospitals scheme . . .

If the Premier has not seen the article containing statements which are at complete variance with the answers given this afternoon, will he read the article and advise me tomorrow what action he proposes to take in connection with the report?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

In answer to the Leader of the Opposition, I remind him that on a number of occasions from this side of the House he has told members on the other side of the Chamber that one cannot always take for granted what is contained in newspaper reports. Having said that, I say I have not seen the article he has referred to. However, I shall certainly take the earliest opportunity to read it. With reasonable co-operation tomorrow—so that Ministers will have some time during which to answer questions—I will be pleased to comment.

3.

### POLICE

#### *Illegal Abortion: Raids*

Mr HARTREY, to the Minister for Police:

My question arises out of the reply to question 11 standing in my name today. The replies to paragraphs (g) and (h) were as follows—

(g) Sources of information are confidential.

(h) Searches failed to obtain sufficient evidence to justify prosecution.

I now ask—

(1) Did the Minister instruct his department to inquire into this matter?

(2) Does the Minister intend to take action against anyone for giving false information to the police?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

(1) and (2) If the honourable member desires a detailed reply it would be better for him to place the question on the notice paper. From the information I have, the informants were the individuals themselves, to a degree, because they advertised through the Press the fact that this sort of thing was going on.

4.

### TIMBER WORKERS

#### *Filling of Vacancies*

Mr HARMAN, to the Premier:

Is the Premier aware that last night his Minister for Labour and Industry revealed that there was a number of vacancies in the timber industry in the south-west of Western Australia, and that the vacancies could not be filled because of the attitude of the Australian Government in not allowing migrants to come into the country to work in the timber industry?

If he is so aware, will he ask his Minister for Labour and Industry to take steps whereby those vacancies in the timber industry can be filled by people who are unemployed and are now resident in Western Australia?

Further, if the Premier would ask his Minister to take that action, would he also inform the Minister that the member for Warren, the member for Swan, and I would be quite happy to advise the Minister on what action he should contemplate.

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

In reply to the member for Maylands, I treat his question as being just a political gimmick.

Mr Harman: It is not.

Mr O'Connor: It is.

Sir CHARLES COURT: It is a well-known fact that the timber industry is desperately in need of recruiting labour for certain purposes. I also remind the honourable member that his colleague in the Federal sphere has made it very clear, on a number of occasions, that he would not stand for people being pushed about from job to job when it comes to this sort of thing. In other words, people would not be directed to work in employment which they felt they were not necessarily suited for.

As far as the present State Government is concerned I want to tell the honourable member that we would be only too delighted if there were greater flexibility for the recruitment and retraining of people so that we could achieve some positive result. We do not want to bring in people unnecessarily.

I can assure the honourable member we are seeking recruitment in certain areas. We are desperately in need of those men and if we cannot get them the capacity to employ unskilled men is reduced.

The **SPEAKER**: I will take two more questions.

## 5. PRISONS

### *Use of Tear Gas*

Mr **BRYCE**, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Western Australian Department of Corrections recently purchased a quantity of extremely potent tear gas?
- (2) Does this supply of tear gas include individual packs or canisters which can be inserted through the grill of a prison cell, as well as larger units for use in outside areas?
- (3) What is the brand name of the tear gas?
- (4) Who recommended the purchase of this particular brand of tear gas?
- (5) Is it, in fact, the same brand of tear gas that the British Army has declined to use in Northern Ireland because of its potency?
- (6) Is it a fact that this particular brand purchased by the department is so dangerous that it can cause blindness, paralysis, and even death in certain circumstances?
- (7) Is it the normal procedure to supply Western Australian institutions of correction with tear gas? If not, will the Minister justify the change of policy?
- (8) What are the details of the course of training which Western Australian prison officers undergo in the use of tear gas?

Mr **STEPHENS** replied:

I thank the honourable member for prior notice of the question, the answer to which is as follows—

- (1) The Department of Corrections has purchased a quantity of C.P. tear gas (CN) from Civil Protection (1946) Ltd., London, England. (Manufactured by Federal Laboratories Inc., Saltzburg, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.)
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Answered by (1).
- (4) This gas is stocked by most police and correctional services in Australia and recommended by them.
- (5) This type of gas is not used by the British Army.
- (6) Excessively high concentrations of this gas may cause blindness, paralysis, or even death in isolated cases.

I might add that a bottle of whisky, consumed in a couple of gulps, could also be dangerous.

(7) No, gas is held at Fremantle Prison only for riot control.

(8) The gas is being held pending further inquiries concerning its use; directions have been issued prohibiting its use until inquiries have been completed.

No training of staff has been undertaken for these reasons.

## 6. MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE.

### *Erosion of Authority*

Mr **BARNETT**, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Does the Minister agree that his standing as Minister for Agriculture has been seriously eroded by the Premier's action in proposing to send the Minister for Industrial Development to Asia to resolve a problem that rightly should be his province—that of solving the problem of surplus Western Australian apples?

Mr **McPHARLIN**, replied:

The answer is, "No".

## **SPEAKER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

### *Twenty-five-year Term as Member*

**SIR CHARLES COURT** (Nedlands—Premier) [5.42 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, may I, on behalf of the members of the House congratulate you on having served 25 years in this Parliament. You are now entering your 26th year. We have enjoyed having you here for the first 25 years and I am sure you will make a further wonderful contribution to this Parliament during whatever part of your second 25 years you elect to serve.

## **BILLS (2): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING**

1. Superannuation and Family Benefits Act Amendment Bill.

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

2. Local Government Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Rushton (Minister for Local Government), and read a first time.

## **CANNING RIVER**

### *Reclamation: Motion*

**MR O'CONNOR** (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Transport) [5.43 p.m.]: I move—

That this House do resolve—

- (1) to approve, pursuant to subsection (1) of section twenty-two A of the Swan River

Conservation Act, 1958-1966, the reclamation of two areas of the Canning River as follows—

- (a) an area of about 1.7 hectares on the eastern side of the Canning River just south of the Canning Bridge; and
- (b) an area of about 4.18 hectares on the eastern side of the Canning River north of Mount Henry.

which areas are shown stippled in the plan deposited in the Main Roads Department and marked MRD Map Drawing No. 7421-89 and as so shown in the copy of that plan laid on the Table of the House; and

- (2) that the Legislative Council be requested to so resolve.

Members should note that this motion is necessary as section 22A of the Swan River Conservation Act contains a clause to the effect that no reclamation from the Swan River or its tributaries which exceeds two acres—or to express it in metric units, 0.8094 hectares—shall take place without the consent of each House of Parliament. While this provision makes good sense, the intention was not that reclamation should be completely barred but rather that such proposals should be subject to the scrutiny of Parliament. Hence this motion.

In moving the motion, which has the support of the Minister for Conservation and Environment, who is responsible for administration of the Swan River Conservation Act, I wish to point out to the House that the proposed reclamation of these two relatively small areas from the Canning River foreshore is essential for the extension of the Kwinana Freeway. However, in addition to this motion there are two other matters, making three in all, which will appear before members of this House during this session in order that this important project may proceed.

The proposed southern extension of the Kwinana Freeway will also require excision of portion of an "A"-class reserve, as the land to be excised, amounting to about one-half of a hectare or  $1\frac{1}{4}$  acres, is needed as an integral part of the overall project. As members may be aware, excision of more than 5 per cent of the area of any "A"-class reserve for a road requires an Act of Parliament and it is my intention, on behalf of the Minister for Lands, to introduce a Bill for this purpose, after this motion has been dealt with.

The third matter concerns an amendment to the metropolitan region scheme, which is required to permit the future freeway extensions to cross the Canning River at Mt. Henry instead of at Deepwater Point, as shown at present in the metropolitan region scheme. Members may be

aware that the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act sets out a procedure which must be followed in order to have the existing scheme amended and, at this point in time, all procedural requirements have been complied with and the amended scheme has been now laid before each House of Parliament and will come into effect after 12 sitting days unless disallowed by a resolution of either House.

I am sure all members will appreciate that each of the three matters to which I have referred is a necessary part of the overall project for the southern extension of the Kwinana Freeway; that is, the reclamation of two relatively small areas from the Canning River, the excision of one-half of a hectare from the Class "A" reserve and the amendment to the region scheme are all required in order that the Kwinana Freeway can be extended along the proposed route.

In introducing this motion, it is my purpose to explain to members the need for the freeway to be extended and to demonstrate that the proposed route, which crosses the Canning River at Mt. Henry, is really the only viable solution. Members will appreciate that the three measures which will be placed before them are an essential part of the overall project and can be viewed only in this context, and that the freeway extension cannot proceed along the best route unless the three measures are accepted.

Accordingly, while the motion immediately before this House deals specifically with the reclamation proposals, this cannot be viewed in isolation from the whole project which my comments will also embrace.

In regard to the overall project, I am sure all members will recall that during April of last year details of the proposed alignment of the extension to the Kwinana Freeway were published in the Press and this alignment is shown by the model now on display in this building.

The extension to the Kwinana Freeway from Canning Bridge to Leach Highway will provide one of the most important links in the future highway system serving the metropolitan area and will greatly improve traffic flows for public transport, commercial, and private vehicles. With the present and future rapid growth and development of residential areas south of the Canning River, the development and expansion of the Murdoch University, and Lakes Hospital area, and the imminent development of the Canning Vale industrial area, its construction is becoming a matter of considerable urgency.

In fact future traffic projections indicate that if a new link between Canning Bridge and Leach Highway is not provided, there will be very widespread consequences over a large part of the metropolitan region. The major effects including greater delays

and higher accident rates will be particularly detrimental to the residential environment adjacent to the route of the proposed extension, this being in the areas of South Perth, Melville, and Canning.

With particular regard to delays, the projected traffic volumes will mean a considerable increase in the period of congestion if the link is not constructed now. For example, it has been calculated that for a particular location in Canning Highway, the period of peak congestion in the morning would be considerably extended and would increase to over two hours by as early as 1979. The resulting extensive delays would increase rapidly with further increases in traffic volumes.

Because of the immediate need for a high capacity traffic link between Canning Bridge and Leach Highway to avoid these intolerable traffic delays, the Main Roads Department has carried out comprehensive investigations to determine the best possible solution. One solution which was examined was for the widening of the existing local road system. However, this alternative would have very undesirable effects upon the residential environment of the area such as acquisition of nearly all the properties fronting Canning Highway between Riseley Street, Applecross, and Henley Street. Como, an increase in accidents resulting from large traffic movements along residential streets and crossroads, and high levels of pollution from large traffic volumes travelling under "stop-go" conditions. Furthermore, even with considerable improvements to the existing road system, serious congestion could not be avoided in the longer term period.

Mr May: Would not that transfer the congestion from Leach Highway to the Narrows Bridge?

Mr O'CONNOR: I will answer these questions as I proceed, and I will also answer some of the comments which will be made during this debate.

For the foregoing reasons, the only practical solution is for the construction of a freeway-type facility as recommended by the Main Roads Department. To demonstrate to members that such a recommendation is not a new idea, I would like to give some historical background to place this matter in its true perspective.

If we go back to 1952 when the McLarty-Watts Government commissioned Professor Stephenson to prepare a report for the development of the metropolitan region, we find that in association with the then Town Planning Commissioner (Mr Hepburn), Professor Stephenson, together with the help of town planning and other departmental officers, produced a report which was completed in 1955. This report was then submitted to the Hawke Government and, as a result, the present Leader of the Opposition (Mr J. T.

Tonkin), who was then the Minister in charge of town planning, arranged an all-party Town Planning Advisory Committee, of which he was chairman, to consider the details of the Stephenson-Hepburn report.

The road network investigations carried out for this report disclosed the importance of the Narrows site as part of a north-south route for the region and it was this concept that led to the location of the Kwinana Freeway on its present alignment. The report showed a major highway extending southwards along the Canning River foreshore and crossing the Canning River at Mt. Henry, and stated that the actual location of the river crossing should be subject to further investigation.

Following this report the Main Roads Department carried out soil surveys for Bridge crossings of the Canning River. The first site to be ruled out as unsuitable was Salter Point and following the abandonment of this route, urban development was allowed to proceed at Rossmoyne. Further investigations showed that the Mt. Henry location had deep mud deposits which would create some engineering problems with the design envisaged at the time. As a result the Main Roads Department therefore recommended to the all-party Town Planning Advisory Committee that the route should cross the river at Deepwater Point.

Following acceptance by the committee, the Deepwater Point route was included in the proposed metropolitan region scheme which was submitted to Parliament for approval. During the formal objection period of three months, no objections were received in relation to the Deepwater Point crossing, although the Melville City Council had previously expressed some reservations, and the scheme was approved in October, 1963. However, in the following years, due to such factors as strong opposition expressed by the Melville City Council to the Deepwater Point location, and interference with the Olympic rowing course if a bridge was constructed at that point, and subsequent acceptance by both the South Perth and Melville Councils of the Mt. Henry route, the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority passed a resolution in December, 1967, supporting the extension of the Kwinana Freeway along this alignment, but deferred action on the necessary amendment to the region scheme until a full report was available from the Main Roads Department.

An advisory committee was set up in 1973 to assist the Main Roads Department to further examine the proposals. This committee comprised the Chairman of the MRPA, the Chairman of the Swan River Conservation Board, the Director of Environmental Protection, the Mayors of South Perth and Melville City Councils,

the Town Planning Commissioner, the Commissioner of Main Roads, and Professor G. Stephenson.

The first task of this committee was to consider the Deepwater Point and Mt. Henry alignments, and following its deliberations the committee recommended in favour of the Mt. Henry route because it required less river reclamation, the noise impact would be less severe, existing foreshore facilities would not be severely affected, the option of an interchange facility at Hope Avenue would permit easier access to the freeway for traffic wishing to travel south, private property resumption would be minimised, and in addition, this route offers increased opportunity for recreational use of that section of the Canning River foreshore.

The scheme proposed—which is shown in some detail on a plan available for inspection by members—will cost about \$25 million at present day prices, and will take three to four years to complete. As has been indicated, some reclamation of the river will be involved. The area when measured between the present and proposed shorelines amounts to about 2.37 hectares (5.9 acres) for road purposes and 3.51 hectares (8.7 acres) will be used for new beaches. There will be a need to acquire 35 private houses and four other properties in addition to the properties already purchased from owners who have approached the Main Roads Department. Also, land will be required from the Medical Department, the State Housing Commission, and Aquinas College, as well as small areas of Crown reserve. Depending on final design, it is possible that a small number of additional properties may be required.

Other features of the preferred scheme include two new boat ramps, provision of access to the foreshore at a number of places, extensive landscaping with native plant species characteristic of the present foreshore environment, a cycle path and pedestrian walk, and the provision of car parking areas.

In the 11 months since April, 1974, when details of the freeway extension were released to the Press, the project has been widely publicised. Affected property owners were given an explanatory letter and an associated plan, and a brochure explaining the project was printed and posted to all residents in adjacent postal districts. A Main Roads Department report on the project has been widely circulated to all interested parties and individuals as well as to members of this Parliament and State members of the Federal Parliament, the Federal Department of Transport, and the Commonwealth Bureau of Roads.

A model showing the proposed extension, in fact the same model as is now displayed outside this Chamber, together with plans, drawings, and diagrams, was displayed in the Main Roads Department head office and other locations, and a number of

groups were invited to discussions including South Perth and Melville City Councils, the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust, the RAC of WA, Public Works Department, Director-General of Transport, Tree Society, and King's Park and Swan River Conservation Societies.

In addition, the proposals were presented and discussed by various officers of the Main Roads Department at meetings of interested authorities such as the Environmental Protection Council, the monthly forum of conservation societies, the Conservation Council, the Planning and Co-ordinating Committee, the Perth Regional Transport Co-ordinating Committee, and at various Rotary clubs and schools. A one-day seminar organised by the Institute of Planners was attended by officers of the Main Roads Department and the public were invited to take part in the discussion. Also the MRPA held a public meeting in the Perth Town Hall for open discussion of the proposed extension.

The Environmental Protection Authority has been given a full documentation of the proposals and has given its approval in principle to the scheme with some qualifications on design features. The Swan River Conservation Board, the South Perth City Council, the Melville City Council, and the Canning Town Council have also given their overall approval to the scheme.

In accordance with the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act, notices were advertised calling for objectors to the proposals—which require an amendment to the region scheme—to lodge their written objections.

A total of 1 284 formal objections to the proposed amendment to the region scheme were received and objectors were then contacted to ascertain whether they wished to have their objections heard. At the hearings, which were conducted during November and December, 1974, all objections were considered and the MRPA's report containing its recommendations with respect to determination of these objections was prepared. Subsequently, the authority recommended the freeway proposals and the associated amendment to the region scheme and arrangements were made to have the report printed.

The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority's report and recommendations together with explanations are contained in the documents members have now before them and consist of the following reports—

- (1) Volume 1 of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority's report. This contains the main report and recommendations resulting from the hearings and a list of objectors to the proposals.
- (2) Volumes 2 and 3 of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority's report. This contains details of all objections and the MRPA determination of these objections.

- (3) Appendix I of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority's report. This is the original Main Roads Department report on the proposal containing a plan of the project.
- (4) Appendices II and III. This document contains proposals and evaluations of tunnel ideas.
- (5) Appendices IV to XI. This document contains various reports or alternatives as well as comment from other statutory bodies.
- (6) Plans of the river reclamation required and the area of "A"-class reserve affected by the proposal.

I would like to point out to members that in addition to considering the routes which I mentioned earlier, the Main Roads Department considered a number of other alternative routes some of which were put forward later by objectors at the MRPA hearings and which are referred to in the MRPA report. In all, nine principal routes were examined including tunnel proposals and depressed and elevated proposals. Also a number of other proposals suggested at the hearings including a proposed system of one-way streets were examined but were not considered to provide any acceptable alternatives to the Main Roads Department freeway proposal.

In mentioning alternatives it is pertinent to quote extracts from the Environmental Protection Authority's report on this subject—

... we are convinced that any realignment of the proposed extension through built-up areas would cause immeasurably more social upheaval than the present proposal ... We feel therefore that we should accept the view of the Main Roads Department that the extension of a traffic artery is necessary and that a route along the Canning foreshore and over a bridge at Mt. Henry is the only viable solution and indeed is an historical commitment which for all practical purposes it is too late to alter.

With specific regard to the tunnel proposals the figures showed an initial cost of a' most three times that of the preferred scheme and in addition a very high continuing maintenance cost. For the depressed freeway proposal the figures showed a cost about 50 per cent higher than for the preferred scheme whereas for the elevated freeway proposal cost estimates were of the order of 70 per cent more. While each of these alternatives may have some advantages these are heavily outweighed by the extra costs involved.

The total environmental effects have been considered by the Environmental Protection Council and Authority and both are satisfied with the investigations carried out. The Environmental Protection

Authority has the right to call for further work on environmental matters but it has not done so and is satisfied that its requirements have been met. However, the ecological effects of the works are appreciated by my Government and the Main Roads Department has attempted to assess all relevant factors.

In this regard experts from the W.A. Herbarium and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife have advised that the proposed scheme will have no serious detrimental effects on the ecology of the area. At the present time the department is consulting with experts in regard to numerous ecological matters to ensure that the construction procedures can be organised in such a manner to minimise any ecological effects and so that disturbed areas are encouraged to recover with all possible speed.

From the foregoing resumé, members will see that the freeway proposals have received wide publicity, all feasible alternatives have been investigated and the route recommended by the Main Roads Department has emerged as the best possible solution. As the history of this matter has indicated there has been no undue haste in any of the evaluations or procedures carried out and in fact the proposal has been more thoroughly investigated, publicised, and discussed than any other road project in this State. However, in order to avoid further deterioration in the large and growing residential area to be served by the freeway, there is now a pressing need to get on with the job.

It has been necessary for me in this speech to deal with the scheme as a whole in order to provide members with an appreciation of the issues involved and, in my concluding remarks, I would remind members that while this motion before them in itself deals only with the reclamation of an area from the Canning River, nevertheless it is an essential part of the scheme as a whole.

In view of the points I have made and the further detailed facts presented in the MRPA report, I find it difficult to comprehend how any member can disagree with the pressing need for the extension of the freeway along the recommended route and, as a consequence, the need for the reclamation as proposed in this motion.

While along with other members of this Chamber, I do not like to see any encroachment of the river, when we are faced with an urgent and important situation as we are today, we would be failing in our duty if we did not grasp the nettle and act responsibly. As the Environmental Protection Authority and the Swan River Conservation Board also share my view that it is in the public interest to allow this reclamation to be carried out and both have approved the freeway alignment, I commend this motion to the House.

*Adjournment of Debate*

**MR. A. R. TONKIN** (Morley) [6.07 p.m.]: I move—

That the debate be adjourned for four weeks.

Sir Charles Court: Why can you not cooperate and ask about it? We are prepared to give you a reasonable extension.

The **SPEAKER**: Order! The question is that the debate be adjourned for four weeks.

*Point of Order*

Sir **CHARLES COURT**: Mr Speaker, on a point of order, may I just ask how one debates this particular motion? There was no request to the Government about this. I indicated yesterday that we were going to provide the Opposition with a reasonable time and would not bring the matter on again before the 9th April—in other words, it would come up on the 10th April—and even then we would be prepared to enter into some consultation with the Leader of the Opposition if he were not happy with the time allowed. Is it in order for me to move to delete the words, “for four weeks”?

The **SPEAKER**: I must accept the motion moved by the member for Morley, but the House would appreciate the difficulties faced by the Government. One of the courses open to the Government is to defeat the motion and, without wishing to express a personal view, I do not think the House would want that. The other course is to move to delete the words “for four weeks” and proceed along that line. Does the member for Morley wish to proceed with his motion?

Mr A. R. Tonkin: Yes, Mr Speaker.

Sir **CHARLES COURT**: Is it competent for me to move for the deletion of the words “for four weeks”?

The **SPEAKER**: Yes, it is within the prerogative of the Premier or anyone else to so move and even to move for the insertion of a lesser time, if that is so wished.

*Amendment to Adjournment Motion*

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

That the words, “for four weeks” be deleted.

As I informed the House yesterday, it was the Government's intention to grant an adjournment at least until the 9th April. In other words, the matter would not come up for debate before the 10th April. The reason for this was that the experts would be available to the House to explain the project at 2.00 p.m. on the 9th April. It was felt that in view of the intervening time between now and then and in view of the fact that the experts will have explained the matter on the 9th April, it was not unreasonable to bring the matter on for debate on Thursday, the 10th April.

However, it was also our intention that, if at that time the Leader of the Opposition felt that because of the technicalities involved his people could not proceed on that day, we would allow the matter to remain on the notice paper without debate until the following Tuesday, the 15th April. That is three weeks from yesterday. I think that is a fair thing, because the public wants to know what it is all about, and this is the only way where we can see a full-scale debate on this issue taking place.

That is why I have moved to amend the motion moved by the member for Morley. If the words are so deleted, I give the Opposition an undertaking that the matter will not be brought on for debate until the 10th April at the earliest, and if the Leader of the Opposition feels his people still desire the extra days until Tuesday, the 15th April, the matter will not be brought on until the 15th April.

**MR. A. R. TONKIN** (Morley) [6.12 p.m.]: I should like to know whether the Premier is prepared to insert the words, “until the 15th April” in place of the words contained in my motion. He has indicated that he is prepared to leave the matter on the notice paper until then; can we have this put in the motion?

Sir Charles Court: I have said that we will allow the matter to remain undebated until that time. If the honourable member does not trust us, I suppose we could word the motion in that way. However, I would prefer to deal with his leader; I am quite sure the Leader of the Opposition would accept my assurance that, if he is not satisfied with the matter coming on for debate on the 10th April, the Government will be prepared to extend the time until the 15th April.

**MR. J. T. TONKIN** (Melville—Leader of the Opposition) [6.13 p.m.]: I think the Government is being a little unreasonable in this matter because last night the Premier said the papers would have to lie upon the Table of the House for 12 sitting days; that means a minimum of four weeks. It seems to me that, in asking for a month's adjournment from today, it would be well within the time necessary for moving any motion for the disallowance of the regulation.

I do not think the 10th April is a reasonable time because the Easter break intervenes. Some members no doubt will take advantage of the break and go away; they cannot be expected to stay here and study the matter in the meantime. I think it is not unreasonable to provide for a month's adjournment.

However, if the Government insists—it has the numbers, of course, to determine whatever it wants—we will have to accept. I can see no real difficulty in the way of the Government in agreeing to a month's adjournment and I think it would have been far better had it agreed to do so.

Sir Charles Court: There will not be any debate if we adjourn it for a month; the public surely wants to hear the viewpoint of the Opposition.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: Yes, and I would like the Government to have the opportunity to hear the viewpoint of the people objecting to this proposal.

Sir Charles Court: That is right.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: That is why we are seeking a month's adjournment before this matter comes on for debate so that we will be fully advised by those people who are objecting as to the points of their objection. However, I accept the Premier's assurance that if we find the 10th April is insufficient time, he is prepared to discuss the matter with me and, in the light of the opinion we may express at the time, he is prepared to consider deferring the matter until a later time.

Sir Charles Court: I give you my assurance that if you find the 10th April is insufficient time, the matter will be deferred automatically until the 15th April if you ask for it. It is entirely at your discretion.

Amendment put and passed.

Motion (adjournment of debate), as amended, put and passed.

*Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.*

## RESERVE (KWINANA FREEWAY) BILL

### *Second Reading*

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Minister for Transport) [7.30 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill, which has the support of the Minister for Lands, deals with the proposal for the excision of a relatively small area from an "A"-class reserve for the specific purpose of extending the Kwinana Freeway. Members would be aware that under section 31 of the Land Act the excision of more than 5 per cent of the area of any "A"-class reserve for a road requires an Act of Parliament. In this instance the excision procedure is being put forward in a separate Bill rather than in the annual Reserves Bill as the action forms an essential part of the Kwinana Freeway extension project.

The Kwinana Freeway extension project will be debated at length in the two other corresponding actions which have been placed before this Chamber; these being the motion for the reclamation of a relatively small area of the Canning River and the tabling of the MRPA recommendation for amending the region scheme along the Mt. Henry alignment. As I have pointed out the three procedures have been placed

before this House in their proper perspective as part of the overall freeway project.

In speaking on the reclamation motion, I mentioned that this land excision Bill would be introduced as a complementary measure and I referred to the wide publicity the project has received, the reports supporting the project, the hearings at which the public had the opportunity to express their objections, and I said that the approval of relevant authorities such as the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority, the Swan River Conservation Board, the Environmental Protection Authority and Council, and the Melville and South Perth City Councils and the Canning Town Council has been obtained.

Members will see from the Bill and the copy of the associated plan which they have before them that the reserve to which I refer is immediately west of Roebuck Drive. This reserve is about 2.64 hectares or 6.53 acres and the Bill proposes the excision of about 0.51 hectares or about 1.26 acres which is a reduction in total area of a little less than 20 per cent. This "A"-class reserve was originally set apart in October, 1934. It then became the responsibility of the South Perth City Council and as I have already mentioned, the council has approved the Mt. Henry alignment for extending the freeway.

May I point out to members that from the outset in their design considerations, the Main Roads Department engineers have been very conscious of the need to fit the freeway into the existing landscape and while every effort has been made to avoid the need to take any of the reserve this has not been possible. However, it was possible to avoid the most interesting part of this reserve which contains stands of paper bark and wattle trees on the northern and central sections of the reserve. The other parts of the reserve are generally sandy and flat with some low scrub and a number of introduced weed species. There are no unique flora species within the portion of the reserve which it is proposed to excise, or for that matter within any part of the reserve.

While this Bill deals only with excision of portion of an "A"-class reserve, and as I have said, the more attractive part of the reserve will remain in its natural state, the basic purpose of the Bill is to permit the extension of the Kwinana Freeway along the best possible alignment and I ask all members to give their support to this Bill in order to prevent further deterioration in the residential areas of fast developing southern suburbs which will be serviced by the freeway.

In order that the procedures can be finalised without further delay, to get this important project under way I commend this Bill to the House. The member for Morley asked whether I would defer any further debate on the Bill until the 15th April.

Sir Charles Court: There is no Standing Orders suspension on this. The Address-in-Reply is still current and it will not come on before the 15th.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: I did ask for it to be deferred until the 15th April.

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

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SIXTH DAY

### *Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 25th March, on the following motion by Mr Old—

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

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

**MR LAURANCE** (Gascoyne) [7.37 p.m.]: As this is the first opportunity I have had to speak during this second session of Parliament with which I have been connected I wish to take a few moments to review my feelings towards this place.

Following my maiden speech some months ago in this Chamber I had the privilege of a discussion with the member for Cockburn who sits opposite. He related to me his feelings during the first few months of his parliamentary life as a member, and he also gave me a copy of his speech which was made on the Supply Bill some 12 months after he had given his maiden speech in this House.

In that speech of the member for Cockburn I found he mentioned a number of disappointments he had suffered. One of the first disappointments was that he had raised a number of pertinent points regarding his electorate and no action had been taken; secondly the honourable member was disappointed about the time limit of his speeches, because he felt he could not bring to the notice of the House in the time allowed him the number of points he desired. He also felt that the debates were out of perspective; that we legislated on facts and did not study causes. The honourable member said, and I quote—

We discussed what we would do if underage people drank, stole a vehicle, or committed some other misdemeanour, but we did not discuss the social conditions which caused them to take these very actions.

It would seem the member for Cockburn was very disappointed after having experienced his first 12 months in this House. I wish to record that these frustrations have not concerned me to the same extent. I am happy to say that on reviewing my

position I have been enthused and stimulated by any small gains I have been able to make in the last 12 months. I have been able to rationalise the disappointments.

However, as a new member one thing that does disappoint me is the attitude towards this Chamber displayed by a number of members opposite. I would start by mentioning the deplorable action of the member for Morley during the opening ceremony.

### *Points of Order*

Mr H. D. EVANS: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, this is a personal reflection on a member which I do not think is appropriate or in keeping with the dignity of the House.

The **SPEAKER**: There is no point of order, and I do not think there is any reflection on the member for Morley at this juncture, though I will watch what is said.

Mr **JAMIESON**: I also rise on a point of order, that the statement of the member for Gascoyne is a reflection on yourself, Mr Speaker, in that he is implying that the decorum of this Chamber has not been upheld by you. I think it has, and I do not think the honourable member should proceed along these lines.

The **SPEAKER**: I appreciate the remarks of the member for Welshpool as such, but what the member for Gascoyne has had to say does not reflect, in my view, on the Speaker. However one does find—and I speak generally now—that members do refer to each other's actions in this House and there is a legitimate lead to follow in this regard. I have heard things said about members on one side of the House and about members on the other in sometimes quite bitter terms, and in my view, as Speaker, the member for Gascoyne has not offended.

### *Debate Resumed*

Mr **LAURANCE**: The particular member to whom I have referred—and I am now referring to his action—goes to tedious lengths in this House to claim he is a conservationist. If there is any justification for his claim, I believe he should attempt to conserve and preserve the tradition of this Chamber. I implore the honourable member either to conform to the traditions of this House to which he has been elected, or resign. He should shape up or ship out.

Mr Jamieson: What about growing up.

Mr **LAURANCE**: The same goes for members opposite who show scant regard for the dignity of this place and for your ruling, Mr Speaker, in regard to dress. We have seen everything—ties at half mast, and sleeves rolled up. One can only presume that members opposite are

doing their best to emulate in some ludicrous way the "workers" they claim to represent. But when they take off their coats the way their bellies hang over their belts makes it obvious that they have never done a tap of work.

I deplore this situation and the action of members opposite which seeks to chip away at tradition and erode the dignity of the House.

I now come to what happened yesterday. We had the spectacle of a petition being presented not, as one would expect, by the member for Canning—seeing the petition concerned the Canning River, and that member being held in high regard and accorded considerable standing in this House—but by none other than the member for Morley.

The member for Morley flaunts tradition in this Chamber, so one would expect that outside where there is no such ruling regarding dress he would be photographed wearing his bathers and an old school tie. But that was not so. When I opened the paper this morning I was greatly surprised to see a photograph of the member for Morley standing on the steps of Parliament House with his coat on.

Mr Moller: We are not regimented like you are. There is no Ministry co-ordinated on this side.

Mr O'Connor: That is because there is no co-ordination.

Mr LAURANCE: I would like now to refer to the member for Morley's publicity-inspired outburst at the opening ceremony, presumably in protest over the electoral distribution. From the stand he has taken it would appear that the honourable member believes the people of the Gascoyne should not have the right to elect a member to this Parliament. I presume the member for Morley did not make such an irrational and emotional outburst to flaunt the rules of the House when Mr Norton—the previous Labor member for Gascoyne—was Speaker in this Chamber.

Mr Jamieson: At least he has been consistent on this.

Mr LAURANCE: It is quite obvious that the honourable member would also have wished to deny the State the services of the Hon. F. J. S. Wise, a previous member for Gascoyne and a Labor Premier. It is interesting to quote what Mr Wise had to say when discussing the Electoral Act Amendment Bill which gave an additional seat to the Legislative Assembly and which also gave universal franchise to the Legislative Council.

Mr Jamieson: That Act didn't.

Mr LAURANCE: He said—

I am not suggesting we will endeavour to do something about it at this stage because it would need considerable adjustment and variation to Acts more recently passed than the last redistribution Act; . . .

However, with all its faults and with all its minor prickles I can see no reason to oppose it. I do not propose to move an amendment to it and I support the second reading.

In the same debate, on the 19th October, 1965, on page 1570 of *Hansard* the member for Melville—now Leader—he was then the Deputy Leader—of the Opposition—Mr J. T. Tonkin—said—

I do not quarrel with that basis of representation in Western Australia, because this is a very vast State; the people in the outback have communication difficulties; their community of interest is different; and therefore I have no objection to their having a louder voice in the government of the country than the person in the metropolitan area.

Presumably both gentlemen made those statements because at that time of the eight seats in the north and lower north provinces six were held by the Opposition and two were held by the then Government—the Brand Government. Presumably the member for Morley might have been affected in his decision to make this protest by the fact that that situation has altered drastically and of those eight seats now in the northern provinces the Government holds seven and the Opposition holds only one. I think it would be only fair to say that that one is very shaky indeed.

Mr O'Neill: A four-vote margin I think.

Mr Moller: What worries us most is that Gascoyne is getting such poor representation at the present time.

Mr LAURANCE: I am sure it is worrying the member for Mundaring very much, and he will be worried for a long time yet!

Mr J. T. Tonkin: Hope springs eternal.

Mr Barnett: Only another two years.

Mr LAURANCE: I move now to matters concerning my electorate. The first has to do with the Carnarvon boat harbour which is under construction. This is a major development and was commenced in the late 1960s under the Brand Government, was continued under the Tonkin Government, and is now on the verge of completion.

Mr Jamieson: There was not much done before we came into office.

Mr LAURANCE: Leases will be let to successful tenderers within the next week, I am led to believe, and the leases will commence from the 1st July. The project has received an excellent response from tenderers wishing to take up the leases and there are indications that at least 70 to 80 boats, including the tugs used by Texada Mines Pty. Ltd. will use the facility. An optimistic outlook is that far in excess of this number—something like 150 boats—could be involved.

Despite the promising prospects for this development, the linchpin to it all is a slipway. Initially when tenders were invited for this, three private tenderers showed an interest; but in the meantime economic circumstances have taken them all out of the market. Two were very substantial organisations, but had to withdraw. The third was a local family concern which has been given several extensions of time, but has not yet been able to find the finance. I believe it is still trying, but there has been nothing much on the horizon for it.

When it became obvious that private enterprise was not going to go ahead and put in this slipway facility, the Carnarvon Shire demonstrated an interest which it conveyed to the PWD. It felt that it was in the interests of the area and the total success of the project to supply the slipway and loan it on an economic basis. If the shire could cover the cost of funding the finance and the cost of operations it would be very happy indeed.

However—and this is the point I wish to make—when PWD officials went to Carnarvon recently to confer with the shire it was discovered that the economics of putting in the slipway looked very bleak indeed, so much so, in fact, that the shire had to pull out because there was no way in the world of achieving its objective of paying off the loan and covering the cost of operation.

One of the reasons for this is that costs elsewhere for slipping are based in some way on the costs charged at Fremantle and these appear to be extremely low. I will give an example from the figures supplied by the PWD officers to the Carnarvon Shire. On No. 2 slipway at Fremantle, which has a capacity of 600 tons, the cost per day for a vessel of 50 tons is \$6.25. At that figure there is no way in the world that a slipway at Carnarvon could pay.

I am led to believe that fishing vessels pay considerably more than is charged by various private slipping facilities in the State and very few use the State facility. Obviously it is highly subsidised by the Government which is in a situation which has continued presumably for a long time. A differential would be acceptable in Carnarvon because obviously the time involved to get the fishing fleet from that area and areas further north to Fremantle and back must have a significant cost factor attributed to it so that more could be charged.

However, indications at the moment are that the income from slipping 70 boats in Carnarvon has now been estimated at approximately \$35 000 per annum. From this amount must be subtracted the running costs, and I believe a marine engineer would be required, and presumably some other staff. So out of an income of \$35 000 it would not leave a great deal to service a loan and it would certainly provide nothing in the way of a profit. So, when we look

at a figure—and this depends upon the size of the slipway which would be provided—it would be in the region of \$400 000. The success of the whole project which to date is going to cost something like \$2 million, will depend on the expenditure of an additional \$400 000 to \$450 000 on the slipway.

On the present indications, if the Government does not provide it, no-one will and it would be a shame to jeopardise the full success of the project merely because a slipway is not provided under present circumstances. I make this point in a call to the Minister and his department and if it is not possible to put this figure into subsequent Estimates to complete the project from State funds, then perhaps a submission could be made to the Commonwealth to find the money from somewhere to provide the project for the full development of the area.

I did not explain earlier that one of the most vital reasons for the establishment of the facility is that with the expansion of the fishing season in the northern parts of the State, the only time the vessels are not fishing is when they are being slipped. If all that takes place, including the slipping at Carnarvon, obviously these fishermen will locate their families in that area and Carnarvon is hoping to gain residents in this way. It already has to some extent in the last two or three seasons, but it would do so in a major way if a slipway were provided.

A feasibility study is also urgently required into the economic costs of the fishing industry slipping the boats at Carnarvon, how many boats would in fact, use the facility if it were provided, and what size slipway would be required. A number of determining factors must be considered and the results of that study would determine how much money was required for the size of slip it was felt necessary to provide.

This matter must be given urgent priority by the Government. It must study the situation with regard to the provision of a slipway.

I would like now to move to the pastoral industry. The Gascoyne catchment rehabilitation programme has been a fact of life for some two years now. I believe we are still in a position of having to find a satisfactory compromise between the scientists and the pastoralists. This rehabilitation programme is designed to rehabilitate arid areas and to bring back into production denuded areas by taking them out of production entirely; and also to decrease stocking rates generally throughout the catchment area. In this way a lasting result will be achieved in terms of the environment of the catchment area.

The scientist has an academic interest in the project, although he is charged with the awesome responsibility of ensuring that our vast tracts of arid land do not erode

to the point where they become an enormous desert. If they did become eroded to this extent they would be second in size only to the desert of the Middle East. This could become a reality if we have overstocking or poor vermin control.

On the other hand the pastoralist is faced with the difficult task of maintaining a viable industry in the face of what amounts to extreme odds. It is the Government's task to resolve these difficulties between scientists and pastoralists. Neither the scientists nor the State can gain from the pastoral industry reaching a stage where it is not viable. The pastoralist has nothing to gain and everything to lose from turning his land into a dust bowl.

For a Government—any Government—to achieve a satisfactory compromise, two elements are essential. The first is time. The problems of erosion did not arrive yesterday. They have evolved in this State over the last 100 years and any rehabilitation programme must take this into account and must be gradual.

Secondly, finance is required in the form of assistance to the pastoralists. If they reduce their carrying capacity, some compensation should be available to them. Low-interest, long-term loans should also be available for development work to assist better management practices.

To close up completely some badly affected paddocks in many cases requires additional fencing and the provision of water points, and that costs money. In addition the replacement of the previous taxation concession on development work would assist greatly.

These things have been achieved in other areas of the world where they have similar problems and I would like to quote an example from South Africa where a successful stock reduction scheme is operated. I will quote briefly the purpose of the scheme as set out in a paper entitled, "The Stock Reduction Scheme" printed by the South African Division of Soil Protection. It says—

The purpose of the Scheme is to stabilise natural vegetation in the drier sheep regions that are subject to prolonged droughts. As will be evident from this bulletin, the Scheme is a *voluntary* one under which the Government grants financial assistance to promote the farming industry *without* undermining the farmer's freedom, independence, sense of responsibility, enterprise or self-respect. It is in this spirit that every farmer in the demarcated area is invited to exercise his prerogative to participate in the Scheme and so make it possible to achieve an important objective.

Maintaining healthy grasslands in our arid areas is in the national interest. From time to time these days we hear of the National Estate and of funds being diverted to conserve it. Our grasslands are part of this

National Estate and we as a nation must pay if we want to conserve and rehabilitate our grasslands.

I wish now to move to the Carnarvon and Gascoyne groundwater scheme. Firstly I refer to a question I asked the Minister for Water Supplies in this House on Thursday, the 20th March, this year. Part of the question was as follows—

- (1) Following my question of 2nd October last year when the Minister replied that he had had no indication from the Federal Government regarding the provision of funds for the Carnarvon and Gascoyne groundwater scheme as promised in the Queen's Speech when opening the Federal Parliament on 28th February, 1974, can he now advise if this position has changed?

The Minister replied that the position had not changed. I also asked him—

- (2) If (1) is still "No" can he advise if there is any reason from the point of view of the State Government as to why these funds are not forthcoming from the Federal Government?

He again answered "No". I have raised this issue previously in the House and as time goes by nothing is forthcoming from Canberra.

The Leader of the Opposition, who was then the Premier, pulled the rabbit out of the hat before the last State election when he arrived in Carnarvon and announced that his visit was timed to coincide with the Queen's Speech in the Federal House of Parliament in Canberra. When he lost the election the rabbit disappeared back into the hat. But unfortunately the Leader of the Opposition is not the only bunny in this exercise. Everyone in the Gascoyne area has been made a bunny over the issue.

The report of the Department of Northern Development recommends the scheme. All difficulties have been overcome and that has been indicated by the appropriate Federal Minister. All questions asked by the Federal Government have been answered satisfactorily by the State departments involved. The money has been promised and I ask the Federal Government again: Where is it?

Mr Jamieson: With all your might and the strength of Wilson Tuckey and the Premier, you would have huge holes blasted in it by now.

Mr LAURANCE: I would like to move on to what has become a very important issue in my electorate in the last two or three weeks. As a result of cyclone Tracy's devastation of Darwin on the 25th December last year the Radio Australia facility established in that city was destroyed. Four transmitters were wrecked and it was

no longer possible to operate Radio Australia from there. Radio Australia served South-East Asia and I believe it had something like 80 million listeners around the world, particularly in South-East Asia.

Attempts were made to supplement that facility from Shepparton in Victoria but it became obvious from inquiries made in Carnarvon that a number of sites in Western Australia were being looked at for the relocation of that radio facility. The likely sites in Western Australia were the Carnarvon tracking station site and the Overseas Telecommunications site at Gnangara, north of Perth.

The tracking station at Carnarvon will finally close on the 31st March, in a few days from now. On that date it will be handed over to the Federal Department of Services and Property which will look after it on a caretaker basis. I understand a caretaker will be appointed.

Despite efforts by the local shire and the Government over the last 12 months to find an alternative use for the site, the only suggestions so far have been very passive ones. The shire has requested that whatever is left after the Federal departments have taken their requirements be turned into a space museum. It is a fine thought but unfortunately it will not employ many people.

At what seems to be an extremely fortuitous time, Darwin's loss could be Carnarvon's gain. The effect on Carnarvon would be dynamic. The houses which have been left vacant as a result of the closure of the tracking station would immediately be reoccupied. It would reactivate the area completely. The solid growth rate which has been achieved over the last 10 years, which is in a downturn at the moment as a result of the closure of the tracking station, would be on the upward trend again. The houses are extremely good. They accommodated technical people when the tracking station was in full operation.

To try to find out something concrete about this matter, rather than listen to the rumours circulating in Carnarvon, I asked this question of the Premier on Wednesday, the 19th March—

- (1) Is he aware that the Postmaster General's Department is considering relocating the Radio Australia facility from Darwin following damage caused by cyclone Tracy?

The Premier replied—

- (1) The only notification I have is what appears in *The Australian* of Friday, the 14th March.

It refers to the fact that the Federal Cabinet last Tuesday—the 11th March, 1975—approved the Postmaster General's Department funding the installation of two temporary transmitters, one of 250-kilowatt and the other of

100-kilowatt, at Gnangara, north of Perth, at a cost of \$2.5 million, to replace the four transmitters destroyed by cyclone Tracy at Darwin.

In answer to part (2) of my question the Premier gave me an assurance that the State Government would do everything in its power to have the facility relocated at the Carnarvon site rather than on the outskirts of the metropolitan area.

Mr Coyne: Does Radio Australia have a medium wave band as well as a short wave band?

Mr LAURANCE: I am not sure about that. I believe the one in question is short wave. The Premier's answer to my question referred to an article in *The Australian* of the 14th March. That particular article said—

The new transmitters are likely to be ordered before the end of March and to be delivered by August.

The Post Office will launch a crash program to build the new temporary facility so it can be broadcasting by December.

Mr Blaikie: That will be the day!

Mr LAURENCE: We have the situation that a facility right in the metropolitan area will have to be converted. In fact, Overseas Telecommunications would have to move out. There will be a crash building programme, in the words of the article, to enable the site to take the Radio Australia facility. On the other hand, we have a site in Carnarvon which will be vacant in a few days' time. It already belongs to the Commonwealth Government. It adjoins the Overseas Telecommunications facility at Carnarvon and would do wonderful things for the area.

When it appeared that the case for Carnarvon was lost, I immediately wrote to the Prime Minister making an appeal on behalf of the people of Carnarvon for the decision to be reversed. I have not had a reply to that request but I call on the Prime Minister and the State Government to do everything they can to relocate the facility at Carnarvon. The possibilities for Carnarvon are wonderful. It seems fate has stepped in at the right time. It would be a great travesty of justice for the facility to be relocated in the metropolitan area rather than at Carnarvon.

From those people I can find to discuss the matter with me and who might have been involved in the decision making, I have learnt there may be some disadvantages in relocating Radio Australia in Carnarvon. For a start, it is easier to put up antennas for this purpose on flat land. The tracking station is on an elevated piece of land at Brown's Range. It could hardly be called a mountain; it is undulating land and certainly not very steep. Another point made is that Carnarvon is a

cyclone area. That is a fact, so there could be some reticence on the part of the PMG to move the facility from Darwin to another cyclone area. However, a very large dish and other equipment have been employed by the Overseas Telecommunications centre right next door on Brown's Range itself, and no problems have been experienced. There might be problems in regard to the buildings on the site which would be available. The dimensions of the building which would be used are not quite so suitable as those of the building at Gngangara.

On the other hand, there are some disadvantages in locating Radio Australia at Gngangara, but apart from the obvious one—that we try to decentralise industry and here is a golden opportunity for the Federal Government to do that—there is a real problem of interference in having a major radio facility right in the middle of a city. The site is on the outskirts of the city in Gngangara Road at the present time, but with the development of the metropolitan area northwards it will very soon be in the middle of the city, and I am led to believe that there could be serious problems of interference in that event.

Another problem is that OTC must be moved somewhere else, so we would have two moves. Surely that does not make sense. The disadvantages of the Carnarvon site are minimal. In fact, when I was told of these disadvantages I found that if we took them into account nothing would ever be built outside the metropolitan area. I was told of difficulties of staffing in remote areas, and so on. My only comment is that NASA and AWA, which was the Australian company responsible for operating the Carnarvon tracking station, operated it very happily for 10 years. Those organisations were able to maintain their staff. In fact, when the time comes for the tracking station to close many of the staff, some of them highly trained people, will be reluctant to leave and they are attempting to open businesses and so on so that they can remain in Carnarvon.

I therefore believe the disadvantages in moving the Radio Australia facility to Carnarvon are very minimal and simple to overcome. It is vital to the future of my area that such a decision be made.

**MR MAY** (Clontarf) [8.11 p.m.]: I intended to say a few words in answer to the member who has just resumed his seat, but I think there are far more important matters to talk about tonight than those he mentioned when he first rose to his feet.

I indicate to the Government that it is our intention to move a censure motion in relation to the electricity situation in Western Australia. I realise that will be no surprise to the Government; it is obvious that we would do so. However, there

are other matters I would like to deal with first, because the Address-in-Reply debate is the only opportunity we have, apart from the debate on the Estimates, to talk about other matters which are of importance to the public at large.

First of all, I am very upset about the answers given by the Premier to questions in relation to Medibank asked by the Leader of the Opposition earlier today. It is quite obvious that there is a difference of opinion between the Premier of Western Australia and his counterparts in the Eastern States, and I think this Government owes the public some clarification of what is going on in Western Australia in regard to the Medibank scheme.

I would like to read a short extract from *The Australian* of the 21st March, 1975. It is headed "States agree to ease demands for Medibank" and it says—

NSW, Victoria and Western Australia have dropped several major objections to the Medibank hospitals scheme and are certain they can be included by the starting date of July 1.

I know our Minister for Health was not at the meeting of Ministers in the Eastern States but I believe he was in contact with them by telephone and has had talks with the New South Wales Minister for Health (Mr Healey), so he is fully aware of the situation. I am quite sure the report which appears in *The Australian* of the 21st March is substantially correct, but in answer to a question today the Premier indicated it is not correct. I would like to be assured by the Government that there will be some clarification of the statement which appears in *The Australian*. It goes on to say—

A new list of 12 proposals drawn up at the State health ministers' meeting in Melbourne this week abandoned many of the demands included in the original 16-point plans proposed by NSW and Western Australia.

The NSW Minister for Health, Mr Healey, outlined some of the more important details in Sydney yesterday.

That would be the 20th March. It continues—

NSW has dropped its demand that hospital patients pay a third of their bills in public wards, he said.

A little later on the article says—

The States have also softened the demand on coverage for pensioners. NSW originally asked the Government to carry the entire cost of pensioner hospital services—\$130 million next year.

Now the States are asking merely that the Federal contribution be increased from \$18 a day to "something more," Mr Healey said.

The Premier quite rightly said that certain things which appear in that article need to be looked at a second time, and I agree with him. But the Leader of the Opposition asked in his question today—

- (1) Has Western Australia along with New South Wales and Victoria, dropped several major objections to the Medibank hospitals scheme?

The Premier's reply was—

- (1) No.

Part (2) of the Leader of the Opposition's question was—

- (2) Has a new list of 12 proposals drawn up at the State Health Minister's meeting in Melbourne last week abandoned many of the demands included in the original 16 point plans proposed by New South Wales and Western Australia?

The answer was—

- (2) Answered by (1).

These things concern all of us. Here we have the New South Wales Minister for Health making statements which were reported in *The Australian* of the 21st March, 1975; and on the other hand we have the Premier of this State saying, "Well, that is not true; we will have a look at the newspaper to see just how much credence we can place on the report." I know he will look at the newspaper and report to the House or make a statement indicating the point of view of the Western Australian Government in regard to the Medibank scheme. So much for Medibank for the moment.

Another point I would like to mention—and I have brought it up in this Chamber every time I have had the opportunity to speak in the Address-in-Reply debate, since early 1962-63—is the method of reporting adopted by some newspapers in connection with matters which I feel should not receive publicity. I refer to rape cases and other similar offences which I believe could be reported a great deal better than they are reported at present.

I wrote to the editor of a newspaper about this matter. He replied to my letter and thanked me for my interest in it. He indicated that the newspaper felt its reporting of this type of offence acted as a deterrent against the committing of further offences. I do not think that is the case, because over the last 10 years we have seen a large increase in these offences. Even the Minister, when replying to a question a day or two ago, indicated these cases are causing considerable concern in Western Australia, and that the Government hoped to do something about the matter.

Such a case occurred in my area only recently. Many people have been to see me about it. They are worried because

people have been breaking into homes and accosting residents; and that is all the more reason I should bring up the matter tonight.

One of the headlines in the Press to which I take exception is in large type right at the top of the page. We all know that young people like to read the newspaper, and this is what they found under the heading of, "Woman alleges rape, indignities". The article states—

A young woman yesterday told a Supreme Court jury that she was forced to urinate into a frying pan before a group of bikies who, she said, took over her home, repeatedly raped her and beat her man friend unconscious.

In my opinion that is not good reporting. I do not think there is any need to include that type of description in the newspapers. I think the headline gave the offence sufficient publicity. Whilst criticising the newspaper on one hand, I would like to congratulate it on the other hand because each day during the duration of the court case it printed the names of the persons charged. In my opinion that is a greater deterrent than printing the type of trash we see in the newspaper.

The other article to which I took exception—and there are many more, but I will mention only two because I want to get on to the other more important matter—appeared under the headline, "Man burnt his girl friend". The article states—

A man who burnt his girl friend with a cigarette and then urinated on her was gaoled for 12 months with hard labour yesterday.

Goodness me, I do not think we should have that type of comment in our newspapers. To my way of thinking the headline indicates the seriousness of the offence, and I think that is as far as the newspaper should go.

It is time the Press considered this matter. I know it is concerned about the incidence of rape, but I still feel it should adopt a better method of reporting such cases. That is why I said previously that I feel the printing of names of the persons charged with the offence, so that everybody will know who they are, is more of a deterrent than the printing of details of the offence. Knowing that their names will be printed in the Press if they commit an offence should be a great deterrent.

I would like now to turn to the main issue I wish to raise; that is, the recent increases in electricity and gas charges. We have read a great deal in the Press about increased charges, and it is my intention tonight firstly to read out the amendment I intend to move later during my speech. I will go through the various terms of the amendment to show the

Government where in our opinion it deserves censure. I will not read the preamble at this stage. The amendment states that the Government deserves censure because it has—

- (a) imposed excessive and unjustified increases in electricity charges of in excess of 42% within five months, the effects of which have been to contribute greatly to Western Australia's inflation rate, placed excessive costs on industry consumer and local government as well as causing companies to consider deferment of establishing operations in Western Australia;
- (b) placed severe strain on the State Electricity Commission's finances and has inhibited its capital works programme through imposing a 3% levy on its income;
- (c) displayed indifference in its approach to the State's long term energy needs, particularly in reference to upgrading the Muja Power Station, reconvertng Kwinana Power Station generating units to use coal instead of oil and occasioned dissension between the State Electricity Commission and the Fuel and Power Commission;
- (d) continued its policy of secrecy by refusing to make public details of the study conducted by a firm of consultants into the management structure of the State Electricity Commission.

I am sure you will agree, Sir, that considerable concern has been expressed over the last few months about electricity and gas charges. We on this side feel these charges have suffered one of the most vicious increases it is possible to impose.

We had an increase of approximately 14 per cent in the price of electricity in August of last year. I will demonstrate later that 14 per cent was the minimum increase on that occasion, and that the increase was actually as high as 20 per cent in individual cases. Then only four or five months later, we had a further increase of 25 per cent in January of this year. We had an increase of 10 per cent in gas charges in August, 1974, and then a further increase of 20 per cent in January. Therefore, this is a very serious problem so far as we are concerned, and we would like to censure the Government most severely in respect of it.

The Government was not satisfied with the increase imposed in August because, as I have pointed out, it imposed further increases in January of this year. Electricity charges have risen from 2.3c per unit in November, 1971, to 3.4c per unit in January, 1975. This means in effect that Perth consumers pay approximately \$6.50 a quarter more than consumers in

Sydney, \$11 a quarter more than consumers in Brisbane, Adelaide, and Hobart; and \$13 a quarter more than consumers in Melbourne.

As you are probably aware, Sir, most States regard 1 000 kWh units a quarter as average household consumption. Using that average, we find consumers in the various capital cities would pay the following charges—

	\$
Perth	35.80
Sydney	29.16
Adelaide	24.81
Hobart	24.57
Brisbane	24.28
Melbourne	22.77

So it can be seen that consumers in Western Australia have been subjected to a very serious increase in the price of electricity.

In my opinion the responsibility for the increases in these charges must be borne by all Cabinet Ministers. Cabinet must eventually recommend or decline an increase in charges. We are all aware that a Government instrumentality—such as the SEC—investigates the position to see whether an increase in charges is justified. The particulars of its investigation are then submitted to the Minister. The Minister can go back to the SEC and say, "In my opinion these charges are not warranted; you have not provided us with sufficient information to establish that the increase is justified; the matter should be further considered." Alternatively he can arrange for a minute to be sent to all other Cabinet Ministers—which evidently occurred in this case—and after the Ministers have had time to consider the minute it is discussed in Cabinet and a decision is taken to increase electricity and gas charges. That is what happened in August of last year.

As long ago as the 24th June, 1974, the Minister for Electricity in an article in the Press indicated that an increase in electricity and gas charges was inevitable. Those are the very words he used. I will read out the article so that there may be no doubt in the minds of members about it. It states—

The Minister for Fuel and Energy, Mr Mensaros, agreed yesterday that an increase was inevitable.

He said that he and the State Electricity Commission were doing all they could to cushion the impact.

In effect that means the Government must have given a considerable amount of thought to the matter to ensure it could cushion the impact. It cushioned the impact all right! It finished up cushioning it with a bed of nails, because only five months later the Government eased the burden on the consumers by increasing the price by a further 25 per cent!

Within five months the price of electricity increased by 42 per cent, and the price of gas increased by 30 per cent. When the Minister says in the Press that he is endeavouring to cushion the effect, one is led to believe he has considered every point and thinks the increase is justified but will endeavour to keep it to a minimum to lessen the impact upon consumers. In the same article it was stated that higher power costs would add fuel to the fires of inflation already causing problems with manufacturing and service industries in Western Australia.

We have heard a great deal about inflation and how it would be cured within six months of the present Government coming to office. Unfortunately we are still waiting for the cure. Instead the Government added fuel to the fire by increasing electricity and gas charges—an obvious ingredient for inflation. The present Government has a great deal to answer for to the public because this State has the highest rate of inflation of all States in Australia.

On the 25th July, 1974, the Minister for Electricity released a Press statement which is a real burster. I think the House will be very interested to hear the following remarks of the Minister—

The increase in charges for electricity and gas has been held to a minimum and is not as high as recent increases in the cost of other goods and services.

Small domestic consumers in WA will continue to pay less for electricity than their counterparts in all other States.

This will mean that the effect of these increases on small consumers will be minimal.

This is in line with Government policy to protect the interests of pensioners and low income families who are normally amongst the SEC's smallest consumers.

What a statement to make! I do not blame the Minister for making that statement at the time; but I do blame him and his Government for increasing the charges for electricity by a further 25 per cent only five months later; and not only that, it also increased gas charges by a further 20 per cent.

On the 7th August, 1974, I asked the Minister for Electricity the following question—

- (1) Is he aware that the general manager of the SEC publicly announced that—
  - (a) "whilst there would not be an early decrease in natural gas prices to the consumer there certainly would not be any increase"; and
  - (b) "following the payment of conversion costs in all probability the price could decrease"?

I asked that question because previously we were told there would be no increase in gas charges and that, following the conversion to natural gas there was a distinct possibility they would decrease. However, they increased by 30 per cent! The charges were increased by 10 per cent on the 30th August, 1974; and by a further 20 per cent in January, 1975.

These statements are not something we have pulled out of a hat; it can be shown they have been made by the Minister and by the Government he represents.

On the 18th September, 1974, a very interesting question was asked by the member for Mundaring. I must indicate, firstly, that this question was asked following the increases in charges that were made, as you are probably aware, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Blaikie). The question asked by the member for Mundaring of the Minister for Electricity was as follows—

Does he anticipate any further increase in the electricity charges to consumers before the onset of next winter?

The Minister's reply was as follows—

I certainly do not anticipate further increases.

This was in September, 1974. This was the homework that was done by the Government in regard to the increases in electricity charges to the people of Western Australia, viewed in the light of the fact that in June, 1974, the Government said, "We are going to keep charges down to the minimum. We are going to look after the pensioners and the consumer who is on a low income." In September the Minister stated that he certainly did not anticipate any increase and yet, in January, 1975, the Government increased the charges by another 25 per cent. That is absolutely ridiculous.

I would like to indicate at this point that in 1971 the charges for electricity were 2.3c a unit, and in January, 1975, they were 3.4c a unit. In the margin of the paper I have in front of me I have a note which reads, "A 63 per cent increase". If we look at the overall increase in charges, the increase to consumers was actually about 18 per cent in August, 1974. As an example I cite a family that is using about 2 000 units a quarter. The electricity bill for that family rose from \$47.21 to \$55.50. This is an increase of 17.6 per cent, yet the Government said it was going to look after the pensioner and the person on the low income. A family using 100 units a quarter would pay \$4.20 a quarter instead of \$3.50 a quarter; an increase of 20 per cent. This would be the average bill for a family on a low income, the people the Minister was going to look after. So I repeat that this is a ridiculous situation after the Government informed the people it intended to look after all sections of the community.

The Government started, first of all, to increase the charges for those consumers who were on a low or moderate income and then proceeded to increase the charges of electricity supplies to companies and what is the result? We have inflation, and this is what we are trying to overcome in Western Australia.

It is obvious that no research into the increase in charges was conducted by the SEC, nor was any done by the Minister. What surprises me greatly is the fact that other Ministers in the Cabinet did not have a good look at the situation before they agreed to the release of the information to the media and to the public that electricity charges were to be increased. When we consider that increases in excess of 14 per cent were imposed in August, it is quite obvious that the Ministers had not done their homework, especially in view of the fact that they agreed to a further increase in electricity charges in January, 1975.

Of course, the Premier had little to say on the subject, as usual. He was most reticent early in the piece, but he did come out later on and say that the Government was anxious to avoid further increases in electricity charges. The Premier stated that he had been presented with a grim picture of the financial future of the SEC. He made that statement on the 6th January, 1975. What sort of a picture was he presented with in June or July, 1974, when the Government decided to increase electricity charges if the financial position of the SEC was so grim early in 1975? I believe the SEC early in 1975 asked for a 30 per cent increase, but the Government decided to make an increase of only 25 per cent. In June or July, 1974, the SEC recommended that the Government should increase electricity charges by 15 or 16 per cent, and then early in 1975 it put forward a plea to the Government to increase the charges by 30 per cent.

However the Government decided to impose an increase of 25 per cent, because this is the year increases in charges are made so that the Government can say that it will have a further look at the position during the next session of Parliament.

It is disconcerting to review all the increases in charges and taxes that have been imposed by this Government. I would like to read an extract from *Hansard*, and I am sure you will be interested in this, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Blaikie).

This statement was made by the member for Cottesloe following an increase in electricity charges in 1971. In 1971 the Tonkin Government came into office and we found, after considerable investigation, that it was necessary for electricity charges to be increased. In this particular instance there was good reason for the increase, because 1970—of all the years during the past decade—was the year prior

to the present Government going out of office, and that was the only year the Government did not make loan funds available to the SEC. So, in effect, the SEC had to use its revenue to pay for all the equipment that had been ordered by the outgoing Government.

As all members know, when dealing in power houses and electricity supplies payment is spread over a five-year period, and when we came into office we anticipated that the amount of money required to discharge these accounts would be available, but no provision was made for loan funds in 1970. So the Tonkin Government had to cover the cost of the equipment that had been ordered by the previous Government. I am not mentioning that in a derogatory manner, because if there is one thing that causes a great deal of unrest in the community it is a blackout or a break in the continuity of electricity supplies. To guarantee this continuity of electricity supplies we had to take steps to ensure there was sufficient money in the till to pay for the equipment when it was delivered.

The member for Cottesloe, who was a prominent front-bench member, had just returned from an overseas trip. I think it was most unwise for the then Opposition, led by, I think, Sir David Brand at that particular time, to ask the member for Cottesloe to be the main speaker on the moving of a censure motion against the Tonkin Government. The following is what the member for Cottesloe had to say on the censure motion—

In a few months of office the Government has blatantly imposed more punitive taxation than we have ever known in such a period of time.

I wish the member for Cottesloe could be on the floor of the House to say what he thinks of the increase in electricity charges that have been imposed in the past 12 months. The member for Cottesloe went on to say—

No Government action as bad as this has ever been taken during my experience and the people should know the enormity of this offence.

Those very words appear in *Hansard*. I am quite sure that you, Mr Speaker, will appreciate the reason I have made these quotes. I have quoted these statements made by the member for Cottesloe because they are very relevant to the situation as it exists at the moment relating to increases in electricity charges. Of course, when one reviews the statements that were made by the Opposition in those days and considers the increases in charges and taxes that have been made by the present Government, the position is absolutely ludicrous.

For example, during the regime of this Government stamp duty on cheques has been increased by 33½ per cent. Liquor licenses have been increased by 27½ per

cent. A 3 per cent levy on the gross revenue of the SEC, the Metropolitan Water Board, and the Fremantle Port Authority has been imposed, and a levy of 50 per cent has been imposed on the net profit of the Rural and Industries Bank. Hospital bed charges have been increased by 50 per cent, and country train and railway bus fares have been increased by 17 per cent. Car registrations have been increased by 65 per cent and SGIO car insurance premiums have gone up by 25 per cent. State battery tonnage charges have increased by 200 per cent.

In addition, severe increases have been made in country railway freight charges, drivers' license fees, water rates, State Housing Commission rentals, and State Shipping Service charges. On the 4th October, 1974, *The West Australian* had this to say—

The Premier and Treasurer, Sir Charles Court (caught) almost scraped the bottom of the barrel of existing State taxes and charges when he introduced his first Budget.

Mr Harman: Did he leave anything out?

Mr MAY: There are not many charges or taxes left to increase. But, of course, the Government can always return to the SEC, the cow everyone wants to milk, but no-one wants to feed. Nevertheless the Government cannot continue to take money from the SEC and expect it to carry on a service that is vital to Western Australia. The Government is placing that commission in a very invidious position, because 3 per cent of its revenue is being taken from it.

Recently I asked a question in the Chamber as to the amount of money that would be paid into Consolidated Revenue following the 3 per cent levy being imposed on the increase in electricity charges from January, 1975, to January, 1976. The answer I received was that the amount was roughly \$3.5 million. That is the amount this Government will be taking from the revenue of the SEC to place into Consolidated Revenue. Of course, the Government has to obtain money from its emergency fund to recoup the SEC so that it will be able to carry on. It is a strange type of bookkeeping when such a practice is followed by the Government.

Sir Charles Court: What percentage do South Australia and Victoria take?

Mr Jamieson: In those States there is a different set of circumstances. One has a hydroelectric scheme.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr MAY: After the increases in electricity charges were announced in January, 1975, the SEC published an advertisement in the Press for a person to fill a senior position in finance and administration on that commission. This advertisement appeared in the Press only a few days after the electricity charges were increased. I

have a copy of that advertisement among my papers and I will certainly quote it to the House as I proceed with my speech.

Another matter I would like to deal with is a situation which arose when the Chamber of Manufactures criticised the Tonkin Government for increasing electricity charges in 1971. That chamber was most vocal in its protests, and quite rightly, because it looks after a particular type of fraternity and it is at liberty to say what it likes. Of course, the situation is entirely different when this Government decides to make large increases in electricity charges. The Chamber of Manufactures had this to say—

Mr Firkins said he believed that the increased power charges were inevitable because of higher prices for Middle East oil.

They also re-emphasised the stupidity of the Federal Government's oil exploration policy which had dampened the search for oil in Australia.

What a ridiculous situation! Here we have a Government that has just recently increased electricity charges and is responsible for the situation in which we are placed at the moment and, before the Premier jumps in and says this is a lot of hogwash, I would point out that he visited Collie and made a statement that was printed in the local newspaper. However the Premier visited Collie only to placate the people of that town and to mention the situation in regard to future power houses.

Therefore it is of no use the Government coming up with the answer that this is a lot of hogwash. However the Premier will continue to hear all about the position, because all we hear is that had it not been for Sir Charles Court we would not have the great development that has taken place in the Pilbara. We can put up with that, but I am quite sure that the Premier will have to listen for many years to the true story concerning the situation at Collie. I am certain the member for Collie will leave no stone unturned in reminding the Premier of the situation that has occurred in Collie over the past few years. Had it not been for the ineptitude of the Brand-Court-Nalder Government at the time we would not be in the position in which we are placed today. We would not be so reliant on supplies of oil from overseas, and we would not have been forced into the situation of having to use oil for power generation until about 1979 or 1980.

If the Government had permitted the Collie coalfields to be developed by companies extracting coal, we would not be placed in the position that we are in today. No useful purpose is served by the Government saying that this is old hash, because his Government is responsible for the 14 per cent increase in electricity charges imposed in August last year, and the 25 per cent increase imposed in January this

year, and also for the increase in 1971 when the Tonkin Government was in office. This Government did not provide loan funds to the State Electricity Commission, or allow the companies to undertake the exploration of coal reserves at Collie to upgrade the Muja power station. It took the Tonkin Government only 12 months to realise the situation.

The leading article in *The West Australian* said it was fortuitous that the Tonkin Government allowed the exploration to continue in Collie so as to assess the coal reserves and upgrade the power station. However, the present Government deferred the upgrading of the Muja power station for 12 months. This is not the only project the Government deferred; it also deferred many other projects affecting the State Electricity Commission. I intend to indicate to the Government the undertakings it has deferred.

I wish to point this out to country members who are unhappy about the lack of electricity in their areas. One report in *The West Australian* of the 26th June, 1974, pointed out that the Tonkin Government showed great foresight in encouraging the search for coal which had brought about a dramatic increase in known coal reserves. There is no justification for the Premier on every possible occasion to say this is old hash. Were it not for the action of the Tonkin Government in increasing the exploration in the Collie area the State would be in far greater trouble than it is at present.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has eight more minutes.

Mr MAY: I have already dealt with the 3 per cent levy which was imposed on the SEC. I would now like to deal with a question asked by the member for Collie on the 15th October, 1974. His question was—

In view of the concern being expressed in Collie regarding the rumoured curtailment of the building extension programme to be carried out at the Muja power station, will he kindly advise if the programme has been reviewed and what are the alterations involved?

The reply of the Minister was—

In view of the lack of necessary loan funds which would be needed to accelerate the installation of the proposed Muja plant, work can only proceed at a rate sufficient to cope with the anticipated load growth. This will result in a delay of about one year in the programme.

When that answer was given, I asked the Premier whether he intended to make representations to the Commonwealth Government in an endeavour to obtain additional loan funds to upgrade the Collie power station. His reply was, "No, not at this stage but I do not rule out the possibility of application being made to the

Commonwealth Government at a later date for a special allocation of funds to the State for the power station at Muja."

I was not satisfied with that reply of the Premier, so I wrote to the Prime Minister in November last year and set out the case in regard to the upgrading of the Muja power station. I explained that because of the lack of loan funds the present Government had delayed the upgrading.

On the 20th January, 1975, the Prime Minister replied to my letter in the following terms—

The Australian Government is naturally concerned about the substantial dependence of Western Australia on imported crude oil for the generation of electric power which given the availability of cheap coal at Collie, would seem to be an uneconomic use of resources.

As you know, the financing of projects such as the upgrading of the Muja Power House is the responsibility of the State Government. Any loan funds for such project would come either from borrowings against the approved Loan Council program for semi-governmental authorities or from the State's allocation under the Loan Council program for State Governments.

I shall not continue with the two-page letter, because of lack of time.

The present State Government has done nothing except to say that in due course it will look at the situation and make application to the Commonwealth Government.

Another matter which I wish to deal with concerns an inquiry into the State Electricity Commission. On a number of occasions the Minister for Electricity has refused to make available to the House and the public the results of its inquiry, and it said that was brought about by the SEC and not the Government of the day—the Tonkin Government. This is absolutely false, because on the 17th January, 1974, I, as Minister for Electricity and Fuel, wrote to the then Premier as follows—

The attached submission received from the Chairman and General Manager of the State Electricity Commission is forwarded for your perusal please.

I have been considering for some time the possibility of initiating an enquiry into the increased management structure of the State Electricity Commission. This request from the Commission is, in my opinion, fortuitous, and accordingly I would appreciate your views regarding the acceptance of the recommendation.

The memorandum was endorsed as follows—

Approved.  
John Tonkin  
Premier 18/1/74

I forwarded the memorandum to the SEC with comments. This memorandum appears on the files of the SEC, and the Minister for Electricity should look at it. On some other occasion I shall deal with what the present Minister said when he assumed the portfolio. He did not know there had been an inquiry.

I have a letter which I wrote to the Premier on the 21st February last.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has three more minutes.

Mr MAY: My letter was as follows—

In view of the fact that the Study of Management Organisation conducted by Cresap, McCormick and Paget has now been completed, it would be appreciated if the report could be made public.

My reason for requesting this action emanates from the number of enquiries I have received as to the possible re-organisation of the State Electricity Commission. I believe a copy has been made available to the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and no doubt the information contained in the report is no longer of a confidential nature.

I have not had an acknowledgment of that letter, or a reply from the Premier.

#### *Amendment to Motion*

In fact, I do not know whether he has received it. For the reasons I have given I move an amendment—

That the following words be added to the motion—

: but we regret to advise Your Excellency that in the opinion of this House the Government is deserving of censure because it has—

- (a) imposed excessive and unjustified increases in electricity charges of in excess of 42% within five months, the effects of which have been to contribute greatly to Western Australia's inflation rate, placed excessive costs on industry consumer and local government as well as causing companies to consider deferment of establishing operations in Western Australia;
- (b) placed severe strain on the State Electricity Commission's finances and has inhibited its capital works programme through imposing a 3% levy on its income;
- (c) displayed indifference in its approach to the State's long term energy needs, particularly in reference to upgrading the Muja Power

Station, reconvertng Kwinana Power Station generating units to use coal instead of oil and occasioned disension between the State Electricity Commission and the Fuel and Power Commission;

- (d) continued its policy of secrecy by refusing to make public details of the study conducted by a firm of consultants into the management structure of the State Electricity Commission.

Mr JAMIESON: I formally second the amendment.

MR MENSAROS (Floreat—Minister for Electricity) [8.54 p.m.]: I do not say that I fail to appreciate the approach of the member for Clontarf to this matter, and I appreciate that it is of concern to him. Whilst we on this side cannot agree with his conclusion that the Government should be censured for what has happened, I think that generally speaking we share his concern.

I understand that he has made out a political case relating to the inevitable increases in the tariffs of the State Electricity Commission. In the first part of the amendment the member for Clontarf requests this Chamber to censure the Government for having imposed excessive and unjustified increases in electricity charges. Of course, the honourable member, who was a former Minister for Electricity, did not for one moment in his speech produce constructive criticism of what he possibly could or would have done had he been the Minister for Electricity in the circumstances in which the present Government finds itself.

Let us look at the objective of excessive charges. It is a fact, and the calculation is probably right, that electricity charges increased during the term of this Government by an average of 42 per cent. Despite all the criticism which we have heard time and time again as to what sort of generating plant should have been built, let us turn to the time when the Brand Government first assumed office in 1959, and compare the percentage increases in other fields with the percentage increases which have been effected in the charges of the SEC. If we do this we will see that the increase in the Consumer Price Index for Western Australia between 1959 and January, 1975, at the time when the last increase in electricity charges took place, was nearly 96.9 per cent.

If we look at the average weekly earnings which are calculated by the Bureau of Census and Statistics per employed male unit in Western Australia, we find that during the period from 1959 to January, 1975, the increase was 304 per cent. So, the Consumer Price Index which expresses

all prices included in the index increased by almost 100 per cent, while the earning capacity of the consumer to pay which is represented in his average pay increased by over 300 per cent. Yet, during the same period, the total increase—I am dealing with the facts of the matter, and am therefore considering all the increases which occurred during the terms of the Tonkin and the Court Governments—from 1959 to January, 1975, in electricity charges was 55.3 per cent. This is a little more than half of the increase in the Consumer Price Index, and a little more than one-sixth of the increase in the average weekly earnings. In the same period, gas charges increased by only 27.6 per cent, which is about half of the increase in electricity charges.

To say that the Government should be censured because of these increased charges—we should look at the matter in the light of the statistics I have given—is to represent the position incorrectly, because it will be seen that during the term of office of this Government an endeavour was made to keep these charges to a minimum, according to the spirit and the provisions of the State Electricity Commission Act. This instrumentality is a self-contained utility business, if one wishes to term it as such.

It endeavours to cater not only for the present-day demand for electricity, but has been successful in including country areas and in providing a supply to those areas which are not under the grid system. It is also responsible for planning future generation requirements which, as the member, for Clontarf knows, is not undertaken without considerable difficulty, because the commission would need to know the anticipated increase in demand in six or seven years' time, and in many cases longer than that.

Taking those points into consideration I do not think the honourable member has taken the matter very seriously when he proposes that the Government should be censured on the account that the increases were unjustifiably high. I do not want to spend a lot of time on this matter because it appears to me that if we are to have an amendment moved by each member opposite such endeavours could not be interpreted as anything other than a desire to prevent the Government from legislating.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: You ought to talk about that!

Mr MENSAROS: We have had four amendments from five speakers.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: Members opposite never gave up when we got into office. The Premier said publicly he would not give us an armchair ride. We received complaints from every quarter. The member opposite ought to talk!

Sir Charles Court: I well remember the first few years of the Brand Government.

Mr MENSAROS: I will confine my remarks to the amendment which the member for Clontarf has moved. The honourable member said that soon after the average increase of 14.2 per cent, there was a further increase of 25 per cent. I do not accept the criticism that the Government probably has not considered the matter or the reason for the first increase. Indeed, the Government—as was the case with the Government of which the honourable member was a Minister—has to accept advice from the utility; namely the State Electricity Commission. That advice has not been simply accepted, but has been subjected to lengthy and thorough investigation. If the member for Clontarf does not believe me I would be quite prepared to invite him to my office and show him, personally, the method of the investigation, and the searching questions which went from myself, as Minister, to the SEC at the time of the proposal for the increase of 14.2 per cent. Because of the assurances we were given, that this first increase would carry the SEC for a long time, that recommendation was accepted by the Government.

However, it appears that the member for Clontarf received his information regarding the second increase from an absolutely unreliable source. I refer to the information he received that the commission recommended a 30 per cent increase.

Mr May: I got it out of the newspaper.

Mr MENSAROS: Well, it was from an absolutely bad source. The situation was exactly the opposite and there is no secrecy about it. The request from the SEC was for a 25 per cent increase and, again, I considered the matter very seriously for a long time and I also sought external advice on the financial and engineering aspects. I came to the conclusion that unless yet further increases were made sooner than thought desirable we would probably have to ask for a 30 per cent increase. That was at the time when the Treasury offered the help of \$6 million for the funding of the loan account for the capital expenditure of the SEC. That help made it possible to keep the increase down to 25 per cent on the second occasion.

As I have said, if the SEC can be criticised—through the Government, which accepts the responsibility—perhaps it could only be—as was implied in the speech of the member for Clontarf—that at the time in August, 1974, the increase was not almost double what it was. Obviously, that would have provided more profit for a longer period without further necessity for tariff rises. However, in the meantime circumstances changed. Most importantly, when an increase was sought on the second occasion, the capital market was at its lowest ebb. There was no assurance at all that even half of the smallest programme of the SEC could be

realised. The member for Clontarf, better than anyone else, would know that that was an important and serious predicament indeed. He has pointed to it in his speech.

The time involved in planning is vastly longer than it used to be. It takes longer to obtain generating units, and orders for hardware have to be placed for longer periods of time. Planning takes longer and, consequently, a longer period is involved during which the capital expenditure burden has to be carried. It is quite well known that the servicing of capital is about twice—if not more than twice—what it used to be during normal times. Added to those problems, of course, is the escalation of costs caused by galloping inflation which represents additional capital expenditure when plans have to be provided.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: The Minister will be in real trouble when he starts to put the power lines underground.

Mr MENSAROS: The member for Clontarf castigated the Government. I simply say—and I am quite sure he agrees with me although he cannot say so—that no Government would have been able to prevent the price increases in the circumstances. The rises represent only half of the increase in the Consumer Price Index, and one-sixth of the increase in weekly earnings.

In the second part of the motion the honourable member criticises the Government, as other members have done, because of the 3 per cent levy which it is claimed is burdening the SEC. It is well known that at other times the Opposition—and I think rightly so—has levelled some criticism that not enough attention is given to decentralisation benefits for country areas. In the case of this particular levy we are saying to the public that instead of a tremendous burden being placed on all the consumers it is being placed mainly on the consumers in the metropolitan area. In other words, it will take some burden away from those people living in country areas, and especially those living in remote areas because the largest part of the total burden of the SEC expenditure will be carried generally by the metropolitan consumers through this levy instead of the country consumers having to pay in every case.

As the Premier mentioned by way of interjection, the other States adopted the same method in an attempt to raise general revenue through government utilities. However, the difference is that the percentage with which the other States levy their instrumentalities is, in most cases, higher than it is in Western Australia.

The member for Clontarf also mentioned that through the increases we pay higher charges for our electricity than do the consumers in the Eastern States.

Mr May: Most of the Eastern States.

Mr MENSAROS: Yes. The honourable member did not mention New South Wales because that would not suit his argument.

Mr May: I did.

Mr MENSAROS: I do not know whether he took into consideration the drastic increases which have been applied recently in New South Wales. The increases were inevitable. The member for Clontarf knows very well that Western Australia has always been disadvantaged in the generation of electricity. We do not have the cheap resources of coal which are available in the Eastern States, and we do not have hydroelectric power. We have vast distances over which to provide electricity when compared with the Eastern States, and we do not have a situation where there can be an interchange after the heaviest loading on the power stations. In the Eastern States excess electricity is not wasted but is interchanged between the States, the same as happens in Europe between various countries.

Mr May: Are we not using 80 per cent of Collie coal at the present time?

Mr MENSAROS: I will come to that matter. The Eastern States are at considerable advantage when compared with our State. The member for Clontarf provided a very good example in the question he raised. Let us look at the prices which existed between July, 1973, and June, 1974—the average price for the financial year 1973-74. The average cost per ton of coal was \$6.74 during that financial year. By the 1st March, 1975, that price had increased to \$7.70. That does not appear to be a tremendous rise but if we examine the situation and compare the freight increase it will be seen that during the period I have mentioned the average cost increased from 38c to \$2.31. That increase, of course, was partly as a result of the increased usage of coal.

The main reason for the increase, as I have mentioned, apart from drastic wage increases was capital expenditure. It has been acknowledged by the member for Clontarf that we must plan ahead and we cannot allow for gaps in our planning. We do not have a situation such as exists in the Eastern States where gaps can often be closed by using the interruptible supply system. We do not have the enormous consumption where we could, with good effect, introduce some sort of interchangeable system although we are still endeavouring to do so. Under such a system a considerable amount of electricity upon a given period of notice is cut off during certain hours. This occurs during peak periods, and as a result it is not necessary to have such a large excess capacity which costs enormous amounts in capital expenditure to have available.

Coming back to the amendment to the motion, moved by the member for Clontarf, he dealt with the question of the

Muja power station versus the Kwinana power station. This is a question which arises often and the member for Clontarf promised us it would come up even more often in the future. I would like, very briefly, to go through the history of this matter which is so often distorted. If we go back to the life of the Brand Government the generation of electricity was by means of coal.

Mr T. H. Jones: How far back in the life of the Brand Government?

Mr MENSAROS: From the commencement of the Brand Government the generation of electricity was by coal only. The completion of the Bunbury power station allowed the base load to be supplied from that source. From there planning progressed and the power house was constructed at Muja. It is absolutely unrealistic, and prejudiced to say the least, to castigate the Brand Government for the decision it made in 1965 or 1966 when it was able to use heavy oil which had previously been lost to Western Australia. That oil was available at a favourable price for the generation of electricity and it saved about 30 per cent or 40 per cent in capital expenditure for the oil generating plant as compared with a coal generating plant. Also, there was the question of the transmission lines necessary to carry the electricity to the places of heaviest consumption. That, of course, involved quite a difference because the main consuming industry was at Kwinana and not at Muja.

This was not a doctrinaire decision, it was a simple business decision which the member for Clontarf or the member for Collie would have made, had it concerned their own businesses. Anyone would have taken the opportunity when it is quite clear that a service can be obtained more cheaply by expending less money for capital. It would be too stupid not to make such a decision. Despite all this, even after the Kwinana power station came into operation, I am advised that there was never a period when the average usage of coal was below 60 per cent, as compared with the usage of oil. Today the member for Collie can stand up and say, "I told you that, and I was right."

Mr T. H. Jones: Would you blame me after I moved for a Royal Commission in 1970? Would you blame me for saying it again?

Mr MENSAROS: I do not think the honourable member can claim he has a better crystal ball than anyone else. We can read various opinions about the expectation of increases in oil prices throughout the world, and I cannot say whether oil prices will rise more sharply than coal prices will. When I was in the United States I was told that coal prices have risen from \$5 to \$7, up to \$50, which was almost incredible. Yet I was told this in the very home of the usage of coal—in Pittsburg and Cleveland. So one cannot

always claim that when making a decision one must be absolutely right for an indefinite period.

Coming back to the fact that 60 per cent usage of coal was the minimum during all the time it has been used, we know that with the sudden increase in oil prices, as the member for Clontarf mentioned, the coal usage went up to 80 per cent. Admittedly, all this usage is not efficient because older power stations have to be used.

Mr May: But it does reduce the use of oil.

Mr MENSAROS: There is no question about that.

Mr May: So the cost must come down.

Mr MENSAROS: But the endeavour was there to use all available power stations, and we use up to 80 per cent coal at the present time. So I do not think it could be considered by members of this Chamber that the decision would cause a lack of confidence in the Government.

Finally, the member for Clontarf said that the Government ought to be censured because of the secrecy in regard to the report. I believe this is a red herring which is bandied around all the time. During the term of the Tonkin Government it was decided to initiate an investigation at the request of the SEC. The document was available around the time, or after the time of the decision about a second rise which had to be made in January, 1975. I am talking about the decision, not the announcement, or at least the consideration of the price rise. It would have had no bearing on this decision that had to be made, as was claimed by the member for Clontarf.

Mr May: Well, why did you not release it?

Mr MENSAROS: I am coming to it. It was not released, and my understanding—and I think the member for Clontarf would know this—was that the SEC asked primarily for an internal investigation. This was requested by the General Manager of the SEC.

Mr May: Have you read the terms of reference?

Mr MENSAROS: I have read the whole report several times.

Mr May: But what about the terms of reference that were put up to me?

Mr MENSAROS: Not knowing in advance that the matter would be raised in the amendment, I was not able to ascertain this. I am therefore asking the Leader of the Opposition about the matter, as my understanding is the Premier let him have a copy of this very report at the time.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: Yes.

Mr MENSAROS: The Opposition cannot claim absolute secrecy there.

Mr May: You made it available to the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, and he announced it prematurely.

Mr Young: The SEC was asked to provide it, and it did.

Mr MENSAROS: To claim secrecy about this report as the basis of a censure amendment seems to be an extremely weak point.

Mr May: You are treating the matter very lightly.

Mr MENSAROS: I am not treating the matter at all lightly. I think the member for Clontarf had to find a point to use again to censure the Government, and he used this. I believe I have shown quite conclusively that he is entirely out of step to censure the Government on these grounds. All endeavour has been made to keep necessary rises in electricity and gas charges down to a minimum. The percentage increase in these commodities is much lower than not most, but every other commodity.

Mr May: But this puts up the price of every other commodity.

Mr MENSAROS: If the member for Clontarf can name any other commodity widely used by the public which has increased to a lesser extent than gas and electricity charges from 1959 until today, I could see more point in his amendment.

Finally, contrary to what is claimed by the Opposition that the Government is guilty of some neglect and is due for censure, the Government took very proper action. As I said, the Government was concerned that fairly soon after the first increase another claim was made by the SEC for tariff rises. Consequently, not just using this report from the Melbourne consultants to which the member for Clontarf referred, but also using all possible means—conducting extensive investigations and a great deal of negotiation with a tremendous number of people—the Government decided that a complete reorganisation of the commission was necessary. This decision was not based entirely on the report because the report dealt mainly with matters which would not be the subject of legislation, and which would not require amendment of the present State Electricity Commission Act. Some of the recommendations in the report will be adhered to, but basically the commission will be reorganised. It will have the benefit of working with the Fuel and Power Commission. The member for Clontarf made some implication about a misunderstanding there, but even if his implication were proven right, the Government realised that by amalgamating the Fuel and Power Commission with the newly-organised SEC, benefits would result in regard to long-term planning.

Mr May: Do you agree with the amalgamation?

Mr MENSAROS: Of course I agree. I will present the legislation.

Mr Jamieson: That does not mean anything.

Mr May: You certainly want to have a look at your speeches. You changed your attitude all of a sudden.

Mr MENSAROS: I did not change my attitude.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: Yes you did.

Mr MENSAROS: If I did change my views, I stand here and say I am not at all ashamed of it. It just proves that such a long investigation has arrived at a certain solution which appears to be most equitable. If the member for Clontarf claims he is infallible, I will let him do so. I will never claim I am fallible altogether, but I do claim, and the Government claims, that we do our best. We obtain the best advice we can find, and we use our best endeavours to bring about a much more efficient situation than would have been needed at the time the present SEC was created.

Mr May: When are you introducing the legislation?

Mr MENSAROS: I contend, and very strongly contend, that the issues raised by the member for Clontarf give no grounds whatever upon which to censure the Government. Therefore, of course, I oppose the amendment.

Mr May: Very weak argument—very poor.

MR T. H. JONES (Collie) [9.24 p.m.]: Members on this side of the House find it very hard to follow the Minister for Fuel and Energy. I do not mean any disrespect to the Minister, but unfortunately some members are forced to come to the back seats here because of difficulty in hearing what he had to say in answering the very strong case presented by the member for Clontarf.

Mr H. D. Evans: They didn't miss much.

Mr T. H. JONES: It is not my intention to go into all the points raised by the member for Clontarf, but in the main his amendment dealt with the power policies formulated by the Liberal Party over the years. This is the crux of the problem. Power houses are not erected on 12 months' notice. I understand that after ordering a unit it takes around about nine years for it to be delivered. So we cannot look at the present-day situation—we have to ask ourselves: Who is responsible for the mess in which Western Australia finds itself so far as power generation is concerned?

With the time available to me I hope that I will prove conclusively and without doubt that the fault rests squarely on the shoulders of the Liberal Government of Western Australia. Nobody can deny this fact. If ever anyone should be criticised,

and if ever censure is warranted, this State Government should be censured at this point of time.

It has been mentioned that already the users of power in Western Australia have been subjected to a 42 per cent increase in price. Of course, this in turn, as has been indicated, affects the whole rural community throughout Western Australia. However, it is my intention to deal mainly with paragraph (c) of the amendment referring to the policy which has been implemented by the Liberal Administration of Western Australia.

While he was on his feet, the Minister referred to the need for the Government to switch to fuel oil for power generation. Knowing the story as well as I do, I do not think anyone would deny this. A nice deal was made between the Liberal Government and the oil combines of the world to bring the refinery to Western Australia. The industry received some very handsome handouts—handouts that no other industry in Western Australia has received.

Of course, if we could turn back the hands of time for a moment, we would see that the decision in 1964 to revert to oil stunned the various experts in Western Australia. Just briefly I would like to refer to the *Daily News* of Saturday, the 21st November, 1964, where it is stated—

Experts criticise Government fuel policy.

Why has W.A. coal been rejected for new power?

I still ask the same question in this State Parliament: Why was oil chosen in preference to coal? The article to which I refer appeared on the front page of the *Daily News* and it says—

The two mining companies operating on the coalfield, Griffin Coalmining Co., and Western Collieries, have been proving new reserves in the past three years at a faster rate than they have been extracting coal.

We also see the following statement—

Mining engineers say coal could be extracted cheaply for at least twice the 30-year period estimated this week by Electricity Minister Nalder.

That is where the Government was misled. It was misled foolishly by a former Minister for Electricity who did not know what he was talking about. Either he misled the Government, or he was misled by the SEC.

Of course, in 1964 he had the temerity to say there were 30 years of coal left in Western Australia. How wrong he has been proven! Of course, while he was saying this the Coal Miners' Industrial Union, myself, other organisations, and the South-West Conference of Western Australia, and a number of local authorities were saying, "We are confident there is more coal in the Collie field if someone will do something about proving it." Of

course, all the pleas fell on deaf ears. It is true that the Liberal Government brought engineer Marshall over from New South Wales in September, 1960, to consider the amount of coal in the Muja depression. All he did was to consider the bore logs that were made available to him by the Mines Department and the Griffen Coalmining Company. Of course, he went back to Sydney and brought down the report about the Muja depression which proved some 80 million tons of extractable coal were in that area.

Sir Charles Court: And you said there was not.

Mr T. H. JONES: Then Mr Marshall went back, and when the argument came up about some drilling—

Mr Sibson: Don't you remember saying that?

Mr T. H. JONES: The honourable member can have his say in a moment; I am speaking now. Mr Marshall wrote to *The West Australian* on the 6th September, 1964, saying that in his opinion he could have understated the reserve. What foolish statements are made in this Parliament. The former Premier (Sir David Brand) was misled into making an announcement which was detrimental to the coalmining industry and to the State. Of course, the State is now paying the penalty for the short-sighted policy brought down by the Brand Liberal Government.

The question asked in the State Parliament on Tuesday, the 23rd September, 1965, was as follows—

### COLLIE COAL: ECONOMIC DEPOSITS

#### Life

1. Mr. HAWKE asked the Premier: In view of the fact that Consulting Mining Engineer Marshall and other coalmining engineers at Collie disagree with the statement by the Minister for Electricity as published in *The West Australian* on the 20th November, 1964, in which he claimed known economic deposits of coal at Collie are sufficient for only 30 years, will he advise—

#### Effect on Extension of Muja Power Station

- (1) Has a decision been made to extend the new Muja power station?
- (2) If so, what is the extent of the proposed additions and the size of the additional generating units?

#### Survey and Boring Programme

- (3) If not, will he give an assurance that a comprehensive survey of the Collie coal field will be carried out by the Government?

- (4) Will the Government also institute a thorough boring programme to ascertain the approximate total economic quantity of coal available in the Collie district?

Listen to the reply, obviously made available to the Premier either by the State Electricity Commission or the Mines Department of Western Australia—

Mr. BRAND replied:

- (1) No decision to extend beyond four units each of 60 megawatts.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) and (4) The reserves of both the open cut and deep coal are well known following geological and geophysical examination, drilling, and the mining operations conducted over the years.

The problem is to know at what price this coal can be extracted from time to time.

That is what this Parliament was told in 1965, and that is apparently what the SEC and the Brand Government acted upon, ill-advisedly.

During my request for the appointment of a Royal Commission in 1970 I asked who was misleading whom. Was the SEC telling the Brand Government what to do, or was the Brand Government telling the SEC what to do? I have not yet been able to find the answer. The policies adopted for power generation, where we were relying on fuel oil, were contrary to the policies then being adopted in all other parts of the world where economic coal was available. Of course, we are now paying the penalty.

Coupled with this was the fact that when the Kwinana refinery was established the company involved received deals which had been offered to no other Western Australian company. I refer to the fact that it was not required to pay wharfage charges. On the 8th August last year I asked what this amounted to between 1955 and 1972, using the lowest rate for wharfage and I was informed that the company was subsidised to the extent of nearly \$95 million. Of course, those figures apply only for the period 1955 to 1972. It is quite obvious some deal was made between the Brand Government and the Kwinana oil refinery.

Has any other industry in Western Australia received such a handout? I will stand corrected if I am wrong, but I do not know of any other industry; one can go along the Kwinana waterfront and ask whether similar concessions have been granted to other industries, but I am certain that one would find that they have not.

Of course, that was not the end of the story. Because of the secret oil agreement which we have heard so much about, the Tonkin Government which wished to reveal the price of fuel oil could not do so because of a clause in the agreement which bound the Tonkin Government to secrecy. Members in this House who have been here for years will know the whole story; the oil consumers knew the price of coal, but the coal consumers did not know the price of oil. This situation was attacked on numerous occasions by the Coal Board in Australia.

In addition to the concessions provided in relation to wharfage charges, the Government decided that the SEC would buy power from BHP. The SEC plants were reduced in output, but power was still being purchased from BHP. What a shocking situation, to say the least! The SEC found itself in this position due to this shocking agreement entered into by the Brand Government, which has acted not only to the detriment of Western Australia but also to the Collie coalfields. Nobody can deny that this is the factual situation.

Nowhere will members opposite find evidence the Tonkin Government or the Hawke Government agreed with this policy relating to the use of oil for power generation. Right down the line we have made our position clear, whether on this side of the House or the other. Newspaper articles of the day bear out my comments. In 1965, the following headline appeared, "Labor opposes Brand's power plan for Kwinana".

Mr Nanovich: Is that an article in *The Western Sun*?

Mr T. H. JONES: No, it appeared in the *Collie Mail* dated the 11th February, 1965; I will let the honourable member have a copy of it.

Mr B. T. Burke: He cannot read.

Mr T. H. JONES: Nobody can deny our efforts have been toward the use of coal, rather than oil. The present Leader of the Opposition was quoted in a headline as saying, "Tonkin asks Government: Delay decision over fuel", but what happened? There is no need for me to tell members what happened; the plea fell on deaf ears and the Government ill-advisedly went along with its policy for the setting up of the Kwinana power house.

Of course, there was a lot said on this matter both in the Press and elsewhere. Newspapers dubbed it "The secret Brand Government" and Crawford Nalder was quoted as saying, "The oil deal was hard". At the time, he alleged that he went around and spoke to 40 people, none of whom cared about the price of oil.

However, *The West Australian* in its editorial in June, 1967, said, "Somebody cares". The article reminded the Minister for Electricity of his responsibility to the Parliament, the SEC, and to the people of Western Australia. But what happened?

The ironical situation was that when members of the SEC were queried about the price of oil, they did not know. The late Sir Frederick Sampson said, "I do not know the price of oil." Reference to the *Daily News* of the day will bear out my comments; reporters interviewed members of the SEC and in most instances they did not know the price of oil.

Yet we saw the situation where the Government, in relation with the SEC, decided to build the Kwinana oil-fired power station while SEC members did not even know the price of fuel. What a nice state of affairs!

Perhaps I should reverse my question; who was guiding whom? Was the SEC telling the Government what to do, or was the Government telling the SEC what to do? We find ourselves in this hopeless mess and the Government now has no alternative but to increase electricity charges. Numerous editorials support my case; however, I will not quote them all. *The West Australian* came out in full support of the miners and in an editorial it called on Sir David Brand to tell the story and for Mr Jukes to come out in the open on the question. I will not weary the House with the entire quote because possibly it is well known to members of this Chamber.

However, the Opposition was greatly concerned about the manner in which the SEC was placing all of its eggs in one basket. Anyone reading what I had to say in support of the motion to establish a Royal Commission into the SEC in 1970 will find that what I am saying is correct. I said then that we were placing all our eggs in one basket.

Mr Mensaros: Which basket?

Mr T. H. JONES: I said that the State would pay the penalty because its supplies would be cut off and the price of fuel would be beyond the reach of the SEC in Western Australia. How true was my assessment! No-one can deny that what I said was true. However, all our pleas fell on deaf ears.

Of course, while the Liberal Party in this State was deciding to move to oil fuel power generation, in all other parts of the world where coal was available in economic quantities they were switching back to coal.

Mr Mensaros: If anything, that shows the danger of one basket. We have never had more than 40 per cent of power generated by oil. Is that what you call one basket? Now we have 20 per cent oil generation and 80 per cent coal generation.

Mr T. H. JONES: I will answer the Minister in a moment.

Mr O'Neill: He is still using his 1965 speech.

Mr T. H. JONES: The Government does not like the situation; however, someone must face up to the mistake, but who is

it going to be? Somebody is responsible for this mess in which we now find ourselves in relation to the generation of power in Western Australia. If ever there was a need for an inquiry, it is now. If members read my statement in support of a Royal Commission they will see that I traversed the world and discussed the power generation policies of other countries. They will find that in the UK, America, Germany, and other places, coal was being preferred as a fuel, even in 1970.

There is no doubt that the Government was warned of this situation, but our pleas fell on deaf ears. If the Government had taken some notice of the warnings instead of adopting this short-sighted approach, the increase in power charges would not be necessary today. This is not the end of the situation, as I will hope to prove in a moment. It is quite true that the Government is now considering converting two units at Kwinana to coal-burning operation, if that is possible.

But of course the world is worried about its future oil supplies. In "Focus" the *Daily News* said, "Empty all oil wells—then what?" The Minister would know we have limited supplies of oil in this country. In fact, Arabia controls 85 per cent of the known oil reserves in the world. On Saturday, the 13th February, 1973, a senior Shell Company executive from America visited Western Australia and predicted that we would soon have to return to coal. He indicated that the oil companies in America were buying into the coalmining industry. What concerns me are the irresponsible statements which have been made by members of the SEC; I will refer to them in a moment.

On the 28th April, 1971, I introduced a deputation to the SEC on behalf of the Coal Miners' Union and the transcript of the proceedings records the following—

Mr JONES asked why the SEC could not reduce East Perth and South Fremantle which were on oil.

Mr GILLIES advised that Bunbury could not be lifted to 450,000 tons without reducing Muja.

HON. MINISTER: "You mean that with Muja at its capacity you could not handle any more into the grid system from that locality by bringing Bunbury up to a higher load?"

MR GILLIES replied that the Commission could bring Bunbury up to a higher load, but it was less than 100,000 tons a year.

It was said to be impossible in 1971, but what is the situation this year? In the last 11 months, the Bunbury station has consumed 299 786 tons. It could not be done in 1971, when we asked to have the Bunbury station upgraded and the Kwinana station reduced.

Today, I asked the Minister for Fuel and Energy—

What is the anticipated coal burn at the Bunbury power house for period the 1st January, 1975 to the 31st December, 1975?

The answer I received was that it is expected to use 400 000 tons. What a situation! If anyone should be criticised it is the administration of the SEC. Mr Gillies had the temerity to tell me that he could not upgrade the Bunbury station, that it was not possible, and that 100 000 tons a year was the limit; yet today the Minister told me it is expected in the next 12 months that the Bunbury station will use 400 000 tons.

The Minister criticised the member for Clontarf for requesting a Royal Commission into the SEC. I believe such an inquiry to be overdue. If these people were in private enterprise and acted in the same way, they would be dismissed. It is my firm belief that somebody should answer for the damage they have done to Western Australia and to the coalmining industry of this State.

There was another deputation to the SEC on the 29th March, 1972, where we were given an assessment of the coal reserves. The total assessment of all coal, not necessarily only economic coal, was 267 million tons. At that conference, I asked Mr Parker, the then General Manager of the SEC, whether he was aware of the boring results of the Peabody exploration at West Collie and he said he was not.

At this stage, a gentleman whom I will not name said, "If Mr Jones and the unions are aware of information, why are you not?" In 1960 the Hon. Crawford Nalder had the temerity to stand in his place and say that there were only 30 years left for coal production. What has the Peabody exploration proved in Collie? It has proved in excess of 300 million tons of extractable coal.

The SEC claimed that it switched to fuel oil for power generation because it did not have sufficient supplies of coal. In fact, the Premier also said this in Collie a couple of years ago. Of course, the General Manager of the SEC at the time (Mr Jukes) said that there was not sufficient water in Collie for power generation by coal. However we proved to him that even the water supplies from one of the mines had been tapped. Strangely enough, when the Alwest development was mooted it was discovered that there was no problem in obtaining sufficient water from the Wellington Dam, but this was just not on for power generation and politics definitely came into the picture. It is quite obvious to me that this was Liberal Party policy at the time and the unions in Collie paid the penalty. The Minister concerned had a personal hatred against the coalminers in Collie and unfortunately the State and

the coalmining industry has paid the penalty for the policy that was introduced by a Liberal Party Government and by a Liberal Minister.

Mr Jamieson: He is now the Premier, too.

Mr T. H. JONES: Yes. The Premier paid a visit to Collie recently and said that everything would be all right. He said that the SEC would use six million or seven million tons of Collie coal in the long term and he did everything he could to convince the people of Collie that his Government was performing admirably in Western Australia.

The Minister cannot deny that we on this side of the House did everything we could to persuade the Government not to proceed with installing additional power units at Kwinana, because we foresaw what would happen. We repeatedly asked the Government to have the additional units that were to be installed at Kwinana converted to coal-fired units and installed at Muja. What is the situation today? The situation is that the SEC is now considering converting one unit at Kwinana so that it may be fuelled with coal and it is also considering placing one of the units at the Muja power house to be fired by coal.

Of course, when we made our suggestion to the Government very strongly in this House our policies were considered to be wrong and not in keeping with the policy of the Liberal Party in Western Australia. In 1970 the position was made quite clear when a report on the energy and power resources of the world was made known. I have said this in the House previously during the debate on the last Budget. I repeat what I said then, because history has proved that we should have done something about the matter and should not have proceeded with the extensions to Kwinana. The report on the energy and power resources of the world contained the following—

#### Coal Is Becoming World's No. 1 Fuel.

In 1970 world energy consumption was the equivalent of 7 000 million tons of coal.

By 1980 this figure is expected to be 12 000 million tons.

If we look at the Soviet Union and the United States of America, both nations with a four-fuel economy, namely oil, nuclear power, natural gas and coal (all of them indigenous resources to these nations) we will find that the coal mining industry is expanding rapidly.

In the Soviet Union they are planning to raise coal output to 1 000 million tons by the year 2000.

This means that their 1970 coal output will have increased by 60% (per cent).

The United States plans to expand its coal industry to 780 million tons for the supply to electric power stations by the year 2000.

In 1970 the supply to power stations in the United States was 326 million tons.

China intends to increase its coal output each year and in 1970 produced 360 million tons.

Czechoslovakia plans to increase its output of 120 million tons to 140 million tons by 1980.

India, where in 1970 coal output was 70 million tons, foresees an annual growth of 9 per cent and is planning to convert a large part of its economy to solid fuel.

I could go on quoting from that report, but briefly this was the situation throughout the world in 1970. However this Government did nothing about it. It did not take heed of the warning given by experts such as Lord Robens and others associated with coalmining throughout the world. The Government at the time went on its merry way depending on oil fuel supplies with no concern whatsoever as to what would happen if oil supplies were suddenly terminated. I continue to quote from this report as follows—

Canada, which produced 17 million tons in 1970, is planning to increase its output to 71 million tons by 1990.

Poland is planning to raise production to over 200 million tons by 1985 as against 140 million tons in 1970.

In Japan there is a very serious coal crisis with the consumption in 1970 of 86 million tons while its production was only 36 million tons.

Those figures clearly indicate the point of view held by various countries throughout the world on the situation regarding oil supplies generally. It is pleasing to prove that the Tonkin Government showed foresight and initiative by introducing this forward programme despite the fact that the Liberals in this State considered that the coal reserves at Collie would be depleted in 30 years. The Tonkin Government, however, set about a forward programme and it is now estimated that the extractable tonnage of coal at Collie is in excess of 300 million tons. That is the true story, whether or not the members on the Government side like to hear it. The Liberal Ministers in office at that time are responsible for the position in which the State now finds itself in regard to the price of electricity and fuel supplies.

As I mentioned in my opening remarks, someone should answer for this and therefore, as I have said, this makes the move by the member for Clontarf very timely, because someone should ask why this policy was introduced by a Liberal Party Government. Sir Charles visited Collie, in an effort to defeat me, in March, 1974. The

statement he made to the *Collie Mail* was to the effect, "You shall have to get rid of Tom Jones. He can do nothing for the coalminers. You must get a Liberal member because he will change the coalmining policy overnight." That statement was published in the *Collie Mail* on the 7th April, 1974.

Mr Jamieson: Are there any other jokes in the same newspaper?

Mr T. H. JONES: Sir Charles said that Collie would have to be content with the production it was putting out. If any member wishes to read that newspaper I can make it available to him. What concerns me is that in view of the serious position in regard to oil supplies we learnt only this week that the price of oil has trebled. I understand that the Minister has said that the price to the SEC was \$17 but this has been trebled to \$54. This statement was published in a recent Press article. I would point out that the far-sighted Tonkin Government said that in view of the cost of fuel oil it would bring coal production forward 12 months and that is precisely what it did. The Tonkin Government made a close examination of the overall position in which the State would be placed.

However it was too late for the Tonkin Government to do anything about Kwinana because the decision had already been made. The Minister at that time quoted charges based on the cost of the coal being carted from Collie to Kwinana. However in all parts of the world the policy now being followed is that coal is being conveyed by wire. Of course, the freight costs of carting coal to Kwinana should not have entered the question if the units installed at Kwinana had been added to the Muja power house, and the coal could have been conveyed by wire to any area, as is done in a number of large power stations in Britain. One of those is the Dracks power house in England.

So the Tonkin Government decided to step up the expansion of the Muja power station and put the coal production programme forward 12 months. Unfortunately for Collie it was dealt another blow. The most severe blow that Collie experienced was in 1960 when the Liberal Party Government put 600 miners out of work. It was responsible for 350 homes in the town becoming vacant and the closing of 22 shops. We were just recovering from that blow by the Liberal Government when the Labor Party decided it would do something about the position. Even Sir David Brand had many regrets over the decision that was made in regard to Collie. He was placed in the unfortunate position of having to make the announcement concerning the Liberal Party policy which was not in the best interests of the State or Collie generally.

What did Sir David Brand say in his memoirs about that step taken by the Liberal Party at that time? What he had

to do must have worried him, I am certain, because I have a great regard for Sir David Brand. In the *Weekend News* of Saturday, the 14th June, 1971, Sir David Brand said that one of the worst decisions he had to make was that concerning Collie. I think Sir David Brand is sitting in the Chamber and I am sure he will recall the statement he made at that time.

Mr Sibson: What was the reason?

Mr T. H. JONES: The Government at the time underestimated the coal reserves at Collie. The coal reserves at Collie are now 300 million extractable tons, but I would say that this estimate will be doubled.

Mr Sibson: At that time I do not think the coalmining industry was very co-operative so far as the rest of the State was concerned.

Mr T. H. JONES: The party to which the honourable member belongs set out to wreck Collie and the industry, because the Minister at that time had a personal hatred of the coalminers and he conducted a vendetta against the Coal Miners' Union. The men certainly showed their attitude towards him when he paid a visit to Collie and attempted to address them at the pit head. The men, instead of listening to what he had to say, walked straight down the mines in disgust. Not one Government member can deny that the policy followed at that time by a Liberal Government was a shortsighted one.

I can go further to say that the Labor Government decided, in the interests of the State, to initiate the expansion of the Muja power station at a cost of \$87 million. That Government advanced the programme by 12 months, but then it was delayed again for 12 months by the Liberal Government which has affected the overall position. The member for Clontarf has indicated the reasons why this was necessary. The member for Clontarf also indicated that the Premier visited Collie in February, 1975. He said that the Muja power station would be extended in 1976, and he went on to say that we could look forward to an annual production of about eight to nine million tons of coal.

But how was this achieved? It was achieved by a boring programme and by the establishment of the Fuel and Power Commission by the Tonkin Labor Government. Before this, administration was lacking; and I repeat that I would still like to know who was guiding whom. Was the Liberal Government guiding the State Electricity Commission, or was the commission guiding the Government? The question is unanswered of course. What we do know is that the Labor Government set up the Fuel and Power Commission and all the Premier had to do in Collie was to follow the commission's report and tell the Collie boys they could look forward to a nice future with a production of between 8 million and 9 million tons in the long term.

Of course in the statement in the paper, the Premier said his Government had brought back the Muja planning to its earlier level. This is not correct and I challenge the Premier on this. Muja is not back to the programme envisaged by the Tonkin Government and the figures I have and the information given to this Parliament in answer to questions prove this.

In a letter written to me on the 27th June, 1974, the present Minister for Fuel and Energy told me that in December, 1974, 40 men would be employed on the extension, and the peak of 600 would be reached by February, 1978.

From questions I asked in the House this week, we find that 40 men will not now be employed until December, 1975, and the peak will not be reached until February, 1979. So irrespective of what the Premier said in Collie, the upgrading of Muja has not been brought back to the original plans. No-one can deny this. The Premier can go down to Collie and say what he likes. He can go to Rotary Clubs, civic receptions, and the Press with a story, but the unfortunate situation is that figures supplied in State Parliament indicate a completely different position from that which was announced by the Premier on his witch hunt in the south-west.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has five minutes.

Mr T. H. JONES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The *West Australian* was very concerned about the power cost rise because in an editorial it gave some credit to the Tonkin Government. It stated that the Tonkin Government had shown great foresight in introducing a boring programme in Western Australia.

The position in which we find ourselves is quite clear. Too much reliance was placed on fuel oil and of course the economics now really prove the situation. The cost of oil is \$54 a ton and on the heating value, coal at 2.2 tons, equals the heating value of one ton of oil. Coal is available at \$18 compared with oil at \$54. This is the extra money the State Government and the people of Western Australia are required to pay and this is the reason the Minister was forced to say in the *Weekend News* on Saturday, the 11th January, that the fuel oil price had trebled. He then went on to make a horrible mistake, as he did tonight. He went on to compare the costs in other States with values in Western Australia. He said—

The SEC paid \$7 a tonne for Collie coal at the pithead and another \$4-\$5 to transport it to South Fremantle and Perth.

However, there would not be any necessity for this if the extensions had been made and the policy which had been followed in all other parts of the world—that is, to erect power houses adjacent to coal deposits—had been adopted. If it had been,

the fuel bill would not be as high as it is today. Therefore, I agree with the member for Clontarf that an inquiry should be initiated.

I want to say that the question of industrial troubles will be raised by other members if they get to their feet. Of course there was industrial disputation at Collie, but it was not always the fault of the miners. The late Mr Wallwork indicated this many times. There were numerous disputes, and I could name them, and for this the coalminers got a bad name. However, those disputes were not of their own making. When in Collie the Premier said that it was no good talking about the past. He said that we do not want to hear about the past.

We all know that in the power generation world it takes approximately nine years from the day a unit is ordered until it is obtained. The position we are in today undoubtedly is as a result of the policies that were brought down by the Liberal Government. I want to defend the miners because they have lost only one day's work in 15 years and I see no reason for this situation to alter in the future.

Mr Hartrey: Hear, hear!

Mr T. H. JONES: The industrial relations between the companies and unions at Collie were highlighted at a seminar held recently in Melbourne. Can anyone say there is any other union in Western Australia with a better industrial record than that? There has been only one day's loss of work in 15 years, and that is not a bad record in any industrial field.

Mr Sibson: The real problem was that prior to 15 years ago the coalmining industry was not very co-operative with regard to supplies of coal.

Mr T. H. JONES: The member for Bunbury can say what he likes. He can get on his feet and make his own speech if he is game. He has been making many speeches while sitting down, so it will be a pleasure to see him rise to speak tonight.

I feel a good case has been submitted. No-one on the other side has been able to answer the charges I have made. Perhaps someone will do so. Ever since I entered Parliament in 1968 I have been asking who was guiding whom and who was responsible for the policies, but no-one has been able to tell me. The people of Western Australia have a right to know. We are now paying the penalty for policies which were introduced and which at the time were contrary to the policies being followed in all other parts of the world and in all other parts of Australia.

So I join with the member for Clontarf and support the amendment in its entirety. The consumers of power in Western Australia have been penalised too drastically and the Collie coalmining industry and Western Australia have paid the penalty

for the shortsightedness of the Liberal Party. I have much pleasure in supporting the amendment.

MR MOILER (Mundaring) [10.08 p.m.] I wish to support the amendment, and in so doing I draw attention to the fact that this is the fourth occasion on which an amendment has been moved to the Address in Reply and these amendments are, in fact, censure motions on the Government.

Members on this side of the House would not be moving these amendments if it were not for the mistrust and disappointments which we know to be prevalent in the community because of the way this Government is handling the economy of the State. The Premier, more than anyone else, must accept the responsibility for this because it has been as a result of his complete and obvious incompetence apart from that of his Ministers who apparently are not capable of overruling him collectively. His Minister Co-ordinating Economic and Regional Development as well as being the Premier. As Premier he has for the first time in this State formed this very Minister to control every other Minister so they have to work through him. Therefore, he more than anyone else, must accept the responsibility for the incompetence of his Government. Its incompetence is evident from the fact that at so early a time in this session already four censure motions have been moved against the Government.

Mr Stephens: I think if you add up properly you will find it is five.

Mr May: Wait awhile and it will be more.

MR MOILER: The amendment is divided into four parts and the first part states that the Government has imposed excessive and unjustified increases in electricity charges in excess of 42 per cent within five months. I have not heard the Government deny that the increase has been 42 per cent.

In the *Daily News* of the 13th March it was stated that charges boosted inflation in Western Australia to 18 per cent and that five charges alone accounted for 6.3 per cent. Those five particular charges were—

Rent on Government-owned houses increased by between \$1 and \$3.45 per week in September last year.

Sewerage and water rates increased by an average of 37 per cent in July last year.

The cost of electricity and gas for householders increased by 14 per cent and 10 per cent respectively in August.

Train and bus fares went up by 2 per cent in August.

Driving licenses increased 65 per cent in October.

These types of increases are being made continually in this State. Of course, it is very easy for the Premier to be always blaming the Federal Government. When the Federal Government introduces a Budget, arms are thrown up in horror and it is said that it will increase inflation, and yet the Premier has introduced for the first time in this State a 3 per cent levy on a Government instrumentality.

Sir Charles Court: What about your South Australian and Tasmanian people? They made it 5 per cent.

Mr MOILER: For the first time in this State a levy has been imposed on this State instrumentality by a Premier who is always complaining about inflation in Australia and who claimed prior to the last State election that if the Liberal Party were elected to office it would put things right. Yet the Premier has introduced these new taxing measures; so time and time again all we have is words, words, words, but no action. This Government is occupied with nothing but words.

In the *Daily News* of the 9th January is the following—

#### Perth Power Costs Most

Perth householders will pay more for electricity from next Monday—That would be the Monday in January following the date of the publication. To continue—

—than consumers in any other Australian capital.

This is under a Government the Premier of which was so forceful in saying, "Give us a go. Give us six months and we will improve unemployment and put things right. The States are quite capable of running their own economy. Just give me a go."

He has had a go and within the first 12 months he has proved himself to be a complete and utter flop and failure.

The second portion of the amendment states that the Government has placed severe strain on the SEC finances and has inhibited its capital works programme through imposing a 3 per cent levy on its income. The inhibiting effect the levy has had on the SEC has been indicated in answers received to questions asked in this House by the member for Clontarf. On Wednesday, the 9th October last year, the member for Clontarf asked—

- (1) Will there be any restriction on the timetable regarding the country town assistance scheme because of the Government's announced intention to take 3% of the State Electricity Commission's gross revenue?

The answer was—

- (1) The position is being evaluated.

Next, the honourable member asked—

- (2) How many towns have been assisted since the scheme was instituted?

The answer to that question was, "21".

The next question was—

- (3) What other towns will be taking advantage of the scheme within the next six months?

The answer was—

- (3) Negotiations for further towns are incomplete.

As I have already stated, that information was given in October, 1974.

On Wednesday, the 20th November of the same year, the same member asked this question—

- (1) How many towns have been assisted under the Country Towns Assistance Scheme since 4th March, 1974?

The answer was, "Two". The 4th March, 1974, was about the date the present Government came to office, and from that date to the 20th November last year two towns have been assisted. Part (2) of the question was—

- (2) What are the towns which it is envisaged will be assisted between now and 1st March, 1975?

A list of eight towns was given in the answer.

Mr Mensaros: What does it mean? That negotiations are going on.

Mr MOILER: On the 20th March, 1975, the member for Clontarf asked this question—

- (1) How many towns have been assisted under the Country Towns Assistance Scheme since 4th April, 1974?

The answer was, "Two". So in 12 months only two towns have been assisted. The question on the 20th March, 1975, continues—

- (2) Will he detail the towns concerned and the date assistance commenced?

The towns which had been assisted were Ravensthorpe and Leonora.

We can see from those answers alone that the unjust 3 per cent levy has brought about a decrease in the amount of capital works which the SEC can carry out. Under the contributory scheme people in outlying areas were able to form into a group and encourage the SEC to provide power to them. That scheme has almost come to a halt. The 3 per cent levy has contributed to a decrease in the number of contributory schemes commenced.

On the 20th November, 1974, the member for Clontarf also asked the following question—

What previously proposed projects have been deferred by the State Electricity Commission due to shortage of loan funds to cover capital expenditure?

The answer was—

The following works have been deleted or deferred—

A second major city substation rear of Medical Building, Hay Street, Perth.

Relay workshop, Belmont.

Apprentice training centre.

Additions to the office building.

Construction depot, Kewdale.

Various country offices and depots.

Motor vehicles.

Plant and equipment.

132kV transmission line to Eneabba (delayed one year).

The member for Clontarf is very knowledgeable about the SEC, and the answers to the questions he asked drive home the incompetence of the present Minister who is responsible for the State Electricity Commission in this State.

The issue in the amendment about which I probably feel most perturbed is the last one, which states that the Government is deserving of censure because it has—

(d) continued its policy of secrecy by refusing to make public details of the study conducted by a firm of consultants into the management structure of the State Electricity Commission.

Time and time again we have experienced the secrecy of this Government, which was going to bring government back to the people and which, prior to the election, set up a hot line on which people could obtain any information they wanted. This was to be the most open Government the State had ever had, yet it has continually practised secrecy.

In an answer to a question asked by the member for Clontarf the Government has been prepared for the first time to provide the cost of oil fuel purchased by the SEC. It has been spelt out by the member for Collie that the previous Liberal Government would never divulge the contract price for oil, but because of the actions of the last Labor Government the present Government has on this occasion been forced into divulging the contract price for the first time.

Let us consider the secrecy of the police inquiry into the Laverton affair in connection with the Aborigines, the MRPA inquiry into the Kwinana Freeway extensions, and, above all, the counter-proposals and letters forwarded by the Premier in connection with Medibank and the fact that the Government now refuses to provide for public digestion the report of an inquiry into a statutory authority. I do not see any reason why the Minister cannot table the report; it is just that he will not. I will quote a small extract which indicates the Minister is not prepared to table the report, and he gives no reason for his attitude. He said—

I cannot judge whether it would be proper to table the report...

On the 23rd October last year he said—

Only when I have had an opportunity to examine the document after internal perusal by the commission will I be able to decide whether tabling would be proper.

Is it the prerogative of the Minister to decide what is and is not public property? Of course it is not, particularly when the Minister belongs to a Government which claims it wants to be rid of secrecy.

An investigation was carried out into the running of a statutory body, and the information should be tabled in this House so that members and the public may be aware of what has transpired in the authority. Time and time again the Government indulges in secrecy, and the most annoying part of it is the hypocrisy of the Government which, prior to the last State election, fed the public so much rubbish, and since coming to office has ignored the demands of the Opposition to table information which should be made available to the public.

So, Mr Speaker, I believe in and most certainly support the amendment moved by the member for Clontarf. I believe the Government has imposed excessive and unjustified increases; it has placed a severe strain on the finances of the State Electricity Commission; it has displayed indifference in its approach to the State's long-term energy needs; and it has continued its policy of secrecy. That secrecy is something which the people of this State will continue to refuse to accept. I have great pleasure in supporting the amendment.

**MR DAVIES** (Victoria Park) [10.25 p.m.]: My contribution will be very brief but I must support the amendment, otherwise I am afraid some of my electors might think I am not interested in this problem which they have been bringing to me over a period of many weeks now.

This is a most urgent matter but my contribution will be almost on the parish pump line. I will not go into details of planning so ably dealt with by the member for Clontarf and the member for Collie. I do not think it is necessary for me to repeat what they have already said.

While the member for Collie was speaking I was reminded of the time when I was a member of the States disputes committee, running up and down to Collie in the early hours of the morning, spending most of the days at Collie, and then having to see the Minister in an attempt to get an answer from him. It would have been helpful to receive some communication or some decision from him at the time when the disputes were extended. However, we found that the Minister for Mines at the time could not give us a decision.

Mr T. H. Jones: He was countermanded.

Mr DAVIES: He would not and could not give a decision because he had to receive counsel from higher up, and the

coalfields waited. There must have been a deal with the oil companies somewhere along the line because more and more oil went into our power stations and less and less coal was used. We were able to keep coal production at an even level but that was only because of increased generation. The lion's share went to the oil companies and we are now paying for that policy.

I do not intend to repeat what has already been said by the member for Collie and, as I have said, my contribution will be almost at the parish pump level because I have found more than ordinary concern at the increases in charges.

Quite recently, while doing some canvassing and taking postal votes in connection with the referendum, I was concerned because time and time again people were complaining about their electricity accounts. I did not have any kind words to say about the Government in reply to those complaints, as members can well imagine. What those people did not realise was that when they receive their next electricity and gas accounts they will pay even more because as yet they have not felt the full impact of the increase which will apply over a period of three months.

I do not believe any consumer in Western Australia has yet felt the full impact and he will not feel it until the meters have been read after the 6th April next. Up to date the accounts have been for part only of the three-month period.

Mr Mensaros: You did not ask those people how much their wages had gone up in the meantime?

Mr DAVIES: That does not matter. There is no justification for the increase. I am speaking about pensioners. These are not people who receive large increases in wages.

Mr Mensaros: That means you believe the SEC employees should not receive increases.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr DAVIES: I am not speaking about members of the Government; I am speaking about people who do not receive tremendous increases. The only time the present Minister can be heard is when he is abusive and attempting to shout people down. The rest of the time we cannot understand him because he mumbles. If he would only lift his head and speak up we would know what he is talking about.

Sir Charles Court: The member for Victoria Park was the greatest mumbler when he was a Minister.

Mr DAVIES: During the whole of this debate we did not know what the Minister was saying in reply to the amendment. I sat here right through his speech and I

could not understand what he was saying. However, I still intend to make my contribution to the debate and speak on behalf of the pensioners and people with large families—people who have not enjoyed tremendous increases in wages, and who are now worse off than they were previously. Not everyone shares the same scale of increases.

As I have said, no-one has yet felt the full impact of the increased charges. The next account for a three-month period will reflect the total increase. I sympathise with the people I have mentioned because they are not able to assess accurately or calculate whether or not their accounts are correct because they are not shown the rate at which they are charged.

Surely to goodness in this day and age of computers and electronic devices, and with the labour which is available together with everything else which goes towards the efficient running of an office, it would not be beyond the powers of the SEC to work out a system whereby a person knows how much per unit he is paying for his electricity.

The people cannot work out that the charge is so much a unit because on top of the increased charge there is also a flat rate which is now \$1.80 a quarter. Of course, the total increase must be greater for those who use only a small amount of electricity, because that \$1.80 is spread over a smaller number of units; whereas those who use a greater number of units have the charge of \$1.80 spread over all those units and, therefore, the increase per unit is less for them.

I have not been able to say many good words about the Government. Try as I might, I cannot find anything good to say. I want to report that there is a strong reaction in the electorate when people receive this type of treatment in the accounts they get from the State Electricity Commission. They are unable accurately to calculate whether or not the increase has been properly assessed.

Of course, difficulties are involved in working out increases on a *pro rata* basis of, say, eight weeks at the old rate and five weeks at the new rate. However it might be easier for some people if the rate were shown on the account. They could perhaps spend some time trying to work it out. At present the account merely says, "Charged in accordance with schedule No. 1. Copies available on request." Schedule No. 1 includes a great number of rates which range from industrial, commercial and general; domestic; industrial, commercial and general with domestic; industrial, commercial and general demand tariffs; to submeters. It might be difficult to include all those rates on the account, but surely to goodness the Electricity Commission knows when it sends accounts to householders that they are

charged at the domestic rate. Surely it would not be beyond comprehension for the commission's accounts to show the number of units consumed, the rate per unit, and the surcharge.

Of course, the surcharge is probably one of the grandest things ever thought of. It does not provide an accurate reflection of what one is paying per unit. This type of charge is now creeping into the accounts of other Government departments. Take as an example the \$4 which is now charged when one licenses a motorcar. That is the greatest abuse I have ever come across, and it is producing many complaints. A person is now charged \$4 for the privilege of having his car licensed. Surely that is inequitable. A man who cannot afford to pay the huge increase in license fees which has been imposed upon him now finds that if he licenses his car for six months he will have to pay a total of \$8 a year as a result of this charge. Again, this is completely inequitable to those people who can least afford it, because they have to pay more than those who can afford to license their cars for 12 months.

So I say it might be a good idea for the Government to have a surcharge whereby everyone pays a flat rate as a contribution; but, of course, the fact remains that I do not think it is a very equitable manner of dealing with this type of account.

You may recall, Sir, that a motion similar to the amendment we are debating was moved in this House on Wednesday, the 6th October, 1971. Looking back at that debate, I can scarcely believe that the total time spent on it was 76 minutes, and 27 minutes of that time was taken up by the Minister in his reply. The member for Cottesloe took something like 25 minutes to introduce the motion. The member for Mt. Marshall, who stood in the place in which I am now standing, spent all of six minutes on it. The member for Dale took 12 minutes—that must have been the shortest speech he made during the three years we were the Government. The reply by the member for Cottesloe took about six minutes. When one adds those figures, if my calculations are correct, one finds the whole thing was over and we were on our way home after 76 minutes.

Of course, if the then Opposition had been really concerned about electricity charges and was not simply beating the air it would have made a concerted attack on the Government and not dealt with the motion as lightly as it did. The tenor of the debate at that time—not unlike tonight when it was wiped off fairly lightly by the Minister, although I cannot say so for certain because I did not clearly hear his remarks—was the concern that the increase imposed then was across the board and no-one would dodge it. Indeed, in moving the motion the member for Cottesloe drew attention to a Press release issued by the

Chamber of Manufactures. He said, as recorded on page 1907 of *Hansard* for that year—

I understand that the Western Australian Chamber of Manufactures has issued a Press release in which, among other things, it expresses great concern at the extent of the impact of these increased power costs on manufacturing industries. The acting president of the chamber assessed that the local manufacturing industry will have to meet additional costs of approximately 18 to 20 per cent based on 1970-71 charges. It was the chamber's estimate that the additional sum of money involved to be charged to industry would approximate \$3 000 000 per annum. The report goes on to state—

With this staggering increase it is obvious that manufacturers face an immediate and substantial escalation of their costs of production, much of which will have to be passed on to the consumer, thus adding to the inflationary trends which already exist.

If that was the situation then when charges had been increased by 20 per cent, surely to goodness when charges have been increased by 40 per cent the cost to industry must have doubled and must be at least \$6 million if not \$7 million. That cost will be passed on to the consumer. No-one will escape it. Quite apart from having their domestic electricity charges increased, the consumers will have to meet the indirect charges which will be passed on to them by industry. On that occasion the member for Cottesloe shed crocodile tears all over the place. He drew attention to the irresponsible impact of the increases which the then Government was bringing down on the heads of the population. The then Leader of the Opposition interjected and said—

It is the highest single increase in the history of this State.

That is recorded on page 1908 of the same *Hansard*.

He is now the Premier, and I want to congratulate him because he has beaten our record. He has now imposed the highest increase in electricity charges in the history of this State. He has done something far better than we did; he increased electricity charges far more than they had ever been increased previously.

The contribution of the member for Mt. Marshall on that occasion in 1971 was somewhat amusing in that—

Mr B. T. Burke: It always is.

Mr DAVIES: —in the six minutes for which he spoke he devoted about half the time to water rates. I think someone gave him a wrong steer; he thought we were discussing water rates and not electricity charges. Indeed, no-one had given him a

charge in that regard. He seemed to think also that if there were increases in the metropolitan area they would be reflected in the charges in the country. He seemed a little petulant about the fact that increases were being made in the metropolitan area which meant the charges in some places in the country could have been reduced. I do not think that was quite fair. I wonder what is his attitude now.

Mr May: He was given the question and the right answer.

Mr DAVIES: The same tenor was adopted by the member for Dale, who, on page 1914 of the same *Hansard*, is recorded as saying—

The Minister has made light of the effect of the increase in electricity charges upon the family unit. I consider it will be the family that will suffer most as a result of the situation with which they will be faced in the future because of these increased charges, despite the fact that indications were given by the Government at election time that no increases would be made.

I will not speak at length. I express my opinion that the Government really does not have much concern for the effect of increased electricity charges on the electorate. It indicated that in 1971 when it attempted to censure the previous Government, and its censure motion was dealt with in 76 minutes, including the Minister's reply; and we were on our way home at 10.35 p.m. I think the same attitude is apparent today. Members opposite are not very concerned about the matter otherwise they would have done something more responsible by going to great lengths to find methods of raising taxation other than using the SEC as a taxing measure.

MR JAMIESON (Welshpool—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [10.41 p.m.]: A great deal has been said about this amendment to the Address-in-Reply. However, a few words need to be added to those which have already been spoken. It is unfortunate that the Speaker is not in the Chair, because no doubt he would have nostalgic memories about his comparatively youthful political days when he moved the motion to which my colleague has just referred. He used terms such as, "the enormity of this offence", and said it was the 21 per cent increase imposed on metropolitan householders that he was most concerned about. He said it was a disastrous increase for people who already had to bear a heavy burden of taxation. He also said he understood the Western Australian Chamber of Manufacturers had issued a Press release in which, among other things, it expressed great concern at the extent of the impact of the increased power costs on manufacturing industries.

It is passing strange that Governments change and the friends of Governments change. The present Government says that Canberra forced it to make the increases and that they cannot be helped. But, of course, when a Labor Government is in power in this State members opposite howl and scream and tell us we should not have done such and such and that there are other ways and methods of achieving the same result. The member for Cottesloe also said—

The most important consequence of the savage increases will be an inflationary spiral which will be even more difficult to check.

It is interesting to note that the member for Mt. Marshall said on that occasion that the increase in electricity charges would no doubt herald increased charges in country water supplies. I would not expect you, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Blaikie), to be so tolerant as to allow me to refer to water charges, because it would be wrong of me to do so. However, it is interesting to note that despite the fact that the member for Mt. Marshall expected increases, during the whole of the term of the Tonkin Government no increases were made to country water rates. Therefore, his fears were unfounded.

The member for Dale also had a lot to say, as he usually did on such occasions.

Mr Davies: He didn't say much, he spoke for 12 minutes only.

Mr JAMIESON: Well, he had a lot to say but I would not argue about whether it amounted to much. He said—

Another dire consequence, and one which the Brand Government certainly took account of, is the effect on the employment situation when the cost of power no longer proves to be attractive to the people who are the generators of employment.

I wonder where he is now?

I wonder where that honourable member is at the present time now that this situation has been reached. I wonder what his view was when this situation was considered by Cabinet. I can recall that in two short periods I defended an increase in these charges. It was the last official act I performed in this Chamber as the Minister for Electricity, because it was only a few days afterwards that I seemed to pass from that office and the portfolio was taken over by my successor. I also defended the increases in Cabinet as members can well imagine. It is recognised that any Government has to make some increases in charges, but the amazing feature is that this Government, after such a short time in office, and after making a promise to the people that it was concerned about an upward trend in taxes and charges and would try to decrease those charges because this was

something that was irritating the public, made considerable increases in Government taxes and charges.

I am not aware what was irritating the public, but the Government certainly doubled the increases that we had made in three years. This action must certainly have irritated the public after the Government said it was concerned about a 21 per cent increase, and then increased charges by 42 per cent in such a short period. Goodness only knows what the future will hold whilst this Government remains in office. Of course it says that the Federal Government has forced it to increase these charges. I am not surprised at that statement because there are some very important things that still need to be done and if the Government had not imposed the 3 per cent levy on SEC revenue the SEC would have been able to proceed with such projects as the 132kv transmission line to Eneabba. Now the cost is escalating and when the line is ultimately completed it will cost twice as much as was originally estimated if it had been installed according to the programme laid down.

These are the sort of inherent problems that arise following the crazy taxes that are imposed on electricity. The Premier keeps on harping about the percentage taxation of the commission in South Australia, but he knows full well that this goes a long way back to the charge imposed by the Playford Government before it took over the Adelaide Electricity Supply Company. That company was the principal electricity supply operator before the Playford Liberal Government nationalised power supplies in South Australia and took it over. The Playford Government appointed a commission in its stead but this taxing measure remained. I do not know whether there is any more justification for it today than there was at that time. However, it was imposed under the franchise granted to the Adelaide Electricity Supply Company under the terms of the Act that governed it.

In Tasmania matters are considerably different, because that is the only place in the Australasian scene where power is generated for permanent use by a hydro-electric scheme. It is well known that hydro electric schemes are known to be the cheapest form of power generation in the world. However sometimes even Tasmania is faced with problems. These occur when it has a drought, but that is not very often. The hydro electric commission in that State has always been known to make a substantial profit.

Any State, such as Tasmania, looks for any sort of taxes from any of its instrumentalities which may be able to make even a small profit. However I do not feel that a levy of 3 per cent should have been imposed on the revenue of the SEC which, in effect, is borne by the people of this

State. I do not think such a levy should have been imposed at this stage, at any event. If the Tonkin Labor Government had remained in office I doubt whether it would have taken the same step. It would have been obliged to impose some increase in electricity charges for various reasons. Some of those reasons were advanced by the Minister, but I do not know what he was trying to prove by referring to the consumer index unless he was thinking of the old maxim that lies figure, and figures lie.

The only thing I could gain from his statement was that if the electricity charges had not been increased the wages he referred to would not have been increased anyway. It is all a matter of comparison, and just how one relates one charge to another would take a very keen mathematical study, especially when one starts to quote the consumer index rise in wages and compares that figure with some other figure. I tried to do this on one occasion and the then Minister for Education (Mr Lewis) told me that I was comparing watermelons with oranges. Perhaps he was right but I suggest that we have to get some similarity in the figures that are being quoted. The Minister cannot quote the consumer index figure to the House as a basis for an argument put forward to increase electricity charges.

However, despite all the problems with which we were faced in regard to electricity supplies during the three years the Tonkin Government was in office, it is interesting to realise that at the time of the election campaign I requested, on the 6th March, 1974, that the tariffs be taken out to see where Western Australia stood as compared with other States. For the information of members I will quote the charge for 400 units per quarter. I might add that this is inclusive of any fixed charge, plus the unitage. The figures are as follows—

	\$
Western Australia	10.40
South Australia	10.57
Victoria	13.89
New South Wales	12.39
Tasmania	11.25
Queensland	11.61

This Government, which has been in office for not even half its total term has a table of charges which shows that Western Australia has now nowhere near the lowest charge for supplying unitage to domestic consumers in this State. For your information, Mr Speaker, the figures I have quoted for the various States related to the domestic rate. Other rates apply to industry and these are both higher and lower according to the agreements that some States enter into with various industries. However, those figures give us an example of the standing of the Tonkin

Government at that time as compared with the Governments in other States. That was a set of figures I obtained on the 6th March, 1974, for the purpose of election campaigning.

Those figures compare favourably with others in respect of other services that have been provided. At the time we were able to boast that in Western Australia we had cheaper water supplies and power supplies than any other State, and with the exception of the Northern Territory we had the cheapest motor vehicle license fees. Those were the sort of charges we fought to keep down. It appears as though the present Government has reviewed them and has said, "Put them up; the people will pay for them somehow." The charges will have to be met." The veiled promises that have been made by the Government did not count for anything. The Government made statements to the effect that it was concerned about rates and taxes and that it would conduct an inquiry into them. However, it did not make many inquiries, or, if they were made they have been hushed up.

In any event this Government did not do anything about rates and taxes and I am sure, Sir, that if you had been on the floor of the House you would have been critical of the Government for its action, as you were when you moved your motion couched in similar terms some years ago against a Government that was responsible for a rise which was only half the amount that has been applied by the present Government.

I feel that the present move is quite justified because the people of the State should know the ilk of the Government that is in office. It is a money Government. It looks for money to do all sorts of things, but it does not seem to care where the money is obtained. The Government has little regard for those who find it difficult to meet these increases and I would venture to say that we have not seen the last of such increases. I predict we will have further increases in water charges, electricity charges and the like because I do not think that this is a Government capable of overcoming the problem that arises in regard to economics by adjusting other things to accommodate the difficulties faced by the Treasury. The Government will continue to take the easy way out as it has done on past occasions. In view of that the Government deserves the censure of this House.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result—

#### Ayes—17

Mr Barnett	Mr Hartrey
Mr Bateman	Mr Jamieson
Mr Bryce	Mr T. H. Jones
Mr B. T. Burke	Mr May
Mr T. J. Burke	Mr Skidmore
Mr Davies	Mr Taylor
Mr H. D. Evans	Mr J. T. Tonkin
Mr T. D. Evans	Mr Moller
Mr Harman	(Teller)

#### Noes—23

Mr Blaikie	Mr McPharlin
Sir David Brand	Mr Mensaros
Sir Charles Court	Mr Nanovich
Mr Cowan	Mr O'Connor
Mr Coyne	Mr O'Neill
Mrs Craig	Mr Ridge
Mr Crane	Mr Shalders
Dr Dadour	Mr Sibson
Mr Grayden	Mr Sodeman
Mr Grewar	Mr Stephens
Mr F. V. Jones	Mr Young
Mr Laurance	(Teller)

#### Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Mr Bertram	Mr Clarko
Mr Carr	Mr Old
Mr A. R. Tonkin	Mr Thompson
Mr McIver	Mr Rushton
Mr Fletcher	Mr Watt

Amendment thus negatived.

*Debate (on motion) Resumed*

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Young.

### ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

**SIR CHARLES COURT** (Nedlands—Premier) [10.59 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 10.30 a.m. tomorrow (Thursday).

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 11.00 p.m.*

## Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 27th March, 1975

The **SPEAKER** (Mr Hutchinson) took the Chair at 10.30 a.m., and read prayers.

*Closing Time: Announcement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER** (Mr Hutchinson): I have an announcement to make regarding questions. Questions on notice for Tuesday, the 8th April, will close at noon on Friday, the 4th April. I trust that those members present will inform other members of this, as we have a rather lean House.

### SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL BILL (2nd)

*Introduction and First Reading*

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

### SUPERANNUATION AND FAMILY BENEFITS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

*Second Reading*

**SIR CHARLES COURT** (Nedlands—Treasurer) [10.35 a.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.