

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 28 May 1991

THE SPEAKER (Mr Michael Barnett) took the Chair at 2.00 pm, and read prayers.

STATEMENT - BY THE SPEAKER

Royal Commissioners - Subpoena, Parliament House

THE SPEAKER (Mr Michael Barnett): I advise the House that in accordance with my statement to it on 16 May 1991 I wrote that day to the Royal Commissioners inquiring into the Commercial Activities of Government and Other Matters advising that, in my opinion, the serving of a subpoena in Parliament House while the Assembly was sitting constituted a contempt of the House. The Royal Commission has responded as follows in a letter signed by D.F. Wicks, Principal Solicitor Assisting the Royal Commission -

Dear Mr Speaker

The Commissioners have instructed me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 16 May 1991 reporting to them a breach of the privileges of the House by an officer of the Commission.

As you know from recent discussions and correspondence, the Commissioners are very conscious of the importance that attaches to the privileges of the Parliament. It is and has been their concern to ensure that the conduct of the Commission will in no way trespass upon those privileges. They deeply regret the incident in question and unreservedly apologise to the House.

The concern of the Commission was such that, immediately upon receipt of your letter, the Commission was reconvened in public and the officer in question was examined on oath. A transcript of the examination is enclosed. It provides the explanation sought by you as to how the incident occurred.

The Commissioners take some comfort from learning that the officer charged with the service of the subpoena made several attempts over three days to meet the convenience of the member and only attended the precincts of the Parliament at the express invitation of the member. The sworn testimony speaks for itself as to what occurred thereafter.

I will be preparing a Standing Instruction to all Commission staff immediately directing that no subpoena of the Commission is to be served within the Parliamentary precinct.

Attached to the letter are eight pages of evidence given to the Royal Commission by the person who served the subpoena, Detective Sergeant Gillespie, an investigator for the Royal Commission. It appears that neither the Royal Commission nor many members of the House were sufficiently aware of the prohibition against service of a subpoena in such circumstances.

I have not yet acknowledged the commission's apology or otherwise responded to its letter, but now that it has been reported to the House it is my intention to write acknowledging the apology and thanking the commission for its swift action to preclude any recurrence of the difficulty. I also intend to ask the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to arrange a meeting between the Clerk of each House and counsel assisting the commission to brief him on parliamentary privilege and contempt as it affects the commission.

In my view it is unlikely to serve the interests of the House to pursue the matter further. I advise members that I will table the complete copy of correspondence forwarded to me by the Royal Commission.

[See paper No. 330.]

PETITION - DUCK SHOOTING

Prohibition Legislation Support

MRS WATKINS (Wanneroo) [2.08 pm]: I have a petition in the following terms -

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

We, the undersigned petitioners of Western Australia and residents, urge you not to declare Duck Shooting Seasons and to legislate for the prohibition of any future Duck Shooting in this State because of the cruelty inflicted on our wildlife; the loss of significant waterbird breeding habitat; the pollution of the wetlands from lead pellets, cartridges and other rubbish, and community disapproval of recreational shooting of wildlife.

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

The petition bears 1 383 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 49.]

PETITION - RAILWAYS

South West Suburbs Passenger Service Extension Support

MR THOMAS (Cockburn) [2.09 pm]: I have a petition expressed in the following terms -

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

We the undersigned support the extension of the suburban passenger rail service to the suburbs of the south west corridor.

This part of the metropolitan area is growing and is widely recognised as one of the most desirable options for the long term expansion of the City of Perth.

Moreover, as recent international events have shown, it is prudent to minimise dependence on oil and environmental considerations support the extension and enhancement of our public transport system.

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

The petition bears 42 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 50.]

PETITION - CARAWATHA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Willagee Primary School - Amalgamation Opposition

MR SHAVE (Melville) [2.10 pm]: I have a petition couched in the following terms -

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

We, the undersigned parents and friends of Carawatha Primary School, Carawatha Language Development Centre and Willagee Primary School urge the Government to abandon proposals to amalgamate the schools and make a firm commitment that the Carawatha Primary School will be retained in its present form with the language development centre intact and that all up-grading works promised before the 1989 election will be undertaken at Willagee Primary School.

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

The petition bears 1 363 signatures and, having read it diligently, I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 51.]

PETITION - NUCLEAR WARSHIPS*Western Australian Ports Concern*

DR ALEXANDER (Perth) [2.11 pm]: I have a petition addressed as follows -

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

The petition of the undersigned citizens of Western Australia respectfully sheweth that:

We are concerned about the entry of nuclear-armed and nuclear-powered warships to Western Australian ports, particularly:

the dangers posed to the people and environment through the accidental release of radioactivity. Such an accident could affect the health of present and future generations and destroy our environment. We do not believe that the current W.A. Port Safety Plan could deal with an actual nuclear accident and is detrimental to our safety by engendering a feeling of confidence that is unwarranted.

any short term economic gains which accrue from such visits are minuscule compared with the possible clean up bill should an accidental release of radiation occur.

by allowing nuclear warships to enter our ports we are implicated in the immorality of the nuclear arms race.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray:

That you consider the health and well being of the people and environment of Western Australia as your first responsibility and that you inform the Commonwealth Government that nuclear-armed and nuclear-powered warships are not welcome in Western Australian ports on health, environment, economic and moral grounds.

The petition bears 1 057 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 52.]

PARLIAMENT HOUSE - ELECTRONIC BELLS*Malfunction*

THE SPEAKER (Mr Michael Barnett): I advise members - although most of them are already aware of the fact - that the electronic bells system is not working. If it is necessary to ring the bells for a division or for any other reason, we will do our utmost to let everyone know by ringing a handbell. However, I caution members against moving too far from the Chamber until such time as the electronic bells are functioning.

KING'S PARK (INCLUSION OF SWAN BREWERY SITE) BILL*Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Minson (Deputy Leader of the Opposition), and read a first time.

BILLS (4) - ASSENT

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

1. Retail Trading Hours Amendment Bill 1990
2. Royal Commissions Amendment Bill
3. Agricultural Products Amendment Bill 1990
4. Iron Ore (Marillana Creek) Agreement Bill

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MARINE AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MRS BEGGS (Whitford - Minister for Transport) [2.20 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

On 28 August 1989, my colleague, the then Minister for Transport, advised the House that the Government was examining a proposal for the introduction of a boat builders' voluntary registration scheme and boat certification scheme. The aim of these schemes is to ensure satisfactory standards of construction and safety in the recreational boating industry. Since their announcement, these schemes have received enthusiastic support throughout the boat industry and the general boating community.

This Bill will amend the Western Australian Marine Act, to enable the making of the regulations necessary for the implementation of these schemes. Under the proposed schemes, the following procedure will be available for those builders who wish to be involved -

- (1) approval of boat designs which comply with recognised standards;
- (2) certification of Western Australian boat builders meeting production and quality control standards; and
- (3) occasional inspection of boat building yards to ensure that minimum production standards are being maintained.

Boat builders will be entitled to advertise their registration and fit compliance plates to vessels which meet the prescribed design standards. When in place, these schemes will provide the boat building industry with an independent product certification scheme, which will reassure potential boat buyers throughout the Australian and overseas markets of the high standards of manufacture and service within the Western Australian boat building industry.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr MacKinnon (Leader of the Opposition).

COMPANIES (CO-OPERATIVE) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR D.L. SMITH (Mitchell - Minister for Lands) [2.22pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill provides for an amendment to section 174 of the Companies (Co-operative) Act to increase the percentage of shares which may be repurchased from members from five per cent to 10 per cent of paid up capital. This amendment brings the buy-back capacity of co-operative companies into line with the buy-back provisions of the Companies (Western Australian) Code and the corporations law. Co-operative societies presently registered under the Co-operative and Provident Societies Act wish to convert to co-operative companies. Once the buy-back provisions have been increased the societies will convert to co-operative companies and come within the Companies (Co-operative) Act.

The conversion is in the interests of the public as the Companies (Co-operative) Act provides a more complete regulatory regime for co-operatives. The Co-operative and Provident Societies Act has limited regulatory and providential requirements and societies are largely left to their own devices. The co-operative societies consider the change in the buy-back provisions to be vital to them because they need to create a market for shares of members who leave the industry and, similarly, there needs to be a source of shares for people who wish to become members. The amendment is supported by the Co-operative Federation of Western Australia. Once the conversions have been effected the Co-operative and Provident Societies Act may be repealed.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Blaikie.

PRISONERS (RELEASE FOR DEPORTATION) AMENDMENT BILL*Second Reading*

MR D.L. SMITH (Mitchell - Minister for Lands) [2.26 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Prisoners (Release for Deportation) Act was assented to in November 1989. The Act provides that where a deportation order is made in respect of a prisoner who is eligible for release on parole but has been denied parole by the Parole Board because he or she is subject to deportation the Governor may order that the prisoner be released for the purpose of deportation after the parole eligibility date. The purpose of the legislation was to provide a mechanism for the release of such prisoners without the need to resort to the exercise of the Royal Prerogative to remit the balance of the sentence in conjunction with the enforcement of the deportation order.

The Act has not yet been proclaimed because, shortly after it received Royal assent, substantial amendments were made to the Commonwealth Migration Act. This resulted in an incorrect definition of "deportation order" being included in the Prisoners (Release for Deportation) Act. The Prisoners (Release for Deportation) Amendment Bill rectifies this incorrect reference. In addition, the Bill provides for the Parole Board to initiate a written report to the Attorney General recommending whether a prisoner subject to deportation should be released in accordance with the Prisoners (Release for Deportation) Act.

The Bill further provides that in making such a recommendation the Parole Board give express attention to whether, if a deportation order had not been made, the prisoner would otherwise have been considered suitable for release from prison on parole. In that regard, the board must consider the nature and circumstances of the prisoner's offence, the degree of risk the release of the prisoner would have appeared to present to the community or any individual in the community, and such other matters that the Parole Board thinks fit.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Blaikie.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS BILL*Second Reading*

MR D.L. SMITH (Mitchell - Minister for Lands) [2.27 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

[Leave granted for the following text to be incorporated.]

This Bill provides for the establishment in Western Australia of a new office of Director of Public Prosecutions - DPP. Under the Bill the director will have full legal authority to make all decisions concerning the prosecution of criminal offences. This will include full authority to decide whether an indictment should be presented, the nature of the charge to be laid and how the prosecution will be conducted, as well as decisions about appeals that may be brought, and all incidental matters. A significant advantage of the establishment of the office of director is that the legislation will make it absolutely clear that the director will act with complete independence from the Attorney General and the Government of the day. Members will appreciate, of course, that a corollary of the independence of the DPP is that the Attorney General will not be able to be held accountable to Parliament and the community to the extent which many suggest is still appropriate in respect of prosecution decisions today.

Summary Offences: In keeping with the position in some other jurisdictions, the Bill will give the director considerable authority, again with complete autonomy, in respect of summary proceedings for indictable offences, including all offences which may be tried either summarily or on indictment. These provisions represent a major innovation in this State and are entirely in addition to existing provisions for the summary prosecution of indictable offences. The Bill will enable the director to commence and prosecute proceedings before Courts of Petty Sessions and the Children's Court for any indictable offence. By virtue of these provisions, the Bill will give the director the authority to deal

with all summary proceedings for Criminal Code offences, as well as the offences which can be tried on indictment created by Statutes such as the Companies (Western Australia) Code, the Misuse of Drugs Act and the Road Traffic Act.

In addition to being able to institute and conduct summary prosecution in the types of cases I have mentioned, the Bill proposes that the director should have the power - again an innovation in Western Australia - to take over summary proceedings by the police or others for any indictable offence. Under the Bill the director will also be able to act with the consent of the complainant as solicitor or counsel for a complainant in the types of cases I have mentioned. In these circumstances the director would not assume full responsibility for the conduct of the prosecution. By these means the Bill provides a scheme under which cases of public importance in the lower courts, as well as all criminal cases on indictment, can be handled with the independence, competence and resources of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Other functions: The director will also be able to conduct committal proceedings for criminal offences, and appeals for the prosecution in cases which the director prosecuted or could have prosecuted. The director will have the independent authority to decide whether to appeal. In a few cases the effectiveness with which the director can pursue his functions will depend on the availability of an indemnity or other assurance against prosecution to a potential witness. The Bill empowers the director to give such indemnities and assurances at his independent discretion. The Bill will also empower the director to intervene in coronial inquests where the director thinks that appropriate, and it enables the director to assist a coroner if that assistance is sought by the coroner. It will be for the director to decide whether the case is an appropriate one for such intervention or assistance.

The director will have responsibility for administering the Crimes (Confiscation of Profits) Act and any similar legislation so that work in this respect can be coordinated effectively with the processes of investigation and prosecution of offences. The director will provide appropriate assistance in this State to the directors and Crown prosecutors elsewhere in Australia and to similar officials overseas. The director will also have responsibility for the extradition of offenders and prisoners.

The Bill is designed to ensure that the director will be able to institute and conduct proceedings for Commonwealth offences in accordance with arrangements between the State and the Commonwealth which have been in place for some two to three years. The Bill will also enable the director to conduct prosecutions in this State under the few remaining United Kingdom laws that allow for the trial of UK offences here. By these means the Bill will arm the director with all the powers which the Attorney General can exercise in respect of the investigation and prosecution of offences and, in addition, with many powers which the Attorney General does not have. That applies, in particular, to the prosecution of offences in Courts of Petty Sessions. In all these matters the director will act independently of the Attorney General and the Government and of any other authority - subject to completeness of a small qualification I will deal with shortly. As will be apparent, the director will bear onerous and important responsibilities.

Terms of appointment: To ensure the independence of the director, and of the deputy director - another position which the Bill envisages - they will not be members of the Public Service, but will hold independent statutory offices. Qualifications which are the same as those required for appointment as a judge have been provided for the director's position. I should point out that while the Act requires the appointment of a director it merely allows the appointment of a deputy. It is thought that a deputy will be a useful appointment for many practical reasons, but it is proposed to have the director's views before deciding whether a deputy should be appointed immediately. It is proposed that both the director and deputy director, if appointed, will hold office for five years or until attaining age 65, whichever is the lesser. They will be eligible for reappointment if under 65 years of age. To offer the public protection against an unfortunate appointment, however, the Bill provides that the director and the deputy director may be removed from office for misbehaviour - either privately or in connection with the duties of the office - incompetence, physical or mental incapacity or bankruptcy.

The salaries of the director and deputy director are to be fixed by the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal, which is responsible for the review and determination of the salaries of

members of Parliament, the judiciary and other senior officers of the State. By this means decisions on salary will also be determined independently. Members should be aware that all other directors in Australia, except one, have their salaries determined under schemes equivalent to our Salaries and Allowances Tribunal legislation. Again, with one exception, all of them are paid the equivalent of a judicial salary at District Court or Supreme Court level, or at some point between the two. As a result, it can be reasonably anticipated that our own tribunal will determine the director's remuneration on a similar basis. The salary of the deputy director is, however, a less certain matter. It will, in part, depend upon the level of responsibility which the director chooses to place on his deputy. There is no consistent pattern elsewhere in Australia and that is a matter appropriately left to the tribunal without further comment.

Members will appreciate that the tribunal must be expected to fix the salary of the director in keeping with the level of salaries for the judiciary and other senior appointments in the State. It would be unrealistic, for example, to think of the salary being fixed to reflect earnings in private legal practice. The director and deputy director are precluded by the Bill from practising law or engaging in paid employment except with the specific approval of the Governor; for example, to enable the director to serve as a legal officer in the reserve forces. In the public interests, the Bill also proposes that the director should notify the Attorney General of all pecuniary interests in any business.

To make appointment to the office of director attractive to the widest range of potential appointees the superannuation provisions proposed in the Bill are unusually wide and flexible. The Bill provides for two alternative situations. Firstly, superannuation arrangements to apply during the term of the director's appointment will vary depending upon whether the appointee is already a member of the Government Employees Superannuation Scheme. If before appointment the director is a member of GESS he is entitled to continue accruing benefits under that scheme at the standard rate. However, the employee contribution - normally five per cent of salary - is to be paid by the employer. If he is not a member of GESS he is to accrue, without contribution, a benefit in lieu of superannuation, payable as a lump sum at a rate to be set by the terms of his appointment. Secondly, superannuation arrangements which will apply if the director is appointed to the bench will give him the option of either retaining the benefits accrued while director or surrendering them on the basis that time spent as director will be credited as judicial service for the purposes of the judicial pension scheme. It must be anticipated, however, that some suitable appointees will be prepared to give up private practice only for a limited number of years and may accept appointment on the basis that they will resign to return to practice after, say, three to five years.

To such an appointee the judges' pension scheme offers little attraction as there is no retirement benefit until after 10 years' service and after reaching age 55. The contributory scheme of the Government Employees Superannuation Act 1987 will be more attractive to such an appointee because of the lump sum entitlements on resignation after more than two years' service. The Bill allows contribution under this scheme as an alternative. Further, some potential appointees may already be contributors under the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act 1938, so that provision is made to enable contributions to continue but with the employee contribution being paid by the employer. There are provisions in existing legislation and in the Bill to limit the potential for so called "double-dipping" created by these alternatives.

Functions of Attorney General and director: The provisions of the Bill go further than those of any equivalent legislation in Australia or the UK to spell out the relationship between the role of the Attorney General and that of the director. For all practical purposes, the Attorney General will be more circumscribed in the role he can play in the administration of the investigation and prosecution of offences and related appeals, committals and inquests than any other Attorney General in Australia or in the UK. This Bill ensures that any involvement by the Attorney General will be publicly identified, especially by report to Parliament, so that the Attorney General will be subject at every point to parliamentary and public scrutiny and accountability.

Part 4 of the Bill introduces the relevant provisions by a declaration of the independence of the director from the Attorney General or any other person in the performance of the director's functions. Provision is made for consultation between the Attorney General and

the director whenever either of them thinks it is desirable. By this means views can be exchanged, but the independence of the director is not threatened or affected.

Such consultation will be a means by which, for example, the Attorney General will be able to stress to the director parliamentary or public disquiet about, say, sentencing trends or the effects of certain policies being followed by the director. Such an official process of communication is an important part of the scheme of the Bill. This seeks to achieve some reasonable measure of parliamentary and public accountability of the director without affecting the independence which is critical for the public acceptance of the effectiveness of the office.

Clause 27 is very important. It enables directions of a general policy nature to be given to the director. However, the Attorney General is expressly precluded from giving a direction on his own initiative in a particular case. Every direction given must be included in the annual report of the director to Parliament. Directions of a general policy nature are necessary to allow guidance to be given to the director over a range of public policy where the Attorney General and, through him, the Government and the Parliament are better equipped to reflect the prevailing needs and views of the community. Typical examples are whether prostitution laws should be enforced literally or through the existing system of police supervision, whether boys under 16 should be prosecuted for consenting intercourse with girls under 16, and the circumstances in which the criminal law should not be enforced in cases of domestic violence in the interests of family reconciliation. This Bill will require such general prosecution policy directions to be published in the report of the Director of Public Prosecutions to Parliament. At present they are often unidentified and unknown to the Parliament and the public.

Clause 27(3) will enable the director, at his own discretion, to seek a general policy direction from the Attorney General. It will also enable the director to seek a policy direction relating to a particular case. The director must initiate the request before the Attorney General can give a direction in a particular case, and any direction given in response to such a request must be made public in the report of the director to Parliament. The ability of the director to seek a policy direction in a particular case is a very important provision and critical to the effective functioning of an independent director in some types of cases. The few examples I have already given of general policy issues which heavily involve the public interest are an indication of the sort of issue which a particular case may throw up. If the issue is novel, or if there is no existing general policy, the director may decide that he should not make a decision until he has received a policy direction which will guide or determine how that particular case should be dealt with.

There is another very limited range of public policy issues, especially those involving national security, where an official in the position of the director cannot be expected to make the decision. Often the potential consequences of prosecution are so serious that the decision needs to be made at the political level because the Government has more ready access to other Governments and to information on matters of national security or international concern. Fortunately cases in this category can be expected to be extremely rare but it is not hard to think of examples, particularly in the area of international terrorism. It is important to stress that, even in such extreme cases, the Bill leaves the director with an absolutely independent discretion as to whether to seek a direction. This is in keeping with the overriding consideration of the Bill, which is to ensure the independence of the director's office. Cases may arise where the director should not make a decision. A personal conflict of interest may arise or for some other reason the director's impartiality may be compromised about a particular case. If the director is not free to decide impartially then it is unlikely that the public will be satisfied that the director's staff can act in his place. In such a case the Bill enables the director to request the Attorney General to deal with the case. Again, it is the director who must decide to initiate a request for the Attorney General to act.

For the range of reasons to which I have referred, it is necessary for the Attorney General to retain what may fairly be described as a "reserve power" to act in appropriate cases. This is confirmed by the fact that in every jurisdiction in Australia where there is a DPP, and also in the United Kingdom, the Attorney General retains full power to act in prosecution matters. What this Bill has sought to achieve is a detailed and public procedure, fully subject to parliamentary scrutiny, under which any exercise of the Attorney's powers will necessarily be limited and without any threat to the independence of the director. Clause 28 regulates

the rare situation where the Attorney General does exercise any of his powers to ensure that the director does not act inconsistently, but again the provision is designed to ensure the parliamentary and public accountability of the Attorney General of the day. The director is required to include in his report to Parliament any case where the director is precluded by this provision from taking any action he otherwise would have taken.

With a view to ensuring some measure of accountability to Parliament of the performance of the director's functions, there is a requirement for an annual report to Parliament by the director and provisions requiring the director to provide information to the Attorney General to enable Parliament to be informed and questions answered about the functions of the director. It is difficult to see that more can be done without impinging on the DPP's independence. Members will realise that the independence of the director means that the Attorney General cannot be responsible in the traditional constitutional manner for the functions or decisions of the director.

Relationship of director with other authorities: The Bill enables the director to obtain information he needs from the authorities of the State, including the Commissioner of Police, which have responsibility for the investigation and prosecution of offences, and the director may require these authorities to carry out investigations for him. Under the Bill, the director may also direct these authorities to refer types of offences within their responsibility but which could be tried on indictment to him with a view to his conducting the prosecution, or the director may recommend that these authorities institute proceedings in respect of an offence. The Bill also provides that the director may perform additional and related functions. The additional functions will be those which are prescribed by the Governor and published in the *Government Gazette*. The related functions are any functions that arise out of, are connected with, or are incidental or conducive to the performance of the director's primary responsibilities.

Guidelines: The Bill provides for the director to issue guidelines to be followed in the performance of the director's functions. Such guidelines are to be published in the *Government Gazette*.

Staff: It is envisaged that in the performance of the functions of the office the director will continue the present practice of the Crown Prosecutor of briefing a proportion of the work to lawyers in private practice. Three factors make this inevitable: Firstly, the volume of work fluctuates, so it would be inefficient to have enough staff permanently employed to cope with the highest volume of demands. Secondly, there is a shortage of experienced and able lawyers in Western Australia, so it is unlikely that the director will be able to attract capable staff with the required experience in sufficient numbers. Thirdly, the additional work which the Bill envisages the director will undertake over and above the present duties of the Crown Prosecutor will exaggerate the shortage of suitable staff and increase the dependence on briefing.

The Bill enables the office of the director to be established with the necessary staff appointed in the ordinary way under the Public Service Act; that is, term contract or permanent appointment. The initial size and composition of that staff will naturally be influenced by the views of the first director, but the real determining factor is likely to be the number of suitably qualified and experienced lawyers in criminal jurisdiction who are prepared to accept appointment. Some of the present professional staff of the Crown Law Department may be expected to join the office of the director, but members should be aware that few are likely to be prepared to do so. The reasons for this have been put to me very forcefully by the lawyers who presently undertake prosecuting work in the Crown Law Department. Criminal prosecutions, although important to the community, are a highly specialised and very small segment of legal practice. Very few lawyers are prepared to specialise solely in the field, either as defence lawyers or prosecutors. Many other fields of legal practice are more financially rewarding, less emotionally demanding and involve more attractive work. There is a far greater demand in private practice for lawyers with experience in non-criminal work.

For these reasons very few lawyers in the Crown Law Department are prepared to confine their practice to criminal work. Most insist on maintaining constant experience in a wider range of work - civil litigation, common law, commercial, administrative, constitutional, arbitrations, town planning, taxation and rating - and in many cases they combine practice as

a barrister with practice as a solicitor. Because of this wide experience their personal satisfaction from practice is much greater, they are better able to avoid burnout, their professional skill development is significantly enhanced and they have the security of knowing that they can more readily find a position in a private firm, or establish themselves at the independent Bar if they decide to leave Government practice. For this reason the Crown Law Department has structured its professional staffing arrangements to allow the fullest opportunity for wide ranging experience. The result has been an ability to recruit lawyers of good quality far greater than might be expected in these days of a shortage of experienced, able lawyers, and a reasonably high retention rate even though many lawyers in the department could take up more financially attractive offers elsewhere. The great majority of these lawyers have made it emphatically clear that, for these reasons, they would not be prepared to confine their practice to criminal work. They will not join the director's office.

Against that background, the Bill has been drafted so as to enable the director to use the services of lawyers in the Crown Solicitor's Office, who would be briefed by the director. This is analogous to the position in Victoria and New South Wales. The director briefs the Crown Prosecutors and the Crown Counsel in Victoria, and the Crown Advocate in New South Wales. These Government lawyers are not part of the director's staff. Similarly in Tasmania the director utilises professional staff of the Crown Solicitor's Office.

This arrangement will not only enable the director to have the services, in appropriate cases, of experienced prosecuting counsel, but equally importantly it will help ensure that, for the future, lawyers of quality and experience are available to do the non-criminal work of the State. For these reasons it is necessary to ensure flexibility in the staffing arrangements and this is provided by clause 30 of the Bill. Suitable staff can be appointed to the director's office and will specialise entirely in criminal work. In addition, by clause 30 the director will be able to brief lawyers in the Crown Solicitor's Office and by clause 20(1) the director will be able to brief the private legal profession. It is proposed that accounting and administrative services will be provided by the Crown Law Department, which also provides all of the courts and the Crown Solicitor's Office and the Parliamentary Counsel's office with support services of this nature.

I add two general comments. The first is that in the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and some other States where there are directors, the office was created as part of moves to construct an efficient prosecution service after serious deficiencies had developed in the existing arrangements. We are not in that position in this State and we should all take satisfaction in the competence, efficiency and dedication with which the work of successive Crown Prosecutors and those who have assisted them has been conducted over the years. The second is to stress to members that with the prosecution of criminal offences on indictment in superior courts, and appeals from decisions in such cases, these provisions will do little more than formalise, affirm publicly and ensure the continuation of the arrangements already in place. Until the mid-1970s in this State, indictments were signed by the Attorney General and virtually all significant prosecution decisions were actually referred to the Attorney General with recommendations from the Crown Prosecutor and the Solicitor General. The Attorney General is advised that Hon Ian Medcalf, QC, was responsible for starting the process of change that has led to the present position. Initially he authorised the Crown Prosecutor and the Solicitor General to make the decisions in routine cases and to sign most indictments. During his term of office he further extended the range of matters in which decisions were made without reference to him. When Hon Joe Berinson assumed office he continued without change for some two years the arrangements Hon Ian Medcalf made, but since then he has progressively extended full authority in virtually all matters, so that the only decisions he makes today, in particular cases, are in respect of ex officio indictments, nolle prosequi and appeals - but in each of those matters only when the Solicitor General is not available - and indemnities against prosecution and extraditions.

The vast majority of decisions are made directly by the Crown Prosecutor and those assisting him, with the Solicitor General dealing with ex officio indictments, nolle prosequi and appeals. These decisions are not referred to the Attorney General and he is unaware of the decisions and action being taken. If an unusual case should arise in which the Crown Prosecutor or the Solicitor General feels that a case involves some special issue of public policy they can refer it to the Attorney General. It is their decision to do so and it is a rare

occurrence. Naturally, it is also open to the Attorney General, in particular cases, to seek reports and reasons from the legal officers concerned and in recent times that has occurred, in the main when questions have arisen as to the possibility of appeal against inadequacy of sentences. The important advantage of the Bill before the House is that it will ensure the continuance of independent professional decisions concerning the prosecution of criminal offences and that it will provide clear public assurance of that independence. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Blaikie.

SUPPLY BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 16 May.

MR MacKINNON (Jandakot - Leader of the Opposition) [2.28 pm]: It is ironic that we are talking today about the Supply Bill - a Bill which traditionally comes before this Parliament seeking the allocation of funds to enable the Government to continue its operations until the Budget is brought down - when the Premier announced yesterday that she is going cap in hand to Canberra seeking further support for a range of activities which were outlined in her statement to the media. Those activities include redundancies for public servants, a commitment to housing expenditure, a commitment to a special request for sewerage expenditure and a request for education and training support.

It is also interesting when one looks at each of those requests to note that the Premier has lost sight of what this Government should be doing. The reason Australia, including Western Australia, is in economic crisis is that the current State and Federal Governments have lost sight of the fact that fundamental problems in our community should be addressed. Governments have to make tough decisions if we are to turn Australia around. The request being made by the Premier will not address any of those issues. It will not address the absolutely key issue which underpins the unemployment crisis at present; that is, a lack of competitiveness on the part of our State and our nation. Businesses can no longer afford to employ people and the Government must do something to address that issue. Nothing the Premier has said to date has indicated, firstly, recognition of that problem or, secondly, that she will address it.

If I were the Prime Minister and the Premier were in Canberra, the first question I would ask her is, "What have you done to help yourself? What have you done to address the competitiveness and unemployment problems in your State?" Secondly, I would ask the Premier, "What have you done about the Public Service?" The Premier would say, "I have agreed to pay the Public Service in this State the Accord Mark VI wage increase, which will cost this Government \$60 million which it does not have. Will you give me \$150 million, even though I am going outside the guidelines set down by a system which we have traditionally supported?"

Mr Graham: Don't you support Public Service pay rises?

Mr MacKINNON: Not the one the Government has announced, and I said so on Thursday, I said so on Friday on the Howard Sattler program, and I am saying so again today. The Government has made a mistake in going outside the guidelines and in paying public servants more. That will do nothing to address the competitiveness problems of this State. Will the member tell me how paying public servants more will help solve Western Australia's economic crisis?

Mr Graham: Don't you support their getting pay rises?

Mr MacKINNON: The member for Pilbara has destroyed his credibility out of his own mouth because he knows as well as I do that that decision will do nothing to address the unemployment problem. It will do a lot to destroy competitiveness in Western Australia. The pay rise which the Government has granted to public servants will ensure, firstly, that a lot of public servants will lose their jobs and, secondly, that thousands of Western Australians in the private sector will lose their jobs as a consequence of the flow on of that pay rise. The member does not seem to realise that times are pretty tough. People in business cannot make ends meet, and if they have to pay a wage rise without any

productivity trade off at all - which is what the Government is agreeing to - somebody's job will have to go. The level of unemployment in this State is now the highest in Australia, and that will blow out even further as a consequence of that decision. It is ludicrous for the Premier to say it will not cause any problems, because my prediction is that the majority of the public servants who will accept redundancy payments - and there will be plenty of them because many people are sick of working for the Government - will be back within six months to seek another job.

The Premier said that she is going to Canberra to seek money for housing. If I were the Prime Minister I would ask "What is your record on housing? Have you done the right thing in the housing market? How have you tried to assist?" The facts speak for themselves. Last year the Government underspent its Budget allocation for housing by \$30 million. Last year it allocated \$319 million for housing, and this year it allocated \$209 million - \$110 million less - yet the Premier has the hypocrisy to go to Canberra and ask the Federal Government for more funds when it has allocated less of its Budget for housing. The Government is prepared to restore a monument to its arrogance on the edge of the Swan River - the old Swan Brewery - but it is not prepared to allocate more money for housing.

The Premier is also going to Canberra to ask for more money for sewerage, because she knows that there are serious problems with the Swan River. What will the Prime Minister think when the Premier has to admit that last year the Government underspent its Budget allocation for sewerage by \$14 million? When we look at the Government's performance since 1983 in respect of funding for sewerage, we see a real decline in expenditure by between 60 per cent and 70 per cent, as my colleague the member for Applecross would tell members. So much for a Government which claims to give priority to sewerage! The ultimate insult is the Premier's going to Canberra to ask for more money for education and training, when it was this Government which cut the technical and further education budget, not the people in Canberra. The Premier now has the hide to go to Canberra and ask for more funding.

I find it hypocritical in the extreme that the Premier can state to the public, with a straight face, that she is going to ask Canberra for help, when in every single case to which I have pointed the problems were of her own making, and when she has indicated by the Budget that she gives these issues a very low priority. What is the Premier prepared to do to help this State? The Commonwealth Government has fast tracked its Capital Works Program by allocating money to the States for housing. Has this Government fast tracked capital works? During the Geraldton by-election campaign we asked the Government to fast track some capital works in Geraldton because of the extreme unemployment problems in Geraldton.

Mr C.J. Barnett: She ridiculed that.

Mr MacKINNON: Yes. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry has asked the Government to do that, and we have been asking the Government to do that for months, but it will not do that. It would not cost the Government a dollar to bring forward those capital works projects - in fact, I think it would save the Government money - and it would be a positive move to encourage employment in this State, but the Government is not prepared to do that. When will the Premier admit defeat in respect of the old Swan Brewery and say to the people, "I am not prepared to waste another dollar on this ludicrous project, and it will be demolished"? The Minister for Heritage had the temerity to tell us that the Government could not proceed to demolish the old Swan Brewery because of industrial issues; in other words, the unions would not let it. When will the Government have a payroll tax moratorium for all new employees? It would provide a positive incentive for employers to employ more people if they were granted a payroll tax exemption for those employees.

Mr Catania: The Premier has stated that she would like to get rid of payroll tax.

Mr MacKINNON: Everybody would like to get rid of payroll tax. Everybody would like a holiday on the Gold Coast or in Broome. The Premier has the ability to actually do something about it and not just say that it would be a good idea. However, the Premier has not done that.

Finally, it would make a tremendous difference to the psychology of Western Australian businesses and of ordinary Western Australians if the Premier gave a commitment that no tax or charge in this State would increase by more than the rate of inflation - not just the taxes

and charges which affect families or small businesses, but every tax and charge. Why will not the Premier give that commitment right across the board, with no ifs or buts about it, and with none of the fine print qualification which the Government usually puts on to that sort of promise? Were the Premier to do that, the community would stand up and applaud her, and so would I.

Mr Marlborough: That would be the first time!

Mr MacKINNON: No. I did it last week, I did it yesterday, and I am doing it today. Today there was a front page story about the decision to assist the victims of crime. That was a good decision.

The people in this State who are out of work have been given no hope for the future because this Government has failed to do what it could to fast track capital works, to demolish the brewery, to impose a moratorium on payroll tax, and to freeze taxes and charges so that they will not increase above the rate of inflation for the next 12 months. All those things could be done today, and they would immediately turn around the psychology of the business and private sectors in Western Australia, and generate employment prospects. The Premier is not prepared to do any of those things, so I doubt that the Prime Minister will be receptive to her approach. If he is, he should not be. He should be looking to State Governments to be much more responsible for their own actions and they should not go bleating to Canberra trying to get the Federal Government to bail them out of their problems. It is no good the Government blaming its predecessors; every one of those commitments could be made by the Premier tomorrow. They would cost hardly any money at all. The payroll tax remission will not cost the Government even a dollar. If it does not do what I suggest, unemployment will rise and income will reduce, not increase. In the longer term, what has this Government done about competitiveness? Has it actually started to address the very difficult issue of industrial relations reform?

Mrs Henderson: Yes.

Several members interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: Look at the honourable member; the leader of Burke's dirty dozen!

Several members interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: Is the member one of Burke's dirty dozen?

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Donovan): Order!

Several members interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: Is the honourable member one of Burke's dirty dozen?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! I suspect the Leader of the Opposition knows that that is not a particularly friendly way in which to start the week. I doubt whether it is an orderly way in which to start the week.

Mr MacKINNON: Thank you for that guidance, Mr Acting Speaker. I know that a number of members opposite are embarrassed as a result of being labelled one of Burke's dirty dozen.

Several members interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: Not that member. The member for Bunbury might be a bit embarrassed about being named.

Several members interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: We have two members.

Several members interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: The member for Peel is one of Burke's dirty dozen. The member for Bunbury is one.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Cunningham: Let us look at your platform.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! Good heavens! Look, the line being taken by the Leader of the Opposition at the moment, while it may be attracting some laughter and some interjections, borders on the disorderly in respect of the individual members named due to the sorts of implications the Leader of the Opposition is attempting to place on that line. I caution him very seriously against taking that line any further than he has already done.

Mr MacKINNON: Mr Acting Speaker, are you claiming that my calling somebody one of Burke's dirty dozen is disrespectful?

The ACTING SPEAKER: I am claiming two things. One is that the line the Leader of the Opposition is taking is certainly disorderly and borders on reflecting on the reputations of the members; and the second is that my ruling is not to be canvassed.

Mr MacKINNON: I was talking about industrial relations reform. The Government has not really addressed that issue at all in any meaningful way. It has appointed a Minister for Microeconomic Reform, but has that Minister actually done anything?

Mr Shave: He has never run a business.

Mr MacKINNON: He has never run a business; he would not know what one would need to do. Has he brought in an emergency services Bill? Has he brought in any provisions to enable the Industrial Relations Commission to enforce legislation?

Several members interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: Is this another of Burke's dirty dozen? We are up to three.

Several members interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: We are up to four now. We will get to the dozen before the day is out.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! You may get to the dozen before the day is out, but you are coming close to a third warning under Standing Order No 73A. I hope I will not have to invoke that Standing Order.

Mr Cunningham: Tell us what you would do.

Mr MacKINNON: I have already indicated what I would do. Do members want me to go back over it? I would fast track capital works, demolish the old Swan Brewery, give a payroll tax moratorium, introduce a taxes and charges freeze, implement emergency services legislation, have voluntary unionism, and bring down a Bill to ensure that the Industrial Relations Commission could enforce its orders.

Several members interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: I would also bring about some taxation reform, I would reform the payroll tax system completely, and reform stamp duties. I would not be going cap in hand to Canberra asking the Federal Government to bail me out; I would be doing it myself. I would make a commitment to keep down taxes and charges.

Several members interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: While I am not allowed to refer to that other matter, I think members opposite are indicating very clearly by their interjections who they support in this crisis at the present time. I would also do something about the Environmental Protection Authority.

Mr Catania: What is your reform package?

Mr MacKINNON: It may not be -

Several members interjected.

Point of Order

Mr BLAIKIE: I draw to your attention, Mr Acting Speaker, the incessant interjections which are making it difficult for the member on his feet. I ask for some protection from the Chair.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Although the Leader of the Opposition has not claimed the

protection of the Chair, I think the member for Vasse has hit the nail on the head, so to speak. I remind the House that the gallery is well occupied and it would be nice if the reputation of the House were upheld.

Debate Resumed

Mr MacKINNON: I was talking about what I would do in the way of long term commitments which the Government should be making to improve the competitiveness of this State and to restore employment. Members opposite are clearly not interested in the extent of the unemployment - the hundreds of thousands of people who are out of a job throughout Australia, and the tens of thousands who are out of a job in this State. I would ensure that the Environmental Protection Authority and our planning agencies put in place procedures to ensure some certainty in those guidelines. Members opposite might not understand that it is not rubbish that over 150 applications are before the EPA at the present time awaiting approval. Of those, more than 100 have been there for longer than 12 months. At a time when the community is in crisis as a result of the unemployment situation, no one wants to despoil the environment, but neither does anyone want all these people to be frustrated and delayed.

A Government member: What would you do?

Mr MacKINNON: I would put some certainty in place in the form of guidelines so that the goal posts are not shifted. I would make sure that one does not find out that one has to do A, B and C. Then one goes back six months later, having done A, B and C, to find that one has to do D, E and F. Six months later one might go back and find one has to do G, H and I. That is what is happening now. I know of one project worth in the order of \$7 million where the people concerned have had to spend \$1.2 million, but they still have not received approval. That is what is wrong with Western Australia at present. That is why people are out of a job; because Government members are too busy trying to interject and make smart alec points, and they are not in the business of trying to examine the real issues to see what they are. Why are people out of a job? They are out of a job because it costs employers too much to put them in a job. They are out of a job because taxes are too high in this State and the Government is keeping them high. They are out of a job because the Government is not prepared to cut away the red tape and reform it. They are out of a job because the Government puts the barriers higher and higher so that business cannot jump over them.

Several members interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: The only thing the Government has going for it is that it has a few members with loud voices. They do not have any idea or any understanding of the problems being experienced out there. May I recount what is happening to the people members opposite are supposed to represent? I thought it was the Labor Party which held itself out to be the working man's and woman's party in this State. That is not the case, as I have demonstrated today. If it were, members opposite would be as concerned as I was when I attended a meeting yesterday with three major employers in this State. A person who knows those three men and me brought us together; we did not know each other before that time. Each employs more than 1 000 individuals.

Several members interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: We do not operate like the Labor Party. Members opposite can judge themselves by their own standards and judge us by ours.

At that meeting these three employers had this to say: Firstly, they had all sacked up to 15 per cent of their staffs over the past 12 months. That was of concern to me. It was not of concern to members opposite, I acknowledge that, but it was of concern to me. Secondly, they acknowledged that they had made some progress in the industrial relations reform area themselves. Thirdly, they indicated to me that they were all going to expand their businesses in South East Asia.

Mr Gordon Hill: What area of business were they in?

Mr MacKINNON: I will not say, because I am not prepared to give away those people's names. In each case they were looking to expand their business in South East Asia. Are Government members worried about that? I am, because I have children and I want them to have a job when they grow up. People I represent have children who do not have jobs. I go

to the football on Sunday mornings with my young son and I talk to the father who stands next to me, who has been working for a firm for 23 years but is now out of a job. I care about that man and his kids. Do Government members care about them?

Mr Catania: Of course we do.

Several members interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: That is what I care about and that is why I get angry when Government members sit there and interject in their nonsensical way but are not prepared to put forward one positive alternative idea about how to resolve this problem. They have been sitting there for the past seven or eight years saying that about us, but I have given them eight positive things to do and they are not prepared to do one of them. The only answer Government members have is to go and ask Bob Hawke for more money. I think the other answer is to sell the stamps - perhaps that will give them some money. That is about the only other answer they have.

This Government is bereft of ideas. It does not have one positive suggestion to make about how to get this State out of the economic and unemployment morass it is in, other than to go to Canberra and ask for more money. That will do nothing to solve the underlying problem we have in the lack of competitiveness, nor about removing the blockages which obstruct the expansion of industry and business, nor about providing permanent, long term, serious, lasting jobs for the people in this State whom I was elected to represent and whom, I can assure members opposite, I will continue to represent.

The second matter I want to discuss is some lucky people who do have jobs. They have jobs for only one reason; that is, they are either members of the Australian Labor Party or friends of the Government. I am talking about the people who are political appointees and political advisers under this Government.

Mr Pearce: What about Mr McCarrey under the previous Government? He was a political appointee to the previous Premier.

Mr Lewis: He was not, he was a career public servant.

Several members interjected.

Mr Pearce: It is a simple fact - look at his career path.

Mr MacKINNON: I would like the Leader of this House, instead of hiding behind the cowards' castle, to walk straight out that door and make that allegation about Mr McCarrey. He should not sit there in his stupid, inane way and make that sort of statement because he knows it is not true.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Donovan): Order! That is exactly why I drew attention to the implications by the Leader of the Opposition earlier. We might progress much further and maintain some order in the debate if members on my left and my right agreed to leave people who do not belong to this place out of this debate in so far as those sorts of implications and allegations are concerned.

Mr MacKINNON: It distresses me at times that the Leader of the House comes into this place and makes such inane comments, which he knows have no foundation whatsoever, about a man, Mr McCarrey, who served both former Labor Governments, the current Labor Government and our Government with some distinction. I believe he was a public servant of the first order, a man of principle and one who gave the right sort of advice without fear or favour of the political outcome. That is really the point I wanted to make today.

Mr Pearce: The point is, political appointments can give good service. We don't dispute that.

Mr MacKINNON: They can give the Government good service, that is why the Government appoints them. I want to point to the problems with political appointments, because we have seen in the current Royal Commission what is likely to happen as a consequence of the deliberate appointment of those people. What we are seeing and what we have seen in Western Australia is an attempt to deliberately avoid people like Mr McCarrey. I suppose members opposite are going to say next that Stuart Hohnen was a political appointment.

Mr Pearce: Mr McCarrey certainly was.

Mr MacKINNON: People like Mr McCarrey and Mr Hohnen are career public servants who serve the State of Western Australia in a very objective way. We have seen in the Royal Commission, in evidence from Mr Michael Naylor, that this Government has set out deliberately to avoid those public servants, to work around those people, firstly because they did not trust them and, secondly, because they wanted people who were their apparatchiki and friends to be able to provide them with the advice they wanted to hear, not what they did not want to hear. In addition to that, they put people on the public payroll for several other reasons; firstly, to pay them off. They were their mates and so they paid them off along the way. Secondly, they put people on the public payroll to prepare some of them for their road into this Parliament, as a stepping stone. Government members are very silent now. Thirdly, they put people on the public payroll so that they could then provide funding support to the ALP, as Mr Naylor in his evidence has quite correctly indicated, using the taxpayer as a funding agent for the ALP. Fourthly, and worst of all, they put on the public payroll people who would intimidate the public servants and beat them into submission. Those are the reasons - the pay off, the preparation, the support of the Labor Party, and the intimidation.

Mr Pearce: Why don't you walk out that door and put some names to those claims?

Mr MacKINNON: I will give them. It was highlighted by Mr Michael Naylor. I will quote it for members. It has been published in *The West Australian*, and we have the transcripts. This is what Mr Michael Naylor said. He was asked by Mr Templeman -

What was the arrangement in your particular case?

Mr Naylor replied -

I was approached some time after March 1983 -

The election was in February 1983, was it not? Mr Naylor's answer continues -

- by somebody in the Labor Party, -

He could not actually recall who. I think if someone had asked me for 10 per cent of my salary I would have remembered who it was. Mr Naylor's answer continues -

- with an arrangement whereby 10 per cent of my salary would be deducted and paid to the Labor Party directly.

Mr Strickland: Was that not after the big pay rise?

Mr MacKINNON: I will come to that in a moment; it was after a significant pay rise. Mr Templeman later asked Mr Naylor -

For how long did you suffer that deduction of income?

Mr Naylor replied -

I think I wrote to the bank to cease that deduction some time, I think, in January 1989 or thereabouts.

For six years the taxpayers were funding directly the activities of the Australian Labor Party and the Government of this State.

Several members interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: And, as the member for Scarborough indicated, that was after Mr Naylor was given a significant salary increase.

Mr Pearce: Because he had a more important job.

Mr MacKINNON: He had a more important job - it was to protect Brian Burke's back. That raises some very important questions. Over a year ago I made a speech to the Royal Australian Institute of Public Administration, but some of the comments I made during that speech are as relevant today as they were then. In light of the statement made by Mr Naylor to the Royal Commission I want to make some comments about the politicisation of the Public Service, because it will be a very significant area of difference between the current Government and our party in Government.

Mr Pearce: That is what Mr Greiner said when he was in Opposition, but when he was in Government he appointed his wife, of all people, to a Government post. "No political appointments," said Mr Greiner!

Several members interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: The comments I made then are very relevant, and let me say for the record - because I am on the public record as saying - that I think Mr Greiner made a mistake in allowing the Government to appoint his wife to that position. Secondly, I will not appoint my wife even if she wants to be appointed - and she does not.

I said previously that public administration in Western Australia is a mess. I said that was highlighted by the fiddles. It was riddled with bias and it was fear driven. The worst of it was that the public have severe doubts about the Government's integrity. I said that the responsibility rested at the top - not at the top of the Public Service but at the top of the Administration, the Government. That is the problem with political appointments. We now have a public sector that is racked with a morale problem; it has been heavily politicised and, as we have seen through the operations of the Royal Commission, that has led to serious errors in judgment and decision making on behalf of the people whom the Government should protect; that is, the taxpayers of Western Australia.

I also indicated previously that the problem began a little earlier. Mr Michael Naylor stated in evidence that it began in March 1983. The person to whom I refer was appointed a little after that. I repeat my comments made 12 months ago: The process began in 1983 when Brian Burke appointed the State President of the Labor Party, Mr Tom Butler, to the newly created position of industrial relations adviser to the Premier. In our system of public administration, the Minister for Industrial Relations was not only the Premier's adviser but also his executive officer in that field. He had an entire department to help him do the job. It is worth noting that Mr Butler's job was never advertised; no-one else had the opportunity to compete for it, and when he was elected to Parliament in 1986 the position was abandoned. It would be interesting to know whether Mr Butler made a contribution to the Australian Labor Party of 10 per cent of his salary. I went on to say that that was the first blatant sign that party administration was to be used for the good of the party, and that was a massive departure from the principles of democratic government. We have witnessed a litany of those sorts of appointments and effects. The effect is a pay off for people such as Mr Butler to provide a preparation for entry to Parliament. In his case he did enter Parliament. The effect is support for the ALP, and intimidation of the public sector. All of those things are evident in so many appointments.

Mr Kobelke interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: I will come to the member for Nollamara in a moment. My earlier comments were that large numbers of public servants were affected by those appointments, including many Labor voters who were disillusioned and despairing not only about their own careers but also about the worth of the Public Service. Many of them have left the service - we all know that. Others are still in the service but have had the horrifying experience of finding applications for Labor Party membership in the mail when applying for promotions. Whether members believe it or not, that did happen. I had a man of 54 years of age in my office. He was a career public servant of 25 years. He was in tears because when he applied for a position, the following day he received in the mail an application for membership to the ALP. He refused to join and was passed over for the position. That is exactly what I mean by intimidation. We know it happened and continues to happen. We must eliminate that process if we are to have a Government of honesty and integrity in this State, and if we are to have a public sector that is able to do its job.

Two other aspects of the politicisation process are important. First, the community no longer has any faith in dealing with Government agencies. People do not feel they can go to a Government agency and be open and honest in their dealings with it for fear of political reprisals and intimidation. Second, as a result, the growing tendency is for people to seek a career in the Public Service as a path into Parliament. That is very debilitating; it is very destructive of the public sector process. A major area of concern to the Opposition is the politicisation of the Public Service, not only because of the benefits it gives to people within the ALP - those now resident in this House - and not because of the funds that went to the Labor Party. We are concerned for the hundreds of Western Australians who are dedicated public servants and who feel as though their career opportunities have been shot down in flames. They also feel that their commitment to the professionalism of the Public Service over the years has been misplaced - especially when they see the Public Service being prostituted by members opposite.

I refer now to the massive way the abuse of politicisation has been put to use by Government members as they parachute people into Parliament. I refer to the sad track record of abuse of the public sector. In most cases, when we seek information from the public sector, the record does not exist officially. The current Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the member for Kenwick, was a ministerial adviser to the former Minister for Industrial Relations. She is now a member of Parliament; she is a Minister. All of the members who were recently promoted to Cabinet were at one time advisers to the Government. They are now Ministers and are probably employing their own advisers. The member for Fremantle, who is now a Minister, was previously an adviser to the former Minister for Industrial Relations. He also served on the Government Employees Superannuation Board.

Mr Marlborough: Would you agree that he was one of the finest industrial advisers in Australia and was recognised as such?

Mr MacKINNON: He was one of the finest industrial thugs - that is the advice I have received.

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr KOBELKE: That comment was most unparliamentary. I ask that it be withdrawn.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Donovan): That is a valid point of order. Given that Standing Order No 131 applies to members rather than non-members, the Leader of the Opposition might say that he was referring to someone at a time when he was not a member of this place. The impact, however, lies upon the fact that the person is now a member of this place. I ask the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw his comment.

Mr MacKINNON: I withdraw.

Debate Resumed

Mr MacKINNON: I was explaining to the House what people have indicated to me. Nonetheless, nothing can be taken from the point that the Minister was on the public payroll. He was being employed as part of the ALP's abuse of the public purse in preparing people for Parliament.

The member for Cockburn was also previously in the union movement. He was the Assistant Secretary of the Builders Labourers Federation. He went on to be Brian Burke's adviser on minerals and energy.

Mr Clarko: Brian Burke also tried to parachute him into the City of Stirling and gave him the job of head of the depot.

Mr MacKINNON: I was not aware of that. However, he is now a member of Parliament and he is aspiring to a Cabinet position. He was prepared for Parliament at the expense of the taxpayer.

The member for Peel could not get his own job. He had to be appointed to former Premier Burke's office - and I cannot refer to what he is now. That person was a supporter of Mr Burke. He was appointed also to the staff of the former Premier and Cabinet and supported again by the taxpayers on his way to Parliament. He might laugh and think that this is funny, but thousands of people outside this place do not have a job and they think that the situation stinks. They think that Government members have abused the public purse in order to line their own pockets. That is a public disgrace. Mr Tom Butler, the former State President of the ALP was appointed to staff. The names are interesting. I bet that almost every person I have mentioned is a member of the group of 12 - about which I am unable to talk.

The group includes the member for Marangaroo who was appointed as the executive officer to the former Cabinet Secretary, Terry Burke, and was appointed by Brian Burke. Surprise, surprise; the member for Nollamara is on the list as well! He was also involved with jobs for the boys, as was the Minister for Community Services. How many are on this list? We have the member for Kenwick, the member for Fremantle, the member for Cockburn, the member for Peel, Hon Tom Butler, the member for Marangaroo and the member for Belmont.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Donovan): Order! It is very difficult to defend the rights of the House and the right of any member in this place to speak and to be heard when interjections such as those from the member for Peel continuously prevent the member on his

feet from being heard by the Hansard reporter much less the Chair. As the Speaker has said often in this place, from time to time it may be that members do not like what is being said; nevertheless, the right of the member to speak, provided he or she is within the Standing Orders and respects the privileges of the House, must be maintained.

Mr MacKINNON: Clearly, members opposite have been involved in the systematic plundering of the public purse to parachute members of their political party into the Parliament - nothing more, nothing less! That continues to be the case. We will probably see several candidates at the next election who have been funded into that position by the public purse.

I have not mentioned people such as Stephen Smith, who was the State Secretary of the ALP and currently works for the Federal Treasurer; or Graham Hawkes, a former ALP candidate; or Phil Vincent, also a former ALP candidate; or John Harman, a former Speaker in this place; or Ron Davies, a former Leader of the Opposition; or Mr Len Brush, who was an endorsed ALP candidate. I could go on with the extensive list - it is as long as my arm - of those involved with the extensive plundering of the public purse. I call for that to stop. I hope that during the debate on the Supply Bill every person on that list who is a member of this House will speak. I hope the members for Marangaroo, Peel and Nollamara will indicate that not one cent of their salaries was sequestered to the ALP when working in those roles.

Mr Kobelke: I worked for the ALP for many years and obviously gave money; you would not expect me not to give money. However, there were no payroll deductions.

Mr MacKINNON: Clearly, each one of those people was contributing taxpayers' funds to the ALP as a consequence of the benefits they received from the ALP.

Mr Kobelke: That is gross misrepresentation.

Mr MacKINNON: That is a scandal of the first order, and it will stop when we become the Government.

Mr Kobelke interjected.

Point of Order

Mr BLAIKIE: I refer again to the provision in Standing Orders which state that the Chair should provide protection for the member making a speech. I seek your protection, Mr Acting Speaker.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Firstly, the member on his feet did not seek the protection of the Chair.

Mr BLAIKIE: I have.

The ACTING SPEAKER: It is not for the member to seek protection on behalf of another member. The member speaking can do that himself. As I said previously, members from either side of the House may not like what is said, and this applies to interjections as well as to speeches.

Debate Resumed

Mr MacKINNON: Finally, I give positive commitments that that sort of public plunder will stop on our return to Government. I make six commitments on the parliamentary record which are the principles which will guide our party in Government to ensure that this sort of thing never happens again.

Mr D.L. Smith: You will not be the Premier.

Mr MacKINNON: If I were the Minister I would not be interjecting too loudly; he has a few things coming to him very soon.

The six guidelines and commitments to the Public Service are as follows: I will -

Ensure that ex-Ministers will be banned from obtaining any Government work or contracts for at least 12 months after leaving State Parliament.

Therefore, we will not have the situation of jobs for the boys, political handouts or political favours for friends along the way.

Mr Kobelke: Not for 12 months?

Mr MacKINNON: That is correct. The guidelines continue -

End the practice of political parties requesting, or expecting in any way, that people on the Government payroll hand over any proportion of their pay for political purposes.

Mr Kobelke: It is a free society.

Mr MacKINNON: We will ensure that this is not done as a condition of employment. Mr Naylor made it clear that such a condition was laid down as a part of his employment, as did others. The guidelines continue -

End the practice of the Public Service being used as a recruiting and training ground for future members of Parliament as it was openly used by Labor for the appointment of advisers - now MPs and Ministers . . .

I have named the eight current members involved in this practice. I will not recruit political supporters as a staging post along the way to political positions. We have undertaken to amend the legislation so that if people stand down from the public sector or the Police Force to contest an election, as Paul Filing did during a Federal election, we will allow them to return to a job. We will not discriminate on the grounds of politics as members opposite did in the case to which I refer. That is the difference. The guidelines conclude -

Restore appointments and promotions based on merit including performance, qualifications and experience.

Ensure that while the positions of no bona fide civil servants will be threatened, all clearly identified ALP appointees will be terminated.

Undertake not to appoint people, nor encourage their appointment, because of any political connections or sympathies.

The public sector in this State has never been in a worse position regarding morale and a lack of support. This will change under a Government I lead following the guidelines outlined today. It is little wonder that the members for Peel, Marangaroo and Nollamara become angry when we raise these matters. They have come into the Parliament courtesy of the taxpayer, whose rights they now profess to protect. I abhor people who use these practices and it will certainly stop when we become the Government.

MR COWAN (Merredin - Leader of the National Party) [3.17 pm]: I refer firstly to a longstanding promise made by this Government in relation to accountability. In the second reading speech of the Supply Bill the Treasurer made reference to accountability; she said -

As I said last year, the Supply Bill reflects the Government's commitment to the Westminster system of parliamentary control of the public purse and the associated accountabilities. It does so in clearly specifying the purposes for which expenditure can be made. In particular, clause 4 limits to two categories the purposes for which these moneys may be issued and applied.

I have looked at the Supply Bills for the last four years and the terminology used in the provisions of the Bill is no different this year from those of previous years. There has been quite a degree of agitation, particularly by the National Party, for the Government to provide greater accountability with the expenditure of public moneys. For example, we sought the application of accountability practices in two specific areas: Firstly, and I have dealt with this before, Parliament should approve guarantees given by the Government. This would apply to certain guarantees over a specified figure; I would not for one moment suggest that we should come to the Parliament at the time of issue of every guarantee if it involved only \$200 000, or a minimum figure of that nature. If the Government were contemplating providing a guarantee over a specified sum - and \$5 million would be an acceptable figure - legislative approval must be granted by Parliament for the appropriation of money before the guarantee is granted. That commitment was given by the Government some 18 months ago, and it has not been put into practice.

Mr Pearce: I do not think any guarantees have been given for that sum. I will check on that, but I think that is the case.

Mr COWAN: I hope the Leader of the House is right.

The National Party also sought an undertaking from the Government for a specific category of appropriation and the first example that comes to mind is the repayments for some of the Government's failed business dealings. We were told last year that there would be a special appropriation Bill for that purpose, but those repayments were included in the general Budget appropriations. The Supply Bill is an appropriate time to remind the Government that it gave a commitment, in its pursuit of greater accountability, to provide separate legislation at the time of the guarantee, and I have suggested that a reasonable guarantee figure would be \$5 million. In addition the Government made a commitment that appropriation funds for special circumstances - such as the repayment of \$55 million per annum over five years - would be part of separate legislation. In other words, the money would be appropriated in a completely separate Bill.

Mr Pearce: It is being prepared again this year.

Mr COWAN: I hope so, because the National Party would view that matter very seriously if it found the appropriation of those moneys included in the general Budget Bills and not part of a separate package. It might be fitting to discuss the Government's policy of corporatisation and how that relates to accountability during the course of the Appropriation Bill rather than during the Supply Bill debate, but that matter deserves to be raised now because it will be too late when we are presented with the appropriations. Where a body through corporatisation has no appropriation of Government funds it cannot be debated during the new Estimates Committee system which was established last year, so that reduces the accountability of the Executive to this Parliament.

Mr Pearce: It could not have been debated during a Committee of the Whole House either, and that was picked up as a weakness of the arrangement.

Mr COWAN: The best example was the lack of any appropriation for the Water Authority.

Mr Pearce: No appropriation is made to the Main Roads Department either. I noticed that when I was Minister for Transport. A range of things has prevented members from raising those matters during either the Committee stage or in the full House in the past, but I accept that these things ought to be open to scrutiny.

Mr COWAN: I am encouraged by the response from the Leader of the House. I would like the Estimates Committee system to work as efficiently as possible; that would mean ensuring greater accountability through that system. There must be an appropriation - even if it is a token appropriation - so that a Committee of the Whole House has the opportunity to discuss in detail the operations of any Government agency or corporatised body. Given the somewhat volatile position of the State Government Insurance Commission in the process of its corporatisation it would have been appropriate for the Parliament, during the appropriations debate, to be given the opportunity to debate its finances. The Government must do more than talk about accountability in the Supply Bill, it must act.

I have made three suggestions: The first is that separate legislation should be introduced to this Parliament when the Government is contemplating issuing a guarantee in excess of \$5 million; secondly, the Government must introduce as a separate Bill any appropriation for moneys which relates to its failed business dealings; and, thirdly, some mechanism must be put in place which allows the Estimates Committee to debate some of those Government agencies which do not have any appropriation and are excluded from debate during the Committee stage, as well as any body which the Government intends to corporatise. One other issue which should be raised during debate on the Supply Bill is the anticipated Budget shortfall of \$80 million, which the Premier mentioned in the second reading speech. The Premier stated that rail receipts would have an estimated shortfall of \$22 million. I was surprised to hear that because last year we had a reasonably good grain harvest and the tonnage of grain to be transported would have been one of the highest on record. Some of that loss might have occurred in the latter part of the year when Westrail normally would expect reasonable receipts for fertiliser transport, but that did not occur because farmers' budgets precluded their purchasing fertiliser in advance and they had to wait until the last moment. Westrail's philosophy is to withdraw many of its services, and the fertiliser transport service is one service which has been reduced. The transport of wool is yet another, and consequently Westrail has been reduced to being a transporter of bulk commodities. It transports wheat, minerals such as mineral sands, alumina, coal, and woodchips. Basically, Westrail's \$22 million loss of estimated revenue will be brought

about by its own policies or by policies which have been inflicted upon it by this Government. The Government should look at that estimated shortfall to see whether it could give Westrail the capacity to increase its volume of freight tonnage, rather than taking steps which reduce it. That is what has occurred with the traffic of minor bulks, which is the way in which fertiliser and gypsum is categorised.

Next Friday the Premiers' Conference will commence and I am astounded to learn that one of the main thrusts of the Premier's program at the conference will be to seek an additional \$25 million from the Commonwealth for the purpose of offering redundancy payments to members of the Public Service who may wish to retire early, thereby giving the Government the opportunity to reduce the number of people employed in the public sector. This Government is continuing to adopt the double standard which it has adopted in the past. How can the Government in one week offer to meet a pay rise for the public sector - even before the umpire has made a decision - and, at the same time, ask the Commonwealth for more funds in order to reduce the number of people employed in the public sector? That is certainly a double standard and it does not inspire any great confidence in the ability of the Premier to argue a case for Western Australia at the Premiers' Conference. God help us all if that is the main theme the Premier adopts at the Premiers' Conference.

This financial year began with some expectation of cooperation between the Commonwealth and the States to improve the relations between the two and to clearly define areas of funding responsibility. The Premier has announced that the State Government will vigorously attack any attempt by the Commonwealth to encroach on States' rights and that the State will seek to gain greater responsibility in funding rather than relying on funding which formally comes to the State via either general purpose grants, Commonwealth-State agreements or any other special assistance the Commonwealth may provide. However, instead of that occurring we are now following the same line that the Commonwealth has followed and the practices which have been pursued in the past where the Commonwealth sends us an offer on the day before the Premiers' Conference and the State Premiers examine the offer and either reject or accept it. At the same time, Western Australia is submitting an ambit claim rather than looking at the real issues which should be debated at the Premiers' Conference. I cannot see any great value in the Western Australian Government signalling beforehand that it is ready to play the same game that has been played between the Commonwealth and the States for years to the disadvantage of the States. It is a continuation of the Commonwealth's stranglehold, through its control of the purse strings, over what the State does. All the Premier has signalled by stating her intention to seek \$25 million from the Commonwealth to provide redundancy packages for those people who want to retire from the public sector is that she is continuing to play that game rather than adopting a completely fresh approach to the matter of Commonwealth-State funding. That disappoints me, particularly when the Commonwealth has said that it wants to examine the matter of Commonwealth-State funding.

Those areas of duplication could be eliminated. However, instead of that happening the Premier is seeking a greater appropriation of funds for the purpose I have mentioned. At the same time, the Government has already decided to pay the additional \$12 per week to members of the public sector. One would not need to be a Rhodes scholar to know the response from the Treasurer or the Prime Minister when the Premier puts in her submission for the additional \$25 million. They will probably respond by asking why the State Government has agreed to pay the extra \$12 before the Industrial Relations Commission has even had the opportunity to consider that proposal. Perhaps the Treasurer, who will undoubtedly respond to the Supply debate, would like to explain how she intends to mount any argument that will find favour with the people who dispense the money given that she has already agreed to increase the total cost of the public sector by almost double the amount she is seeking to provide as redundancy payments.

Mr Pearce: Do you want us to take away the wheat guarantee?

Mr COWAN: I would like to see the substance of the guarantee. There has been a lot of talk about it but I have not seen any substance to it.

Mr Pearce: It is not going to be paid -

Mr COWAN: We know that.

Mr Pearce: You did not let me finish. It will not be paid until after the sale of the wheat. I did not say it was not going to be paid at all.

Mr COWAN: For that reason the guaranteed minimum price will prove to be of no value at all.

Mr Pearce: The point that you are making about the Public Service was made in *The West Australian* editorial this morning. It also criticised us for not going to the Commonwealth even though the Commonwealth Government has made the same agreement with the unions. *The West Australian* also criticised the Government for adopting its approach to the guaranteed price which I thought you supported.

Mr COWAN: The Opposition does support a guaranteed minimum price but the Government has not effectively supported the same guaranteed minimum price that the Opposition would support. We would put a specific date on the application of a guaranteed minimum price.

Mr Pearce: You would be more than criticised by *The West Australian*.

Mr COWAN: Yes, we would.

Mr Pearce: We are being criticised by *The West Australian* for that. We should be making the right decisions for Western Australians and we should expect that the Commonwealth should give us a fair share of the revenues, which it is not doing.

Mr COWAN: I agree with the Leader of the House's last statement.

Mr Pearce: The Premier is saying we are making the decisions for Western Australians and we will not have the Commonwealth telling us what we should be doing here. Also, we should be getting our fair share.

Mr COWAN: I have still not heard one word from the Leader of the House that indicates to me that the Premier will be able to successfully defend the Government's actions in granting the \$12 increase while at the same time seeking an additional \$25 million from the Commonwealth. I would be delighted to defend a guaranteed minimum price for wheat if it existed; however, a guaranteed minimum price payable only after the pool has been realised will be of no benefit to wheat growers. If that is the Government's intention it will achieve absolutely nothing. In fact, the Government will be completely negating the undertaking given by the Premier on the steps of Parliament House when she said she would provide a guaranteed minimum price for wheat. People know what a guaranteed minimum price means if it is applied under the terms of the old Wheat Marketing Act; that is, a grower is paid a particular price within a specified time. Unless the Government guarantees a minimum price by a specified date, effectively it has not met its undertaking.

Mr Pearce: The wheat sold in this year's crop will be eligible for the guaranteed minimum price, but it is a question of when the farmers will receive the money.

Mr COWAN: That is right. I sincerely hope that there are some wheat growers left by the time the pool is realised and the guarantee, if it has to be exercised, is paid. I am very confident that no money will be paid out. Even though the international grain price has decreased slightly in the past week and a half it has not decreased too much and there is still some margin above the \$150. The guaranteed minimum price will not have to be exercised unless the Australian Wheat Board decides that it will maintain, as a priority, retention of its market share and sells grain early in the piece. If it does that, and takes current market values, it may well be that the guarantee will have to be exercised. It will be of no value if the growers are not paid the guaranteed minimum price until the pool is realised in 1993 or 1994. It will not relieve the current situation and I regret to say that the Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation is not performing very well. The corporation has received a large number of applications and apparently it is having difficulty in processing them to the extent that the length of time required to process an application is 40 days or more. Additional staff have been appointed and the processing of applications may have been expedited to some extent.

The critical issue is not the long delay in processing applications, but the criterion used by the corporation to reach a decision. I refer to the criterion of eligibility which, in general terms, is laid down in the Commonwealth-State agreement which established the rural adjustment scheme. The interpretation of the criterion of eligibility rests very much with the

States and its instrumentalities. In its interpretation the Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation has been so stringent that the number of people who are eligible for assistance under part A of its lending program is not very large. Part B does not exist at the moment and I will refer to that shortly. A large number of people are eligible for assistance under part C which offers assistance to people who want to get out of farming. One would have thought that the corporation would be more interested in keeping people in farming, but that has not been the case. It is time consideration was given to the corporation's interpretation of eligibility which often rules applicants ineligible for any form of assistance.

The Government's commitment to the wheat industry of a guaranteed minimum price has proved to be somewhat hollow because it will not be exercised until the realisation of the pool which will be two or three years down the track. The Government could redeem itself by doing something positive about providing funds for the agricultural community, including rural small business. Firstly, it could extend the lending facility, through RAFCOR, to small rural business which is not permitted now and which is essential. Secondly, it could offer to put up money for part B of the Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation's lending program; that is, the ability of the corporation to provide funds for carry-on purposes. To date the Government has not made a commitment in this area. Even if the Government were to make a start and were to ascertain how many applications it would receive it would be of some assistance. If the Government does not take that action within the next week or so many farmers will not plant a crop this year and if they do they certainly will not be planting to their maximum potential. It will mean a decline in the amount of money that comes into the Western Australian economy through agriculture.

If the Government does not honour the guaranteed minimum price within the year the crop is grown at least it can indicate very clearly to its counterparts in Canberra that it is prepared to match any commitment the Federal Government makes to part B of RAFCOR's lending program and put up some money to see how quickly applications will be received. In addition, the Government will have to do something to expedite the processing of applications because farmers cannot afford to wait 40 days for a decision to be made. If the money was made available it would be appropriate for those making the decisions to rely on information from the banks. Every one of those people who are in trouble is partly funded by a trading bank and if the books of a client have been examined by the bank surely its recommendation that he be eligible for funding through part B of RAFCOR's lending program should be sufficient, provided the corporation has priority over the return of that funding from the income from the product grown. Until the Government does something about making those funds available rural Western Australia will suffer and will certainly regard this Government as one of hollow promises.

MR COURT (Nedlands) [3.47 pm]: First I will refer to the question of accountability alluded to by the Leader of the National Party at the commencement of his speech. My concern relates to the questions I have been asking in this House about the fees which have been paid to Whitlam Turnbull Investment Bank and Turnbull and Partners. In the past few years the Opposition has been asking questions about the consultancy fees these firms have been paid and in dribs and drabs we are starting to get some of the information from the Government. The key area in which these firms have been working involves the State Government Insurance Commission and the Opposition is continually running into a brick wall in relation to the questions it has been asking. In answer to question on notice 102 I was advised -

Turnbull and Partners - formerly Whitlam Turnbull - have been retained by the SGIC on an as-required basis to give advice to the board. The remuneration for this consultancy is based on the expertise and advice provided. It would disadvantage the SGIC and be detrimental to its relationships with all consultants if the information or remuneration was released publicly.

It is rather strange that the Opposition has been given information about some of the consultancy work this firm has undertaken for WA Government Holdings Ltd and the Department of Resources Development, but in relation to the SGIC it has failed to obtain any information. In view of this Government's commitment to accountability the information should be readily available to this Parliament. The firm has done a great deal of work for the Government. It has been called on to advise the SGIC about the Bell Group investments. During 1989 it was working on the Bell Group share indemnity issue and I do not know

whether that is continuing. In late 1988 and early 1989 it was working on the Petrochemical Industries Ltd project, and again I do not know whether that work is continuing. It assisted in negotiations with the National Australia Bank and the liquidator of Rothwells Ltd in respect of the Government's guarantee of \$150 million in 1988-89.

As outlined later in answer to that question, the firm was working for WA Government Holdings, the Department of Resources Development and the Deputy Premier's office. All in all, the organisation did a considerable amount of work for the State Government one way or another. We know that a former Labor Premier of New South Wales, Mr Wran, was one of the people involved in those discussions - not that I hold against him the fact that he was a former Labor Premier. Members of this House should be told the amounts of the fees paid to that organisation, particularly in relation to its SGIC deals. The Government tells us that it wishes to start restructuring the way in which the SGIO and the SGIC operate. We will certainly find it difficult to debate these sorts of issues when the most basic information, such as that relating to fees paid, is unavailable. I would like to think that the Government will become a little freer in providing that sort of information. I do not see why it would disadvantage the SGIC if the fees it is paying those consultants became known. As taxpayers' funds are involved, it is proper that that information be made available.

The second matter relates to the recent New South Wales election. If this Government thinks that it can gain some comfort from the result of that election it should think again. One of the things that came out of that election is the fact that the deep economic recession in which Australia finds itself has inflicted huge pain and suffering on people in the community. I would not say that we have a secure job, but we do receive a pay cheque, so it is often hard for us to understand the dilemma of the hundreds of thousands of people in this State and other parts of Australia who do not receive a pay cheque. It is important that members realise that during the 1980s the Government of this State received record levels of revenue from a broad cross section of taxpaying industries, and from mining royalties and the like which were extremely strong. The mining and agricultural sectors, the base of our economy until recently, were major contributors to the State's coffers. Unfortunately, during those buoyant times the Government squandered its opportunity to reduce both taxes and charges and to provide a better level of Government services. We all know that the Government has lost about \$1 billion as a result of what has become known as the "WA Inc fiasco". We are paying dearly for that.

When one looks at the taxes and charges in this State and the level of Government services one must point out that it is critical that people realise we have left that buoyant period and the Government has squandered its opportunities. The real cost of WA Inc will be felt not only now, but also in years to come because of the huge cutbacks the State is experiencing in the provision of services and in maintenance and capital works expenditure programs on education, health and the like. The community is paying dearly! I mentioned a couple of weeks ago in this place that a false perception has been created that the ALP is a party that exists to assist the underprivileged and disadvantaged people in our community. That perception has been shattered in recent years. We now see Labor Governments around Australia, particularly the one in this State, creating a new generation of disadvantaged people. If one looks at what is worrying voters, one finds that they are watching their jobs carefully. They are also watching the standard of Government services they took for granted previously and the cutbacks that are coming through.

Mr Thomas: What about what happened in New South Wales?

Mr COURT: The member for Cockburn should not be too smug about what happened in New South Wales. The burden of taxes and charges is being felt strongly in this State. Last year the Premier made a rather flippant comment when she increased taxes and charges that the increase was only equivalent to the cost of a hamburger each week. I think she probably regrets making that comment, because during the past decade the level of taxes and charges in this State has increased by about \$500 million in real terms. That works out to about \$320 per person in real terms, or about a 40 per cent increase in taxes and charges. That amount could be the difference between economic survival and poverty for many people. I know that some dispute the figures, but it is said that about 200 000 people in this State are living in poverty. If one compares the taxes and charged paid in Western Australia with those paid in Queensland, for example, one finds that we pay 20 per cent more across the board.

Mr Thomas: That is mainly because of energy costs.

Mr COURT: If the member for Cockburn is looking at the comparison between taxes and charges here and in Queensland in relation to energy costs he is talking about a 40 per cent difference.

Mr Thomas: They have certain natural advantages. We are seeking to do something about this, which a Liberal Government never did.

Mr COURT: The member says they have natural advantages, but they have coal and we have coal, and we have much more gas than they have.

Mr Thomas: It is a lot more expensive.

Mr COURT: If the member for Cockburn wishes to compare the natural energy advantages of Western Australia with those of any other State he will find that we come out miles in front in terms of natural resources. Another interesting figure was released by EPAC in what it called "the inequality index" in which it looked at the gap between the richest and the poorest; that is, between the bottom 10 per cent and the top 10 per cent. It found that Western Australia had the largest gap between those two groups. That poverty gap will only be reversed if the State Government takes the initiative and brings down taxes and charges. I am talking about a freeze on taxes and charges. This should be quite possible because of the low level of inflation. In particular there should be real reductions in energy costs, if we are to start breaking down the difference between costs in this State and other States.

Mr Thomas: A deal has just been done to put a coal fired power station into production, which is an astounding move in that direction.

Mr COURT: A deal has been done on a coal fired power station, but we have to see cuts coming through to consumers. Energy prices in this State are 40 per cent higher than the Australian average and I hope this Government has done some sort of deal to bring down those charges.

Mr Thomas: The contracts signed by the Liberal Government in the 1980s resulted in our having the most expensive coal in the world. We have done something about that.

Mr COURT: What nonsense!. If the member wants an argument about coal contracts he should say why the Labor Government signed additional coal contracts at higher prices only a year ago. Because it was a part of the WA Inc scheme! The Government was in a situation where it had to try to put some value into that coal company. Members opposite have the nerve to come into this House and talk about the coal contract!

[Leave granted for speech to be continued.]

Debate thus adjourned.

[Continued on p 2194.]

The SPEAKER: Order! In order to enable a Conference of Managers to take place regarding the State Supply Commission Bill 1989, I shall leave the Chair until the ringing of the bells.

Sitting suspended from 4.00 to 7.30 pm

STATE SUPPLY COMMISSION BILL 1989

Conference of Managers Report

MR MCGINTY (Fremantle - Minister for Services) [7.31 pm]: I have to report that the managers appointed by the Assembly met the managers appointed by the Council and wish to report in the following terms -

The matter referred to the conference of managers was the disagreement by the Legislative Assembly to the amendment made to clause 7 of the Bill by the Legislative Council.

The Council's amendment was as follows:

Page 4, line 13 - To insert after "shall be" the following:

(a) published in the *Gazette* and laid before each House within 6 sitting

days of its being published if Parliament is then in session or within 6 sitting days of the commencement of the next ensuing session; and

(b)

The conference has agreed that the amendment should be varied as follows -

Page 4, line 13 - To insert after "shall be" the following -

(a) published in the *Gazette* within 28 days and laid before each House within 12 sitting days of its being published if Parliament is then in session or within 12 sitting days of the commencement of the next ensuing session; and

(b) "

The report of the conference of managers is signed by the four managers from this House, the member for Cottesloe, the member for Nedlands, the Deputy Premier and me. I move -

That the report be adopted.

In so doing I place on record one or two views which will hopefully bring this Bill, which has been before the Parliament for a long time, to an end and we will see the WA Supply Commission operating in this State in the very near future. The issue of difference between this House and the Legislative Council basically revolved around the question of the degree of accountability which ought to be applied in cases of ministerial direction to a Government agency. In this case we have a Government agency responsible for the expenditure of approximately \$1.5 billion per year, and in light of that it was thought appropriate by the conference of managers to ensure a higher degree of accountability than was generally accepted to be the case in respect of other legislation which contains provisions for ministerial direction.

Following the report of the Burt Commission on Accountability, this Parliament amended most of its Acts which contained provision for ministerial direction to contain a provision which stated that the necessary degree of accountability was met by the direction of the Minister to the relevant authority being committed to writing and published in the annual report of that agency. The view was that publication was sufficient accountability in the general case. On this occasion, however, we have moved to a greater degree of accountability which requires publication in the *Government Gazette* within 28 days of the direction being made, and the matter then to be reported to each House of this Parliament within a further 12 sitting days, which is, in round terms, a period of one month.

This is the compromise reached between the two Houses, and in those circumstances I am pleased to record the cooperative approach which was adopted by the conference of managers, which I am told is not necessarily the norm. As this was the only impediment to this Bill's succeeding in both Houses, it was thought desirable that the State Supply Commission Bill should come into operation. I am happy to report this agreement to the House in the hope that it will see the Bill passed and finally come into operation.

MR C.J. BARNETT (Cottesloe) [7.37 pm]: I support the report of the conference of managers. The Opposition parties have consistently supported the formation of the State Supply Commission, and indeed this was the final obstacle to be overcome. I am pleased that it has been overcome. I believe the State Supply Commission offers the prospect of greater efficiency in Government purchasing. It offers the prospect of local firms being able to get a greater share of the \$1.5 billion of State Government purchasing.

The Opposition in the upper House had moved that a more stringent accountability provision be included in this Bill. The original provision was that it would be sufficient for ministerial directions to be reported in the annual report. As it is common for annual reports to be delivered to this House quite late, and indeed occasions involving 12 months or more delay are not rare, it would be quite possible for a ministerial direction to be given but not reach the public domain for two years. It was important, therefore, to include this requirement in the Bill. Because we are talking about a very large amount of Government purchasing - \$1.5 billion - it is important that not only the activities of the Supply Commission, but also any ministerial directives, be open to parliamentary and public scrutiny.

The Burt Commission on Accountability emphasised the need for accountability and made a

number of comments about ministerial directions. What we have ended up with today is consistent with what was implied by the Burt commission. Furthermore, a recent report on the SGIO recommended that there should be a very strict reporting requirement on ministerial directions.

I commend the Government members of the conference of managers for their willingness to compromise and reach a middle ground. We have a very desirable result. We are all pleased that the State Supply Commission Bill will now proceed and the commission will be formed. In closing, I acknowledge my appreciation of the efforts of Hon Bob Pike, my upper House colleague. He put a large amount of work into this, and he has contributed to an improved piece of legislation. My only regret is that I had a terrific Press release ready to go and I cannot release it!

Question put and passed, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION - BY THE MEMBER FOR MARANGAROO

Royal Commissioners - Subpoena

MR CUNNINGHAM (Marangaroo) [7.39 pm] - by leave: It has been suggested in the media, and directly to me by many representatives, that I and perhaps others were involved in a plan to induce a Royal Commission investigator to issue a summons on me at Parliament House so that the Royal Commission could be in contempt of this House. In short, it has been suggested to me that the Royal Commission was set up. Indeed, it was suggested directly to me by one media representative that the Royal Commission was of the view that it had been set up. However, I hasten to note that this view has not been expressed by the commissioners, to the best of my knowledge. I have had the opportunity to read the transcript of the explanation given to the commissioners by the investigating officer concerned and I note that none of the commissioners, nor the counsel assisting, even canvassed the notion that the officer was set up. I can only assume that the statement that the investigator was set up by me came from within the commission. It was a statement made without the authority of the commissioners or any spokesperson entitled to speak on behalf of the commissioners. Nevertheless, it is an extremely hurtful and damaging statement to me, and I am very keen to correct it.

For the benefit of members, I should explain that the first contact with the officer concerned, Detective Sergeant John Gillespie, was a message on my answering machine at 2.30 pm on Monday afternoon, 13 May. This is confirmed by the officer concerned before the Royal Commission. As a result, I contacted my solicitor during the Monday afternoon. He informed me that he would contact Detective Sergeant Gillespie on my behalf. The next morning, Tuesday 14 May, my wife received a telephone call from Detective Sergeant Gillespie at approximately 9.10 am. This is confirmed by Detective Sergeant Gillespie. My wife informed the officer that I had left home before 7.00 am to attend a series of meetings at Parliament House. His response was, "What does he do, having meetings at Parliament House?" My wife informed him that I was a member of Parliament and that he should have telephoned my electorate office. This is confirmed by Detective Sergeant Gillespie. Detective Sergeant Gillespie was asked by the Royal Commission whether he attempted to contact me through the electorate office number. His response was, "Not at that stage." The statement by Detective Sergeant Gillespie was unfortunately incorrect.

On Tuesday morning, 14 May, Detective Sergeant Gillespie telephoned my electorate secretary at about 9.15 am, and asked if I was available. He was again advised that I was at Parliament House at a series of meetings. Detective Sergeant Gillespie claimed he telephoned my electorate office later that day and spoke to my secretary. As I indicated previously, I believe Detective Sergeant Gillespie's evidence was incorrect - in respect of the timing of his telephone call. The timing is very important. The next contact with Detective Sergeant Gillespie was when he telephoned my office on Wednesday morning, 15 May. My secretary then informed him that his message was passed on from Tuesday morning and that I had requested my solicitor to contact him. Detective Sergeant Gillespie advised my secretary that he had spoken to my solicitor and that he needed to speak to me himself. He was advised that Parliament was sitting and that I would be at Parliament House until Thursday evening, and I would be in the office on Friday afternoon. Detective Sergeant Gillespie then said to my secretary that he would go to Parliament House on Thursday. I

request members to note that it was Detective Sergeant Gillespie's decision to come to Parliament House; when he made that decision, I had not even spoken to him.

After Detective Sergeant Gillespie's telephone call on Wednesday morning, 15 May, my secretary telephoned me at approximately 10.45 am in this House and informed me that Detective Sergeant Gillespie had suggested that he would come to Parliament House on Thursday. Regrettably, Detective Sergeant Gillespie omitted any mention of the telephone call or his suggestion that he would come to Parliament House in his evidence to the commission on Thursday, 16 May. Mention was never made of that.

On receipt of the telephone call from my secretary on Wednesday morning, I made contact with Detective Sergeant Gillespie and stated that I would be in Parliament House all day Wednesday until 6.00 pm. He stated that he could not serve the summons until Thursday. Detective Sergeant Gillespie was asked before the Royal Commission what I said to him in the course of that conversation. He omitted to say that I said that I was available at Parliament House all day Wednesday until 6.00 pm, or that he could not serve the summons until Thursday, or that the arrangement to serve the summons on Thursday was made by him. Detective Sergeant Gillespie said that in our conversation I indicated I would be in Parliament all day Thursday and I could see him any time at Parliament House to serve the summons. In fact, we made an arrangement to meet after 10.00 am Thursday at Parliament House. This was confirmed by Detective Sergeant Gillespie in his evidence. Some hours after that conversation I realised that I would not be in Parliament House until 12.30 pm Thursday as I was attending the opening of a school in my electorate. I telephoned the commission two or three times on Wednesday afternoon to inform Detective Sergeant Gillespie. When I finally made contact with him, at around 4 o'clock, I mentioned that I had a commitment in my electorate and would not be at Parliament House until 12.30 pm. I stressed at that time that he should not come until 2.45 pm as question time commenced at 2.00 pm and finished at 2.30 pm. This is confirmed by Detective Sergeant Gillespie in his evidence.

Detective Sergeant Gillespie arrived at Parliament House at approximately 2.10 pm - some 35 minutes earlier than the time arranged - and was shown into my office by the parliamentary staff. I had advised the staff that Detective Sergeant Gillespie would be arriving. In his evidence, Detective Sergeant Gillespie thought it was odd that the attendants should know that he was coming. However, members would be aware that there is nothing unusual in a member advising the front door staff of a visitor's expected arrival and requesting them to direct the visitor to a member's room. I was subsequently advised by a member of staff that Detective Sergeant Gillespie was in my office. I met both Detective Sergeant Gillespie and Detective Sergeant Steve Roast in my office. Detective Sergeant Gillespie apologised for coming during question time and served the summons to appear before the Royal Commission.

After the niceties, I offered to escort the two officers to the front entrance. I want at this stage to be very careful about the way I say this: At that stage I recalled a comment made in passing by the Speaker in response to his overhearing my discussions with my colleagues during afternoon tea on Wednesday that I was going to meet officers of the Royal Commission the next day at Parliament House. The Speaker had indicated that he had no concerns with officers of the commission visiting members at Parliament House but he would be concerned if it went further than that. On the basis of my recollection of that comment of the previous day, I felt I should inform Detective Sergeant Gillespie that I was obliged to pass to the Speaker the papers that he had served on me. At that time, I was not aware of the consequences of Detective Sergeant Gillespie's action in attending Parliament House to serve the summons.

In his evidence to the Royal Commission, Detective Sergeant Gillespie said -

On route to the foyer at Parliament House he (Ted Cunningham) mentioned to me that the Speaker was querying the service of a summons, not knowing that it would be our summons.

When Detective Sergeant Gillespie was asked if these were my exact words he said, "Something to those lines." When Detective Sergeant Gillespie was asked, "The Speaker was querying the service of a summons?", he replied, "Yes." Mr Speaker, those were definitely not the words I used as I did not understand the implications of Detective Sergeant

Gillespie's action in serving the summons at Parliament House. I am deeply concerned at suggestions that I would be involved in a set up to discredit the commission. That has been the import of innuendo, and dishonest and slanderous articles by both the print and electronic media. The real point is that Detective Sergeant Gillespie had made up his mind and indicated that he intended to see me at Parliament House on the Thursday, even before he had spoken to me.

I will conclude by answering the questions raised by the Leader of the Opposition in his notice of motion to Parliament today. The Leader of the Opposition asked me to explain whether the Speaker had advised that such serving of a summons would contravene the privileges of the Parliament. The answer is, no. The extent of my brief comments with the Speaker is set out in my statement to this House tonight. I did not become aware that privilege could have or had been breached by service of the summons until after it was served. The Leader of the Opposition's motion asked me to explain whether I discussed the serving of the summons with other members of Parliament and, if so, when. My answer is, no. However, on Wednesday afternoon at around afternoon tea time I told a number of my colleagues that I was receiving a visit from a member of the Royal Commission investigating team the next day.

Mr MacKinnon: What were they visiting you for? To have a cup of tea? You knew what they were visiting you for.

Mr CUNNINGHAM: I said that it was over a cup of tea in this House.

The Leader of the Opposition asked me whether I discussed the serving of the summons with former Premier Brian Burke or anyone representing him and, if so, who and when. My answer is, no. The Leader of the Opposition asked whether I discussed the serving of the summons with any former Cabinet secretary, Terry Burke, or anyone representing him and, if so, who and when. My answer is, no. The Leader of the Opposition asked whether I discussed the serving of the summons with any officer of the Parliament, any Government employee or any officer of the ALP and, if so, who and when. My answer is, no. Not prior to the service of the summons. The Leader of the Opposition asked whether I discussed the issue with the Premier or anyone representing her and, if so, who and when. My answer is, no. Not before the service of the summons.

I trust that the record has now been set straight.

SUPPLY BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR COURT (Nedlands) [7.54 pm]: This debate has been interrupted by some unusual matters, but it was an experience to be involved in that conference of managers.

During the Leader of the Opposition's speech the member for Pilbara made the comment, "What are you going to do about it? How are you going to stimulate the economy?" The Opposition is putting forward positive proposals to stimulate the economy and to attract new investment. The reason I get so angry when the member for Pilbara starts knocking companies like Robe River that are investing in the member's electorate is -

Several members interjected.

MR COURT: Members opposite laugh - it is no wonder companies which are investing and employing people are steering away from this State. Only last night a Government member attacked the Government's policies on the mining industry. Members opposite should not accuse the Opposition of lacking ideas, instead they should be looking at their own Government; what is it doing to attract new investment?

A comment has been made in this debate about coal contracts. Before members opposite start bragging about coal contracts, they should look at the contracts which the Government was involved with a couple of years ago, and they will think twice before raising that subject. The member for Eyre would know that the Government is trying to renegotiate the contracts that were negotiated only 12 months ago to cut the price and tonnages. Members opposite must realise that they have a major problem with taxes and charges. People are hurting

through these tough times and it is a very real issue as political parties learnt recently in the New South Wales election.

The Deputy Premier is the Minister responsible for the Small Business Development Corporation and I hope that he will address very quickly the issue that I will now raise as it is one that is causing some concern. It relates to a relatively young person who was involved in the printing industry. This young person had a shareholding in a printing company and decided that he wanted to branch out on his own, so he looked around for opportunities to expand in the printing industry. He came across a process which involved short runs of colour printing, and he thought that if he could obtain a licensing arrangement for this process, which was controlled by a company in Perth called TTS (True to Scale) Pty Ltd, he would be able to build up a business around this technology. This person needed funds and assistance. He had to arrange finance from different sources, and he went to the Small Business Development Corporation to see if it was possible to obtain a guarantee to assist with the financing. He first approached the SBDC in April last year, and it was not until August that the necessary approvals were worked out and the Government approved the granting of a guarantee subject to certain conditions being met. That person had to go through a rather exhaustive process to get approval for the guarantee. He had to submit detailed business plans which then had to be supplemented by further plans. Mr Green - he does not mind my mentioning his name - then set up a business in September. Not only did the parent company with which he was arranging the licensing want to encourage Mr Green to get the business up and running in this State, but also it had plans to expand it overseas. In November the parent company also approached the Small Business Development Corporation for assistance to expand the process. They met a gentleman at the SBDC - I will not name him in this place, but I am prepared to give the Minister the details privately - who said he knew a person who was interested in investing in a business. That person introduced the two parties and they arranged for the investor to become involved in the parent company which had the technology. As it turned out that investor did not buy the company, but bought control of the technology. The situation was then reversed because one of the officers from the SBDC went to run the new operation. From the information I have been given about this case, a point arose when there was a conflict of interest. Mr Green found himself dealing with the new company and with an officer who was formerly with the SBDC, and who, for a period it appears, was still involved with the SBDC and the new operation. That person gave notice that he was leaving the SBDC in December and he left in January.

When one approaches a Government body in confidence one provides all the details about one's business and one expects confidentiality. Quite rightly, the Government will not provide a guarantee for a business until it has investigated it in some detail. Mr Green provided the details about the business and he was pretty excited about it because he thought the printing process had much potential and would enable him to start a successful business. He is concerned that that information was available to people with whom he eventually did business in reversed roles. One of the conditions of the Government guarantee was that he would have licensing arrangements signed on which some time was spent negotiating. As it turned out, Mr Green did not obtain the signing of the licensing arrangement before the new owners took over the technology. When they took over the technology, rather than Mr Green having what was to be an exclusive franchise for most of Western Australia, he was told that he could cover only a small area and that different conditions applied. Mr Green has become anxious about this because he went from a situation of approaching the SBDC with a good idea to one where he now sees someone else controlling something in which he thought he would have a major role.

Mr Taylor: I think I may have received a letter about this.

Mr COURT: To cut a long story short, that young chap has now gone broke. I spoke to the people handling his liquidation and it is a pretty sad affair. A lot of money is owed and a few guarantees were made with family and the like and consequently a few people are being badly hurt in the exercise. I will not question whether he is a good businessman because the SBDC spent five months examining whether he would be a good risk. However, I am concerned that the public must be able to approach Government bodies with complete confidence that their information will be confidential.

Mr Taylor: I agree.

Mr COURT: I do not think the member for Eyre will mind my mentioning that Mr Green explained his position to him and the member for Eyre believes the matter needs to be examined further by the Government. Out of courtesy, I informally rang the Small Business Development Corporation and spoke briefly with Mr Lane. I also spoke to all the parties involved and I am raising the matter in the House because a young chap has gone broke and is in no position to fight a legal battle over the matter. I have a responsibility to raise the issue in the House and to ask the Government to look into the case with an open mind and see whether Mr Green was given a fair ride. This young man who I suppose would be about 30 was smart enough to work out that if he could obtain a licensing arrangement for the printing process - I am now told it is being promoted world wide - he would be able to build up a good business. He now feels as though he has been duped by the Small Business Development Corporation in the sense that he laid the details of his venture on the table to which other people have had access and he now finds himself having to compete with those people. The main reason I want the matter cleared up is that the SBDC has been running for some years now and has a good name in the community. I am sure hundreds of people try to obtain Government guarantees and it is a difficult job for any Government to assess the viability of businesses. It is crucial that when dealing with a Government department the public is afforded full confidentiality on information. I am sure that the last thing the Government would want is the word going around that if one goes to the SBDC with a good idea, someone will take that idea and do well with it themselves.

Mr Taylor: I agree with you about the confidentiality issue. I will get your *Hansard* transcript and perhaps you could give me the name of the person concerned later and I will follow up the matter.

Mr COURT: The easiest thing for the Government to do would be to let the matter drag on because the person who was hurt has gone broke. Unless he is able to secure some form of legal aid he will not be able to fight the case. A person was under the scrutiny of the SBDC which agreed to back him in the business and it seems a very quick turn around in a very short period for him to finally end up in that situation. I support the passage of the Supply Bill and thank the Minister for giving me that assurance.

[Questions without notice taken.]

MR BLOFFWITCH (Geraldton) [8.38 pm]: I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak on the Supply Bill because I was particularly interested to hear that the Premier is going to the Premiers' Conference to ask for an additional grant of \$150 million. I was even more interested to learn that part of the proposition for the Government's getting \$25 million of that amount is that the Government will get rid of payroll tax and stamp duty. That is very relevant to me because I would be one of the few members in this House who actually pays payroll tax. I have a wages tax bill of approximately \$900 000, so I can relate to what payroll tax does to my business and to the situation over the past two years where I have had to reduce my staff, because of a reduction in gross profits, from 55 to 33 people.

Mr Catania: All due to payroll tax.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: If the member waits, I will tell him what it was all due to. It was due in no small measure to the draconian formula which provides that the more people I employ, the more payroll tax I must pay. That formula must appear to anyone, no matter who, to be sheer madness when we consider the unemployment problem we have at the moment. Payroll tax certainly is one of the factors that affect us.

I cannot understand why we must go cap in hand to the Federal Government to ask for \$150 million when many of the works we are talking about were suggested in a kick-start program. Whether it be sewerage, housing, or project building, had our State Government had the funds we certainly could have given those sectors that kick-start; but it appears we do not have the funds so we will ask the Federal Government to give us a handout to enable us to provide that kick-start. I was very puzzled as to why, when we had gross unemployment in the past, there were sufficient State funds to get those kinds of projects under way, yet at this stage we do not have them and must go cap in hand to Canberra to ask for extra grants. However, as I listen to the fiasco that is coming out of the Royal Commission, I am not surprised that we are remarkably short of money.

In my tours of the Geraldton electorate I have been amazed at just how desperately short of

funds we seem to be. I cite the case of a couple of schools in my area, one a primary school and the other a high school. Last Friday I toured the Geraldton Senior High School with the principal, and in the back two rooms, one of which is the computer room, the paint was falling off the ceiling literally in chunks. The principal told me he was delighted that, the ceiling having been like that for 14 months, it was going to be fixed. I was always under the impression that we had a regular, scheduled maintenance plan which took care of these things, but it would appear from what I am told that the funds are not available.

Mr Ainsworth: It must have been a pre-election promise for the Geraldton electorate - I cannot have any money for mine.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: If it were an election promise I am certainly grateful. I hope we get another promise, because I worry very much about the lack of money. I worry also about some of the tactics that are being used, and it all reflects back to me, because of the shortage of cash in this State. A gentleman who runs a commercial laundry service - a small businessman and a very good operator - came to me with a double banger pair of letters, one from the Water Authority of Western Australia and one from the State Energy Commission. He received letters from both of those authorities within a week. He was informed by the SEC that his deposit, currently \$1 500, would rise to \$4 500. I said that \$1 500 was a lot of money for a small business to pay as an SEC deposit. Not everybody has the gusto and the confidence to argue with the SEC when the initial contracts are given and, unfortunately, when they are told the deposit is \$1 500, many people pay it and worry about it later. I was particularly interested to hear the Minister say that the charges were very reasonable. Mr Watson certainly did not think they were very reasonable, and he thinks they are even less reasonable now, after his \$1 500 deposit has been increased to \$4 500. He asked me, "How do I get that extra \$3 000? I am in a great deal of pain now." He ran through the standard list of difficulties which all small businesses currently are suffering. One is the downturn in trade, which naturally affects one's gross profit, which has come down substantially because there are fewer people with jobs, and therefore less money is being spent. He referred also to the taxation impositions he must bear. Perhaps, because they do not operate companies, many members are not aware of what has happened within the tax scenario. Some two years ago the Federal Government made a change to company tax and decided that instead of payment being due in March of the following year, it would be brought forward to 15 December. It is a very easy bureaucratic decision to say, "Australia, you will just pay it three months earlier." We had to pay the tax three months earlier, but it was a severe drain on the liquidity of all companies and businesses in this country.

Mr Shave: It sent some companies bankrupt.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: That was the start of sending them bankrupt. We have now been notified that the payment date has moved forward from 15 December to 15 July. The end of the financial year is 30 June and on 15 July, some two weeks later, payment is required. Anybody who operates a small business would not even have all his invoices in for the year, so how in God's name does he know how much he will make? Under this new system he is supposed to make a calculated guess, but if he is more than 10 per cent out in his guess he will be fined. This is where the record bankruptcies will come from, and they will come this year because this is the first year of the new system. Where are we supposed to pluck that money from, six months early? No wonder the liquidity of most small businesses and companies is at an all time low.

When our Premier goes to Canberra to represent us I would like her to mention a few of these things. The Government wants a magic formula for creating jobs. Only one thing creates jobs; that is, small, medium and large businesses must have money to be able to employ people and pay them. What has happened over the last five or six years has been a gradual milking of that business machine. It is nothing short of absolutely tragic. I doubt whether many people here would understand the problems that occur when someone's business encounters a slow down, particularly a business where one has stock and debtors. Of course, members will be aware that although that businessman's stock increases by \$100 000 from one year to the next, no allowance whatsoever is made for that. If his stock increases by \$100 000 either his bank overdraft increases by \$100 000 or he puts another \$100 000 of capital into the business. I saw a fellow car dealer in Geraldton close his doors some three months ago and walk away from the place. He asked me to go down and see whether there was anything he could do. I found that he had been operating an overdraft

with the bank to the value of \$150 000, and because of the fiasco the bank had had with high rates, the bank had tightened up. We have heard various members in this place talk about the pressures coming from the banking system. Overnight it was said to this car dealer that he no longer had the \$150 000 overdraft, which was operating at \$120 000 at the time, and he was not allowed to write another cheque. Therefore, it was hard to find the wages on pay day, and it was hard to do anything. It is said that we want to help create employment, yet what do we do about it? As the banking industry was burnt when giving large amounts of money to people with no security, it took it out on business people; we had to provide security of up to 200 per cent of the loan!

Mr Catania: Who do you blame?

Mr BLOFFWITCH: I blame the State Government for not pressing for some reforms at meetings with its Federal colleagues.

Mr Catania: Are you not blaming the banks for their imprudent investments?

Mr BLOFFWITCH: Unfortunately it is not my position to fulfil the role of the State Government of ensuring through meetings with the Federal Government that some pressure is brought to bear on the banking industry.

Unfortunately my area of business does not have the advantages experienced by farmers with emergency relief. That relief is a positive step, but what other small business receives that kind of treatment? It does not matter whether it is Ministers who attend meetings with the Federal Government, but the impetus must come from the Government.

Mr Graham: I have real difficulty with you blokes who cannot get organised.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: The reason that the member has difficulties with people like me is that he has never employed 30, 40, or 50 people; the member does not know the pain involved. He would not know what I am talking about when referring to stock valuations. How can the member represent business people when he does not know what they are talking about? In many progressive countries stock valuations are allowed to be counted as a deduction from one year to another. If I suggest that to many members of the Government, they are likely to ask, "Why should you get special treatment?" Such members do not understand the nature of the work to which I refer.

Mr Graham: How do you know?

Mr BLOFFWITCH: If the member knew such things, he would not be making such interjections.

Mr Graham: You have been in here two minutes, I have been here for five, and all of a sudden you are an expert on what I understand. You would not have a clue.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: I am an expert on the interjections I am receiving; whether I have been here two seconds, two minutes or two days, I have ears and I can hear what the member is saying. Anybody can make an assumption as to whether the member's comments sound like qualified interjections with substance behind them, or a heckle - the interjections are heckling.

Mr Graham: You would not have a clue about what people over here understand. You have not been here long enough to find out. Do not whinge at people. Make your point, but do not lecture.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: I listened to the debate in this House on the issue of Stateships regarding the leases and loans entered into. I was interested in the large capital cost involved. An exporter within my electorate exports hay and rape seed and he is developing a market; however, he cannot get a ship to call into Geraldton. Why not? Three Stateships operate yet none of them is designed to take his produce.

Mr Shave: The wharf is in the hands of the receivers!

Mr BLOFFWITCH: Yes. This person carts his produce to Perth for export, and this makes his produce a more expensive export. I said to this person, "Why can't one of the international ships call into Geraldton?" He said that we have a questionable shipping policy which allows a ship to call into only one port - it is not possible to call into Geraldton after visiting another port to top up a ship's load. I said, "I guess they are protecting State

shipping." He said, "What good is State shipping to me if I cannot use it for my produce?" What are we trying to do with Stateships? Something could be done about this. Perhaps a great saving could be made if we open up this route.

Mr Shave: The member for Pilbara is leaving now that you given him a suggestion.

Mr Graham: It is all right; I don't want to buy any used ships.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: We will have plenty of used ships in about 10 years at the end of the lease. All members would be very well versed on the operation of leases. I have entered into hundreds of them and I certainly know the pitfalls. I mentioned to the Minister that I was staggered that this lease was drawn on the advice of the Westpac Bank. People with the slightest financial knowledge know that penalties are involved with a lease arrangement on the chance that something may happen to the ship after two years. If the ship were to sink, after two years of payments one would end up having paid more than was borrowed as a result of the penalties involved in the operating lease. These matters worry me. As a result of this type of situation we must go cap in hand asking for an extra \$150 million from the Federal Government. My great concern is that the Commonwealth Government does not reward people who do not do their job properly. I have grave doubts about the State's receiving that \$150 million; I have graver concerns about the welfare of those who are suffering the agonies of payroll tax and stamp duty.

We have seen record rates of interest in recent years; rates of 19 to 22 per cent have dropped to 12 to 13 per cent. Therefore, if one happens to have rather a large loan, now would be the right time to bail out and obtain a better rate. However, we have this wonderful thing called stamp duty. When one wants to get out of a loan because of the pain felt, the hand is out as the Government asks for massive amounts of money. I can understand the Premier's concern in asking the Federal Government to provide money to do away with these impositions because they are shocking measures which should never have been introduced. They are a great expense for businesses which are trying to refinance. In many cases, at a time when these people need help, they are slugged for a little more money, and this probably means that another one or two employees will lose their jobs. Then we look with absolute amazement and say -

Mr Lewis: We? It is not we, it is the Government.

Mr Leahy: You mention the consumption tax. That is what the member for Geraldton wants. He wants to hit all the little people.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: I will deal first with the stamp duty and then I will outline my idea of a consumption tax. I doubt that anybody sees any sense in the imposition of stamp duty in such a sensitive environment. I have painted the scenario. Interest rates have come down from 21 per cent and 22 per cent to 11 per cent and 12 per cent. I am pleased to see that occur. Logic says that now is the time to get out; it is not time to penalise people; financial dealings need to change. All learned people understand that a Federal consumption tax is only a theory. There is no way of bringing it about. However, if such a proposition were considered to be acceptable it should be examined at the State level.

Mr Leahy: Are you suggesting that people would be in favour of it?

Mr BLOFFWITCH: I am suggesting that we have already adopted some ridiculous things. Businesses have been penalised with stamp duty and payroll taxes, and with the removal of those two onerous charges many businesses could continue in operation and employ people. That would be a positive step for all of us.

Mr Leahy: It would place burdens on the unemployed and those on pensions.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: If we do nothing we will not have to bother about any burdens because nobody will be earning a wage. The scenario gets worse. A limited consumption tax already exists. Institutional duties are charged on bank transactions and it is assumed that people will not even notice those charges. We have a payroll tax.

Mr Lewis: And it taxes people who employ people.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: Yes. We start at the wrong end of the course. Countries such as Japan have moved on and are doing extremely well. Japan does not tax businesses; it actually offers people incentives to continue running businesses. However, businesses in Australia

are offered no incentives; instead, the Government takes as much as it can from businesses. I have mentioned the poor chap from the laundry who, after he received advice that his State Energy Commission bond was to triple, received a letter from the Water Authority proposing that he pay for the water he puts into the sewer. A dozen people have contacted me about this matter. Also, a service station that I own has received a letter from the Water Authority suggesting that that business pay for what it puts into the sewer. I replied saying that the toilet at the service station is flushed and that goes into the sewer, but every household has a toilet and they are not being charged. Why do I have to pay a levy? The Water Authority said that it considered that service stations deposited more than water in their drains. I put them straight and said that I had a bloke who emptied my pit and well, which are separate from my drain, every 10 days. I asked the people from the Water Authority whether they had visited the sites I have mentioned and examined how much goes down the storm drains. They said that they had not visited these sites.

Mr Trenorden: Would you say the laundry man was taken to the cleaners?

Mr BLOFFWITCH: This particular laundry man thinks he has been put through the laundry many times. I can understand his frustration. He has also told me that he must pay company tax by 15 July. He does not have the money to pay the company tax and does not know what to do. It is the same with the State Government department which examines my payroll tax and stamp duty. I told the fellow who owned the laundry that the Government would understand that he was facing difficulty. He told me that they would not worry and would fine him. That is what the Government is doing.

The shipbuilding industry in Geraldton also is being affected by the Government's taxes and charges. Small boat builders in Geraldton work to the same standards set in other parts of the world. Work is contracted out and those subcontractors are paid at the appropriate rate and do remarkably well. However, the payroll tax people have come up and said that those subcontractors are really employees because they work for the shipbuilding companies. The owners of the shipbuilding companies say that those subcontractors may well be employed by the companies, but so is everybody else. However, those businesses will be fined \$42 000. That is only the start of it. What about workers' compensation? If a subcontractor is classified as an employee the company will have to pay for compensation. Special allowances are made for the building industry but not for the shipbuilding industry. It makes me wonder whether we are hell bent on deliberately trying to ruin businesses.

Mr Trenorden: Spot on!

Mr BLOFFWITCH: We are. It is an unbelievable situation! It is hard to come to grips with what we are doing.

Mr Lewis: Not what we are doing, what they are doing.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: The Minister is certainly encouraging that type of behaviour. It is nothing short of a scandal.

Mr Trenorden: Then they wonder why people are out of jobs.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: It is no wonder people are out of work. Businesses are having liquidity problems and are being charged taxes when they are trying to help themselves. They are the problems facing small businesses. I hope the Premier receives the \$150 million she is seeking because we need it. If normal business practice had been followed we would not have needed to go cap in hand to the Federal Government. We would have had the money.

Mr Kobelke: Have you taken the trouble to compare the economic record prior to 1983?

Mr BLOFFWITCH: I am concerned with the last three years. Unlike many members, I have been in business since 1970. I have witnessed the trends in the last five or six years and I can advise members that profitability and liquidity for small business has been disastrous. When I have more time I will explain the difference between profitability and liquidity for small businesses.

Mr Kobelke: I accept that statement, but you must also examine such things as electricity charges and compare them with the previous Liberal Government's charges.

Mr BLOFFWITCH: I have just mentioned the SEC and the Water Authority. Those charges have increased. Why does the Government, after receiving a \$1 500 deposit, then hit a small business for a bill of \$4 500?

[The member's time expired.]

MR OMODEI (Warren) [9.08 pm]: Tonight I speak in the Supply Bill debate about a special person who has touched my life and many other people's lives. I refer to Sister Irene McCormack who, as members would know, was tragically murdered in Peru last week. On behalf of the people of my electorate, particularly the towns of Manjimup, Pemberton and Bridgetown, I make a few comments about this special person. I am sure the people of Trayning and the McCormack family are proud of their daughter, sister and aunt who has paid the ultimate price for dedicating her life to her religion and to assisting people less fortunate than herself.

Irene McCormack came to Manjimup in 1978 as a teacher of geography, social studies and the humanities and was well regarded by the local community. In 1981 she was promoted to the position of principal of Kearnan College, which is the major Roman Catholic school in my electorate. She made an impact on the people of that district and her glowing personality touched many people. Members who have followed the Press reports about her death in the last few days would be aware that she was a fanatical South Fremantle Football Club supporter and a very good golfer. She left Manjimup to embark on her new found career and at her send off I recall her putting her arms around me and asking me how the East Perth Football Club was progressing. As members know, East Perth has not had a good run lately! Sister Irene was a special and delightful person and those members would know from her photographs in *The West Australian* and the *Sunday Times* that she was a person of great character and standing.

While Irene McCormack was in Manjimup she began plans to go on with the next phase of her life, and her ambition was to be a missionary in Peru. Before she left I asked her why she had chosen to work with the people of Peru and not the Aborigines in Western Australia. She said she preferred to leave her work in Western Australia to her twilight years when she would return. She had a keen interest in going to South America to carry out the work she intended to do. In 1986 she spent some time in the Eastern States studying Spanish which was to stand her in good stead for her missionary work in Peru.

She lived in the village of Huasahuasi, which has a population of about 5 000 people. With the other missionaries, including Roman Catholic priests, she distributed food to 15 villages in the area. The topography of the land is very steep and the people of the villages are very poor and survive mainly on the potatoes and vegetables they grow. The great scourge was a group known as the Sendero Luminoso or the Shining Path guerillas from the Maoist doctrine which is anti-democracy, anti-western and anti-Government. From time to time the Shining Path guerillas go into those 15 villages to burn public buildings and documents and place people in positions where they virtually have to inform on the activities of other people in those villages.

When Sister Irene left Western Australia to go on her crusade she was well aware of the dangers that would confront her. In her second last letter home she said she had been feeling off colour and was suffering from a stomach complaint. By virtue of being laid up for one day - the day the guerillas came into the village - she missed out on being severely dealt with. A couple of people were shot and dumped in front of the plaza on that occasion and the missionaries were fearful of losing their lives.

From time to time the missionaries would get together with the villagers and they would all contribute to making a huge soup stew, which was always better than they had been used to, and the entire community would partake of the meal. It is unfortunate that the Shining Path guerillas saw the missionaries as pro-American or American and considered that they should be executed. History now shows that Sister Irene lost her life in a horrendous way. I believe strongly that as a result of her losing her life in this far flung place she has actually achieved a great deal.

Members would be aware that at South Perth last week 700 people attended her memorial service. A similar service will be held at Manjimup on Wednesday night. Sister Irene will give to the Josephite nuns something that they have been crying out for. Many members would know that the Sisters of St Joseph are often known as the Josephites or the Brown Joeys. I am very proud to have been a student of the Sisters of St Joseph when I attended school at Pemberton. I have a cousin who is a Josephite nun, and that order has been a leader in the religious teaching fraternity for many years. Mother Mary MacKillop is the founder of

the Sisters of St Joseph. Sister Irene's martyrdom in Peru is something that will be of great note to people in the Josephite community for many years to come.

I noticed with interest that the Bishop of Bunbury, Myles McKeon, who is in charge of the Columban Mission, said there is a possibility that Sister Irene will be nominated for canonisation. Sister Irene's death is a tragedy for Western Australians and the Josephites. While the Josephites mourn their colleague it will assist them in spreading the Christian word and there will be a resurgence in the Josephite order as a result of her death.

The work Sister Irene undertook in Huasahuasi with the very poor children has not gone unnoticed. The news was received with shock and there was a tear in the eyes of many people in the south west of this State. I will read to the House part of the eulogy given at the remembrance service at South Perth by John McCormack for his sister. The article was published in the *Sunday Times* under the heading, "Slain nun grabbed life in both hands" and it reads -

Mr McCormack said his sister wanted to religiously educate the people of the outback - firstly in Australia and then Peru.

"Everyone here has been touched by her life or death," he said.

I can vouch for that in no uncertain terms. To continue -

"We believe her assassins to be people vulnerable to indoctrination from a long history in a country racked with inequality.

"We bear no grudge. Instead, we ask you to think of this inequality and consider where Australia stands at this point. Are today's 35 car thieves tomorrow's 64 assassins? We ask you out of respect for Irene to sit for one minute and consider what you can do to reverse this trend.

"If the people here today resolve to change one small thing, we will walk out to a better world.

"This was the vision for which she lived. Trying to implement it was how she died."

The final paragraph of the article reads -

There were 700 sets of watery eyes. Everyone clapped. Sister Irene McCormack must have been some sort of woman.

I endorse those comments. It is a tragedy for the State to lose such a wonderful person in the prime of her life. Her death has highlighted not only the situation in Peru regarding poverty and the destruction that some doctrines cause, but also the Josephite order, which has served the State of Western Australia, and Australia, well over a long period. They can be proud of Sister Irene McCormack. I know my remarks are different from those of speakers who have preceded me, but I could not let this opportunity pass without mentioning this special person.

MR SHAVE (Melville) [9.21 pm]: I turn first to the question of improving the lifestyle of Western Australians. I am greatly concerned that this Government has still not realised that we will not come out of this economic recession until support is given to the people involved in small business. I read in my local paper yesterday of a \$70 million job training grant and a plan of the Federal Minister for Employment, Education and Training, Mr Dawkins, to promote job training in the southern districts area. I am not surprised that that sort of funding will be spent in that area, which is also part of my electorate. I commend the Government for spending that money. However, I am concerned about the way in which that money is to be spent as there is no point in spending money on job training if there are no jobs.

Many kids in my area are looking for jobs that will not be created by training them. I am not against a certain level of job training, but in difficult economic times the Government's focus should be on creating jobs for these kids. The training can come later and skills can be acquired on the job. If no jobs are available, these kids will never get anywhere; nor will they aspire to any future in our community. That is a great tragedy. The other tragedy is that the kids who will be affected mostly come from families that do not have the necessary contacts to get them jobs. Many kids who come from less affluent environments in my area will suffer most. The Government is, in my view, spending a large sum of money in an area that should not be treated as an absolute priority. Funds should be allocated to job training, but I would much rather see funds used to create jobs for these kids in the initial stages. *The Australian* of 16 March, in an article written by Stewart MacArthur, states -

Small business is teetering on the verge of collapse under the weight of burgeoning fixed costs during one of the worst recessions experienced.

Federal Government statistics show that small business bankruptcies are about 10 000 a year, which is deemed by financial pundits to be only the tip of the iceberg when considering overall failures.

Lending institution statistics show that many more small business owners have been forced to sell their homes and other property, while even more have "done a bunk", leaving large debts.

I think the next paragraph is very appropriate -

The 1.2 million people who own or owned small businesses or are self-employed until recently employed a further 2.5 million people, a figure that is diminishing daily through forced unemployment.

These businesspeople are up in arms. They say wages and other fixed costs, such as payroll tax, superannuation, workers compensation and fringe benefits tax, have risen more than 20 per cent during the past two years.

What this Government fails to recognise at a State and Federal level is that the recession in Australia will not finish until we go back to the principle of creating jobs. Governments can have all the job training schemes in the world, but if there are no jobs the kids do not get them. A more alarming article appeared in *The Australian* of 6 March 1991 under the heading "Automotive parts sector slashes working week". It stated -

Almost half of the work force making car parts in Australia is working a short week, with production down 23.5 per cent since last June.

The figures were released late yesterday by the Federation of Automotive Products Manufacturers, which represents 126 corporate groups. . . .

The survey has revealed a 23.5 per cent fall in production and an 18 per cent drop in employment in the car parts industry from 28 128 workers to 23 126 since June 1990.

The alarming thing about these sorts of occurrences is the end result. The second last paragraph states -

Last week Ford told BTR it would stop ordering gearboxes from its Fairfield operation, which employs about 750 people, after 1993.

Unions said they had been told Ford was looking to import after 1993. Ford and the unions will meet next week to discuss the change.

Where and when all this madness will end I do not know. I do know that if the attitude of the present Government does not change this country will not be in a severe recession in 12 months; it will be in a depression!

Mr Minson: I thought it was close to that now.

Mr Wiese: Some of my people say it is here now.

Mr SHAVE: Yes. An article by Geoff Kitney and Tim Dodd appeared in *The Australian Financial Review* of 25 March 1991 quoting the man who created the recession everyone needed to have under the heading "Time business paid for results", as follows -

The Federal Treasurer, Mr Keating, has urged the ACTU to demand that business publicly acknowledge the value to companies of deals being done with unions under the accord.

And he has attacked business for enjoying the benefits of the accord but not defending it.

Mr Keating suggested that the ACTU should look at terminating some deals with business if it was not more willing to publicly acknowledge how good the process of award restructuring and productivity raising was for the performance of companies.

He accused many businesses of "lying doggo" because they did not want to be seen supporting the Government.

"It's time a few of them paid on results. In fact, it would not be unreasonable for the

ACTU to require them to say so. If I was running the ACTU, and Bill Kelty's kinder than me, I would be requiring reasonably orchestrated exclamations of approval, and with feeling."

Mr Keating also criticised suggestions from some business leaders that business could not afford the costs of the national wage decision due to be handed down shortly and said that, instead of looking at laying off staff to cut costs, business should look at other areas of its operations for efficiency gains and cost savings.

No-one would dispute the fact that if a business can afford to be more efficient in these times it should endeavour to do so. Businesses have made their operations as efficient as possible; they have cut to the bone and they have nowhere else to go. And what does the Federal Treasurer say? He says, "I want you to come out in the Press and say what a wonderful job we are doing." What does he do with the arbitration system? He says, "We want a central wage fixing system, but if it does not suit us, or if we have a problem with union bodies, we will throw it out of the door." All he is doing is throwing jobs out of the door. The working kids in my area, Willagee and Hilton Park, which has traditionally been a Labor area, are the kids who will never have jobs if this madness continues. The business chiefs have hit out at Mr Keating's associate, Mr Hawke, as reported in *The West Australian* of 20 March 1997 -

The Australian business community talked about organisation and the need for discipline but "in respect of their own affairs they are bloody hopeless," Mr Hawke said.

Here we have a recession with businesses going to the wall. We have a Treasurer demanding by public blackmail that business should acknowledge the job the Government is doing. We have a Prime Minister saying that businesses are hopeless. It is very easy, when one is sitting on the fence in a highly paid Government job, to be critical of what people in the private sector are doing. The level of bankruptcies in the December quarter rose by nearly 100 per cent. Jobs are always the end result of a recession or a depression. In *The Australian* of 8 March a Mr Chris Wallace wrote -

The manufacturing sector weakened further in the March quarter and employers have little confidence that any pickup in economic conditions will occur soon.

The latest survey of industrial trends by the Confederation of Australian Industry and Westpac shows that employment is also being hit as the recession deepens, with almost two-thirds of the companies surveyed reporting a decline in the number of people they employed.

Where has the sanity in this country gone since the war finished in 1945? We used to encourage people to run a business; we did not look upon business as a dirty word. No-one seems to want to support business these days. The Government talks about job losses, but there is no support for business. Not one member of the Government has spoken in this Parliament in the past six months about anything positive to end this recession. Why are members opposite not saying to their Federal colleagues, "We have to get behind business; we have to support business; we are going to encourage people with business difficulties to succeed?"

Mr Kobelke: Do you not view the Premier's statement as moving towards that end?

Mr SHAVE: I do not. A lot of what the Premier is saying is trying to acquire money to fund deficit problems created by the mismanagement of the Government. The Premier can talk about raising the \$150 million she is talking about raising, but that is merely to balance her Budget.

Mr Kobelke: It does not leave much hope for small business.

Mr SHAVE: It leaves very little hope for small business. I have very little faith in this Government. This Government is a waste of time.

Mr P.J. Smith: You are not going to listen to anything.

Mr SHAVE: I listen to what members opposite say. I have been involved in business for 25 years. I have sat in this place and listened to members opposite who purport to be experts on business, but they are not achieving anything. The more the Government intervenes or becomes involved, the more red tape appears and the worse things become for the private

sector. The Minister for small business is a sham. All she can do is talk about regulations; Bill after Bill. It is all red tape. All the Minister can do with her tiny brain is think that everyone who has a business is trying to take something off the working person. She would not understand that if businesses are not successful, the people she purports to represent will not get a job. I refer to an article in *The Australian* of 18 March 1981 by Kylie Davis, and it reads -

More than 70 per cent of small businesses fail within the first five years of operation, with 57 per cent closing in their first three years and 32 per cent in the first year.

The article was titled, "Regulation 'to blame' for small business failures." It states -

The chief executive of the Australian Chamber of Commerce, Mr Ian Fletcher, said the high rate of failure was a waste of commercial energy and economic resources.

He said small businesses accounted for 85 per cent of all businesses, provided 45 per cent of the private-sector labour force and contributed 33 per cent of national gross domestic product. . . .

Mr Fletcher said the performance of the small business sector was closely linked with the economy's well-being because a decline in their number would result in large increases in unemployment and sizeable falls in revenue.

What has this Government done to promote small business? Let us look at a couple of local examples. A former Minister, Mr Gavan Troy, spoke on this subject, and he is reported in *The West Australian* of 23 March as follows -

A bundle of red tape which tangled businessman Peter Howard for 18 months has been branded a frightening experience by former government minister Gavan Troy.

Would the member for Nollamara dispute what that former Minister said, or would he say that he is more qualified than Mr Troy? Does he think Mr Troy is reasonable? I see the member for Nollamara has gone; that was a quick exit! What about the member for Bunbury; what is his view on those comments of Mr Troy? Would he like to comment? No. Silence. Interjections, but no solid argument when it comes to talking about the issue. The article went on to say -

"It is totally unacceptable for government departments to hinder people when they should be facilitating what those people are trying to do," Mr Troy said. . . .

"Mr Howard's experience was a frightening one," he said.

The businessman's ordeal began 18 months ago when he learned that his factory plan needed approval from seven official bodies - the Mundaring Shire Council, the Water Authority, the Fire Brigade, the Health Department, the Department of Safety, Health and Welfare, the Mines Department and the EPA.

An exasperated Mr Howard approached Mr Troy last month. The EPA approved the plans on Wednesday.

In another article headed "Threat to go public cuts out the red tape", this appears -

Businessman Peter Howard has won an 18-month battle against bureaucracy to build a new soap factory on the Midvale Industrial State.

"It's incredible what I've been through over a year-and-a-half - it shouldn't have taken me more than three months," Mr Howard said yesterday.

Bureaucrats tied the unsuspecting entrepreneur in a bundle of red tape, freeing him after 18 months when he threatened to tell his story to *The West Australian* yesterday.

Within hours of the government becoming aware of his plan to go public, a fax message landed on his desk giving his new factory the necessary seal of approval.

The problem centred on the licences needed by businesses. Mr Howard had to approach seven different official bodies including Mundaring Shire.

"If I had known what I know now I would never have tried to build a factory in Mundaring Shire," remarked the businessman afterwards. . . .

Despite the efforts made by Swan Hills MP Gavan Troy on his behalf, Mr Howard was making slow progress.

"After 18 months I wasn't getting anywhere with the EPA," he said.

Piqued by the lack of progress, he protested to construction minister Jim McGinty yesterday and threatened to contact the newspaper.

"Hours later a fax message giving works approval from the EPA came through," said a bemused Mr Howard.

The Government has appointed people who are incompetent; that is obvious from the decisions which have been made. Earlier today, the Leader of the Opposition commented about the Environmental Protection Authority. Members opposite interjected and asked what the Opposition was trying to do. They asked whether the Opposition was trying to get around the guidelines. We are not trying to do that. All we ask is that things be done in an orderly and efficient manner. If officers in various areas cannot make the necessary decisions within a reasonable time, they should be replaced. Many competent officers have been squeezed out of the Public Service, or they have resigned as a result of frustration. Some have been shifted sideways because they could not stand the debacle going on around them. Currently a group of high powered advisers are running around like headless chooks because they have not progressed through the system and do not understand what is required. We are now witnessing the aftermath of those decisions. The following article appeared in *The West Australian* of 10 May under the heading "Business climate in dire straits: survey" -

More than 35 per cent of company executives view business conditions as very poor, a survey by the Confederation of Australian Industry has found.

A further 17.3 per cent of respondents described conditions as deeply depressed, while a massive 41.7 per cent ranked the business climate as poor.

And further on -

More than 43 per cent of respondents said the investment climate was very poor, 34.7 per cent described it as poor and 12 per cent said it was deeply depressed.

Only 4.2 per cent said it was good, and 6 per cent classed it as satisfactory.

The survey revealed scathing criticism by businessmen of the Federal Government's economic policies, particularly in relation to the wages accord and attitude towards struggling companies.

"There is a very powerful understanding within the business community that Government, rather than being any help to business, or even remaining neutral, is in fact the single greatest problem facing business today," the survey said.

"This attitude should surprise no one since it was the Government which deliberately brought on the present recession, bankrupting businesses as a matter of policy, sending still others to the brink and generally laying waste large sections of industry."

About 48.5 per cent of respondents expected investment levels to fall in the coming year. Nineteen per cent forecast no change while 32.4 per cent expected an increase.

"This is the stuff from which long, drawn out recessions are made," the survey said.

Another feature in *The West Australian* of 14 March reads -

An \$8 million blowout in the construction cost of a Perth sodium cyanide plant highlighted the expense inflicted on industry by environmental and planning approval delays, one of WA's leading corporate chiefs said yesterday.

Wesfarmers managing director Trevor Eastwood told a gathering of Perth industry members his company's subsidiary, CSBP & Farmers, waited almost three years for planning and Environmental Protection Authority approval.

The article continues -

"In this state, too much emphasis is being given to being seen to do the right thing," Mr Eastwood said.

"We must not drop our environmental standards but we must streamline our processes for approval."

And -

"They tell you it's all right and then three years later they tell you officially it's all right," he said.

The evidence goes on and on. An article in *The West Australian* on 15 February headed "Rates jump squeezes out Fremantle framer" reads -

David Gardiner is going out of business in Fremantle because he cannot afford to pay an 87.5 per cent rise in the rates on his workshop.

And further on -

"Last year there was an across-the-board revaluation of property by the Valuer-General's Office and the gross rateable value of the property I am renting went from \$5720 in June 1990 to \$15,600 at the end of this financial year," Mr Gardiner said.

This indicates just how out of touch is the Government. That is a 250 per cent increase. The article continues -

"My rates also jumped from \$820.25 in June 1990 to \$1538.16 this year and the bottom line is that it makes my business unviable."

The response from the Valuer General's office was that it would be prepared to review the gross rateable value of the property, although it could not do anything about the rates. The Valuer General's office was reported as saying -

"We have absolutely nothing to do with the rates people pay . . . That is purely the responsibility of the local council and to say that the valuations caused an increase in rates is quite incorrect."

That is absolutely crazy because as I understand it the local council obtains gross rental valuations from the Valuer General and works out its rates on the basis of those valuations. Perhaps members opposite can enlighten me. Do they agree? Does anyone on that side have a view? Does the member for Bunbury have a view? No, I did not think so.

Mr Blaikie: I think you should put that question to a Minister.

Mr SHAVE: The seats are vacant at the moment but were Ministers sitting in their seats they would still be vacant. Hello, it is nice to see the Minister for the Environment in the Chamber.

Mr Pearce: The member should not think that it is the content of his speech that brings me in. I would take a critical look at myself if I were the member.

Mr SHAVE: Does the Minister see the relativity between the rates charged by councils and the rates struck by the Valuer General? Has the Minister heard of councils' taking notice of the rates applied by the Valuer General on various establishments?

Mr Pearce: The member is asking me to join him in a scathing criticism of local government.

Mr SHAVE: In other words, the Minister is not prepared to answer.

Mr Pearce: If the member wants to get stuck into local government, he should not ask me to join him. I am a supporter of local government.

Mr SHAVE: I asked the Minister for a comment, considering the inaction of the Government in attempting to curb the recession; its inaction in providing a stimulus for business is obvious. That is witnessed in every electorate, and in no electorate is it more noticeable than in mine. An article in the *Canning-Melville Times* of 16 April 1991 refers to children at the Willagee Primary School going into classrooms carrying umbrellas when it is raining. The children keep off the rain with those umbrellas. Does the Minister for the Environment think it is a top class situation when primary school children in my electorate need umbrellas while sitting in class? Is that appropriate?

Mr Pearce: The children in my electorate do not need umbrellas in class. Clearly there is a difference in representation in the two electorates.

Mr SHAVE: Of course. The article reads -

Five years of broken promises and being treated like second-class citizens have angered Willagee parents.

Education minister Kay Hallahan has told them assets will have to be sold to raise funds to refurbish old schools like Willagee Primary School but has promised to discuss the issue with them shortly.

The Government calls that school renewal. The only maintenance that school requires is a bulldozer; it needs to be rebuilt. I visited the Pinjarra Senior High School and a primary school in Pinjarra last weekend. I wish the Speaker was present because I saw an honour board where he was commended for his athletic prowess. A tennis court was built by the Building Management Authority. The BMA changed its management and instead of listening to the people who were expert at carrying out this work, it built a tennis court with humps in it. A ban has been slapped on the use of the tennis court because they are worried that the kids will damage their feet.

[The member's time expired.]

MR STRICKLAND (Scarborough) [9.51 pm]: I will continue the Pinjarra saga. I accompanied the member for Melville to that primary school in Pinjarra. The principal explained that if we had come while it had been raining we would have seen the water which rushes down verandahs and into the rooms, as well as the waterlogged carpets in the computer room. The principal also advised that recently one toilet had been connected to the sewer, which involved running a 200 foot line to the sewer. However, for the past 10 years the school had been trying to get all of its other toilets close to the sewer main connected to the sewer.

Mr Shave: Why didn't they connect them all to the one line? Could it be that it was not on the Minister's brief when he was asked a question?

Mr STRICKLAND: It is because of inaction by the Government and the shortage of money.

I was concerned with the Premier's response to a question asked by a Government member about comments in the media concerning an adviser who was put on the payroll with the suggestion that he make a 10 per cent donation to a political party - which he did for many years. That is corruption. If someone has a job and they are offered another job at a higher salary and a condition, either before or after they are offered the job, is that they make a 10 per cent kickback to a political party, that is corruption. When a Premier stands up in the House and, in effect, condones that sort of action because other people seem to be doing it, something is wrong with this State.

Mr Wiese: There is something wrong with this Government, not this State.

Mr STRICKLAND: The Government is in charge and it has brought shame on the State.

Mr Graham: You are wrong about the circumstances.

Mr STRICKLAND: The member for Pilbara is talking about the circumstances, I am talking about what the public have read in the media.

Some of my colleagues mentioned the effect of the Supply Bill on small business. They were correct when they said that all the training in the world will not get someone a job if there is no job available. My involvement in business has been extremely limited, but my wife has a small business. I am only glad, after hearing the comments of the member for Geraldton, that it is not big enough to attract payroll tax because that would be another nail in its coffin. My wife works 70 to 80 hours a week and provides employment for five people. Over the past year land tax, water rates and council rates have gone up considerably, and all of those charges are tied to the value that has been placed on the property which she leases by the Valuer General's Office. The Government has control of and oversees the Valuer General's Office. Members will understand that when councils and the Water Authority send out their rate notices they are merely a fraction of what businesses must pay of the total rate bill. That fraction is simply the value set on that property over the total value of the municipal district. Valuations for businesses have increased by a higher percentage than have residential property valuations so businesses are copping it in the neck. That has occurred in a climate of recession and has added further strain to the business community. In my wife's business one employee left - for reasons which we will not discuss in this place - and with the full cooperation of the staff, who relate to and work well with their boss, my wife's business continues to run but with one fewer staff member. That is a practical example which is very close to me where a small business has one fewer employee brought about not only by the

recession but also by substantial increases in rates and charges and workers' compensation premiums.

My responsibilities in community services gave me the opportunity to attend a conference run by the Volunteer Centre of Western Australia. As a result of attending that conference I became aware of the marvellous work that is being done by this centre and the necessity for such work. Volunteering is a commitment to society based on the freedom of choice. People tell me that, across a lifetime, one quarter of our population becomes involved in a volunteer organisation. That covers such things as emergency services, culture, health, recreation, environment and community services. The idea for the Volunteer Centre of Western Australia was born out of a 1986 conference of interested parties who recognised the need to promote and coordinate volunteerism. In 1988 the Volunteer Centre of Western Australia was established and at that stage it was sponsored by the Western Australian Council of Social Service. It developed a mission to assist volunteers and organisations using volunteer services to improve the service performance. It set goals of enhancing volunteer awareness and, of course, improving the centre. The environment in which volunteers work is subject to dynamic change. I think all members are aware that an increase in the aged population is envisaged. There are also changing work structures, early retirement, people with second jobs and spouses in jobs, all of which has an impact on the profile of volunteers and the activities in which volunteers are involved.

The Volunteer Centre of Western Australia is a conduit, or what I call an essential interface, linking volunteers with agencies. Its register of volunteers and agencies assists in that very valuable link. The Volunteer Centre is involved in member recruitment, a volunteer referral service, volunteer management training programs, an information service which brings Government and organisations up to date, and in policy development for conditions and hours of work. An indication of the importance of this function is that 80 per cent of the home and community care program is delivered not through professionals, but through volunteers. The Volunteer Centre's patron, Mr Harry Sorensen, who has established a reputation of service in our community, stated that a challenge for the centre in the present difficult economic times is to have Governments and the corporate sector appreciate that a well managed dollar invested in volunteerism has a multiplying effect of extraordinary proportions. I suppose our "greatest Treasurer" in the Federal Government would say, "You get more bang for your buck." The message is quite clear and members in this House will understand that by using volunteers the community will gain large benefits for small amounts of money. In raising this issue I indicated the Volunteer Centre was established in 1988 and at that time was given some seeding funding by the Department for Community Services. I thank the member for Wanneroo, who has returned to the House; she is the only member in the House on the Government side who appears to be interested in the Volunteer Centre of Western Australia because of her involvement in the community. It is a pity that other Government members are not as interested.

In 1988 - the first year of its operation - the Volunteer Centre applied for and received some seeding funding of \$25 000. In the 1988-89 Budget it requested \$68 000 and received \$55 000; in 1989-90 it requested \$87 000 and received \$71 000; in 1990-91 it requested \$89 000 for its core funding and received \$71 000. It has also requested additional funding of \$49 000 for expansion and \$108 000 for regional referral agencies. The idea of regional referral agencies came about not from the Volunteer Centre but from regions which could see the value of the centre's work. In the 1991-92 Budget it is requesting \$100 000 from DCS. For that amount, it will be able maintain its services by keeping the centre open for five days a week to coordinate the volunteers and refer them to agencies. Its coordinators made the point to me that if funding is not increased - it has virtually been pegged at \$70 000 over the past two years - it will reduce its operation time from five days a week to only four days a week. That would be a great tragedy because of the thousands of people who work as volunteers. The message I receive about the situation is that it is a far more complex matter than one would imagine. Various Acts and regulations are in place concerning volunteers and a more professional approach is necessary. The centre is operating on a grant of \$71 000 a year to provide services to the whole State and the people running it believe those funds must be increased to \$100 000 so all the volunteers can be kept active in the community.

I raised this matter because the Supply Bill will ultimately be presented as a Budget and the Opposition believes that an extra \$30 000 for this organisation would be money extremely well spent. I strongly suggest that the Government find the extra \$30 000 for this

organisation. It has applied for small grants from other Government departments amounting to \$10 000 at a time and apart from the Office of the Family, from which it started to receive grants of about \$50 000 a year, it has not been successful in obtaining another \$10 000. The point has been made to me that one of the difficulties faced by volunteerism is that it covers such a very broad base involving the work done by many State Government departments. Because of the lack of attention to what the centre is doing it is finding it very hard to convince other Government departments to provide small amounts of money to assist its work.

I refer now to the north perimeter highway which has been renamed Reid Highway, particularly the section between the freeway and Marmion Avenue, commonly referred to as the western link. I recall that some years ago - I think in late 1984 - as deputy mayor of the City of Stirling, I met the then Minister for Transport to talk about that road link. At that stage, the Government was considering taking it out, although it had been listed as a red road on the metropolitan region town planning scheme since 1963. There was considerable debate in Stirling City Council at the time with traffic groups involved. Consultants were hired and a very extensive report was provided to determine whether the road should proceed or whether it should be deleted. Therefore, I am going back a considerable time; it is not a new thing. After the investigations were carried out, all sorts of other approaches were made to the Government. I have with me several extracts of Stirling City Council's minutes. A resolution in November 1987 indicates -

That the Council verify with Minister for Transport and the Main Roads Department whether the Government is reviewing its five year programme and if so, endeavour to upgrade the priority of the North Perimeter Highway.

That is, the western link. Subsequently, in late November 1987, a committee of the council recommended -

That in the preparation of the submission to the Minister for Transport regarding the construction of the North Perimeter Highway, the Manager Technical Services be requested to lay particular emphasis upon the Minister's consideration of the western leg construction in conjunction with the eastern leg.

The Reid Highway, as it is now called, has an eastern part also and there have been plenty of Press reports to indicate that that eastern leg is proceeding. In January 1988, council recommended -

That the Hon. Minister for Transport be invited to discuss the submission at a date to be set early in the new year.

At some stage around that time I was part of a deputation to the Minister. The deputation was made aware that budgetary constraints were in place. I put the proposal to the then Minister for Transport that, if money was tight, the Government could consolidate the land which was owned by the Crown so that it would be available when construction of the road began. These things are often fairly time consuming. I thought my suggestion at that stage was quite reasonable. I said to the Government, "You don't have to find dollars and cents. However, you can start to organise that land so that when the money becomes available the road can be built." A recent committee report of the Stirling City Council refers to North Beach Road carrying the load that the western link of the Reid Highway would carry. Another section of North Beach Road to which I am referring is that section in Gwelup. The Gwelup Progress Association is concerned about that section because the road separates the school from residences. It is concerned about the number of cars that use the road, the speed of the traffic and the safety of the children. Council's recommendation to the committee was -

That commitment for the early construction of the Reid Highway between Marmion Avenue and the Mitchell Freeway with full connection with the Freeway as implied by the City's approved Functional Road Classification Plan be sought from the Minister for Transport.

Further, the report states -

Until construction of the Reid Highway (formerly referred to as the North Perimeter Highway) between Marmion Avenue and the Mitchell Freeway no other suitable east-west route exists.

Further, it states -

The efficient movement and distribution of traffic requires a soundly based and orderly road network. Improvements to the efficiency of the network should be concentrated on the arterial routes, and their connectivity, to prevent less suited routes carrying more traffic than desired. The construction of the Reid Highway and its connection for traffic to and from the south on the Mitchell Freeway would ease the demand on North Beach Road as a district distributor.

There is plenty of evidence in council's records on the need for this road. The most recent appeared in last week's *Stirling Times*. An article on the front page, under the heading "Stop spending - traffic group", states that the traffic group which represents Carine and Karrinyup residents makes the point that the highway should be built as far as the freeway and that the group discovered that the Carine stage would not be completed until a later date because of a lack of Main Roads Department funding. The action group spokesman was reported as saying -

"This will cause traffic to feed straight into North Beach Road," he said.

"This section of the highway is not in the Main Roads Department budget for the next five years.

"North Beach Road will become extremely dangerous because it was never built for this sort of traffic."

That has been borne out by the report, the submissions and the extensive work done by the consultants. I do not have time to place on record many of the consultants' recommendations. Suffice it to say that it was an extensive and thorough investigation with many public meetings. The report concludes that it is essential that, because of the high level of traffic which occurred at one stage and the number of accidents - 60 a year - the early construction of this section of the highway be carried out. That was supported by the council, the action group and by me as the local member of Parliament. It is critical that it be finished at the same time as the eastern link because, if that does not happen, the traffic on the local road will increase to an estimated 21 000 vehicles a day, a figure way beyond the safe capacity of that road. I have been concerned at the apparent lack of progress on this matter. I know that roads and road funding are difficult issues. People are always chasing the dollars and it costs big dollars to construct roads. However, I urge the Government to sort out the land matter so that at least some progress can be made. It does not mean money out of its pocket; it is an administrative process between departments. The Government has said that the cost of this road has increased from \$3.5 million to \$10 million. I do not believe the figure of \$10 million is accurate because that would be the cost of a four lane highway when a two lane highway would do.

From the newspaper reports the residents are aware that the eastern section of that road will be built and completed somewhere between 1992 and 1994. The time frame has been reduced, but the residents want some movement by the Government on the western link. This issue was raised in 1984 and it is now 1991. Since 1963 the road has been shown on the plan as a red road. It is time the Government considered this matter seriously.

Mr Bloffwitch: It is very poor.

Mr STRICKLAND: Yes, and the council considers it is the responsibility of the Main Roads Department to fund it because it is a red road. However, the Government says that it is short of funds and the council should help to fund it. It would be resolved if the people concerned were dinkum. It would solve the problem of the member for Balcatta if the Reid Highway were commenced. Perhaps the member would indicate his support by way of interjection.

Mr Catania: I am happy for you to solve my problems.

Mr STRICKLAND: The establishment of the Reid Highway would take the traffic away from Gwelup and it would solve my problems and the problems of the member for Balcatta.

DR ALEXANDER (Perth) [10.21 pm]: In case there is any doubt in the minds of members, I will support the passage of the Supply Bill through the Parliament. Despite my criticism of the Government it is entitled to Supply.

Mr Wiese: Now you can give it a barrel!

Dr ALEXANDER: Exactly. I will deal with three matters in this debate: First, the health of the Swan River which has been a matter of some controversy in recent weeks; second, the Midland Workshops; and, third, nursing homes.

Mr Wiese: It is a misnomer about the workshops.

Dr ALEXANDER: It is, especially considering the way the Government is carrying on at the moment, but I will come to that. The bulk of my time will be spent on my concerns about nursing homes which I have wanted to raise for some time.

Some three years ago when I was first a member of the back bench of the Government I had the honour of being a member of the Select Committee inquiring into effluent disposal. I am sure the Premier of the day threw me into that committee with a good deal of intent. The Acting Speaker (Mr Donovan) was also a member of the committee, as was the member for Darling Range. When the committee reported to the Parliament the member for Darling Range made it clear that the Swan River was, at that stage, judged by the Environmental Protection Authority, no less, to be in danger of becoming eutrophic, as are many lakes around the metropolitan region. When I first heard his suggestion I thought it was alarmist. The committee asked the EPA to present it with the data on which it had reached that conclusion. The EPA did that and as far as we could ascertain its conclusion was correct. In other words, if remedial action were not taken the Swan River was then, and no doubt still is, possibly even more so, subject to algal blooms of an extensive nature and in danger of becoming like the Peel-Harvey Estuary near Mandurah, and we all know its fate. The repeated attempts to solve that problem have not come to very much. The member for Darling Range painted a grim picture which was reported in the Press and was in similar terms to the recently published reports. Apparently that was forgotten in the ensuing three years. As a member of that committee I am disappointed that there has been very little action to correct the problems to which the committee pointed.

One of the reasons for the poor state of the health of the Swan River, according to the committee's analysis, was the effluent from septic tanks seeping into the Swan River system. Clearly, the need for backlog sewerage is not only apparent, it is urgent. I admit that the Minister for Water Resources, Hon Ernie Bridge, has vigorously lobbied this Government and the Federal Government for funds. Regrettably, he has not had very much success.

Mr Bloffwitch: It has run out of money.

Dr ALEXANDER: The Government certainly has run out of money for that and for many other things. The Water Authority of Western Australia has been unable to allocate anything but a token amount to overcome this problem. I understand that the Premier will be attending the Premiers' Conference shortly and will be pleading for funds, and the Press reports reveal that perhaps \$30 million will go to backlog sewerage. Of course that is a good idea if she is able to prise the money from the reluctant politicians in Canberra. I guess they do not have much money left either.

Mr STRICKLAND: It will take more than \$30 million.

Dr ALEXANDER: Exactly. In 1988 the cost was estimated at \$800 million which means it would be close to \$1 billion today. To coin a phrase, that is a drop in the bucket.

Mr Bloffwitch: The Government's priorities are wrong.

Dr ALEXANDER: Yes, they are. It is disappointing that the Government has not seen fit to place the question of backlog sewerage higher on its agenda. In the meantime, it has been very slow in addressing the problems of replacing septic tanks. The committee recommended that if existing septic tanks could not be replaced by deep sewerage a more environmentally friendly alternative would be aerated tanks, particularly because of their nutrient output, which is one of the main problems affecting the Swan River. I refer to nitrogen and phosphorus. The Minister for the Environment did not mention nitrogen tonight, and perhaps that is the nutrient which has increased - I have not had time to check the report. In any event the seepage rate of those nutrients through the metropolitan sand system is rapid from the conventional septic tanks but with the recently developed aerated tanks the rate of nutrient emission can be cut significantly. I saw the prototypes of the latest model of aerated tanks about 18 months ago and it is claimed they reduce the nutrients to about three per cent.

Mr C.J. Barnett: How does the cost compare with deep sewerage?

Dr ALEXANDER: It is difficult to make a comparison with deep sewerage. The cost of aerated tanks is slightly higher than conventional tanks, but the environmental benefits are well worthwhile. Many householders have recognised that but have been prevented from constructing aerated tanks by the health authorities.

Mr Strickland: It is because they have come on stream that the Government has been able to relax the restrictions on duplex and triplex development.

Dr ALEXANDER: It is welcome development, but experimentation with aerated systems has been far too restrictive and too late. Until we solve the deep sewerage problem the aerated systems offer a useful half way house. They have not been explored properly by the health authorities.

Perhaps the Government should dust off the report of the Select Committee which inquired into effluent disposal and have another look at it. Although it did not solve all the problems, if the Government had addressed its recommendations some of them would have been solved. The committee was tempted to include a final recommendation which called for the committee to be reactivated if nothing was done to implement its recommendations. The committee should have done that because very little has been done to implement the recommendations of that report and, therefore, make some contribution to Perth's sewerage problems. The committee did not look at one aspect - perhaps a future Select Committee could consider it and I am not volunteering to serve on it - and that was whether it is wise to continue pumping deep sewerage into the ocean, however well it is treated. We have seen the problems occurring in Sydney. Admittedly, the treatment of sewage in Perth is, generally speaking, of a higher standard than in Sydney; in other words, it goes to a secondary treatment stage rather than being pumped as raw sewage into the ocean. However, in the long run the environmental damage must be significant. It has been underestimated and has not been looked at properly. At the moment we are pumping the sewage a couple of miles further out to sea and hoping it will not wash back onto our beaches. However, eventually it may well come back, and that will not be a pleasant prospect for people swimming on our northern and southern beaches. The deep sewerage solution seems more attractive, although it is more expensive, but it may simply be a case of out of sight for now, out of mind. In future that problem may literally wash back over us.

The second question I address is the Midland Workshops. I have been concerned for some time and, probably like other members, I have been approached by members of the work force at the Midland Workshops who are worried about the rationalisation plans Westrail has in mind for the workshops. I understand it is likely that the workshops will not just be rationalised, but that some sections of the workshops will be closed altogether. Some people may support that, and may believe that the Government should not still be running railway workshops, which include a plastics division and others that may have been bypassed by the demands of the railway system. However, I remind members on both sides of the House that we are looking at the future of individual workers. We all realise that the unemployment situation is totally unacceptable at the moment, and to rationalise the Government workshops in Midland would add to the unemployment queues and the problems of the eastern district of the metropolitan area to a great extent. The jobs of hundreds of workers seem to be under threat, and the jobs of many score workers are directly under threat. Some of those workers are employed in the plastics division, and I have been impressed by reports they put together in their spare time which seem to offer a viable alternative to Westrail. They talk about managing the workshops, with the involvement of the work force, in such a way that they may become more commercially viable than at present. It seems that the problem at the workshops is not inefficient workers, but perhaps inefficient management; and it seems the management has been very unsympathetic in some respects to the suggestions of the work force. I understand the Minister for Transport has this matter under review at present, but I am not happy about the response to workers' suggestions for improvements at the workshops. It seems the Government has in mind some severe cuts to the work force at Midland, and that would be a tragedy not only for the workers and their families - finding alternative jobs would be difficult for many of them because of their ages - but also because we would lose skills from the workshops and lose the chance to make the workshops a viable part of the national railway system. It is very important that the Government reconsider its plans. Putting the knife into the Midland Workshops may save a few dollars and help the

Government balance the Budget, but it will do nothing for the prospects of Westrail in the long run or for the workers in the short run. I will come back to the workshops theme, which needs to be urgently addressed by the Parliament.

Mr Wiese: One major thing that must be addressed is who will pay for the cost of the inefficiency.

Dr ALEXANDER: I agree, but at the moment the workers are being asked to bear too high a share of that burden. We need to take into account the social benefits and the long term economic benefits that could arise from restructured and invigorated workshops.

Mr Wiese: A lot of our transport policy comes into that same area.

Dr ALEXANDER: I agree. I am not denying the need for restructuring but simply arguing the way it has been done.

The third matter with which I will deal in detail relates to nursing homes, which generally are a problematic area in health services. Old people are often shuffled into these establishments reluctantly or against their will or better judgment. I find the nursing homes I visit in my electorate rather depressing places. There is no doubt that some are well run and in many cases the patients are well looked after and as happy as they can be at that age. However, I find that the patients in several nursing homes I have visited seem to be semi-comatose, and there is evidence of over-administration of drugs simply to keep the patients quiet. There is a depressing aura and, apart from the alleged loss of mental capacities from which some the patients may suffer, they are encouraged to be quiet, to give the staff an easy time, by the over-administration of some relaxing drugs.

Mr Bloffwitch: Are they not medically supervised?

Dr ALEXANDER: They are, but I believe the quality of medical supervision varies. To my way of thinking, in general terms, before I get to the specific complaints I have received, the emergence of retirement villages, with semi-self-contained accommodation under less centralised control, is a better alternative. People do reach an age at which they are no longer able to cope in independent accommodation. However, the retirement village population in my electorate - particularly in the Mt Lawley area, where the population on average is probably almost as old as those in nursing homes - seem to survive much better and they seem to be much happier on a community level.

Mr Bloffwitch: They are more integrated.

Dr ALEXANDER: Yes, they are more integrated, they give each other more support, and they are subject to less control on a day to day basis. The people retain their independence and their lifestyle to a much greater extent.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Would you agree that that is a triumph for private enterprise in the housing sector?

Dr ALEXANDER: Not at all. The retirement villages, by and large, are run by community based organisations rather than private sector organisations for profit. At least two or three nursing homes in my electorate are not well run or well administered, and I believe the profit motive has taken over from health care. This is not an accusation I level at all nursing homes; at least two in my electorate, St Michael's Nursing Home and Retirement Village in North Perth and St David's Retirement Centre in Mt Lawley, are well run, well administered and are under private control.

Mr Court: In my electorate and the electorate of the member for Cottesloe there are a number of privately owned retirement villages that are profit oriented and provide an extremely good level of service. If they do not make good profits, they will not provide a good service.

Dr ALEXANDER: I am not sure. The average income level of people in the western suburbs is higher than that in the area I refer to and people can afford to pay more for their accommodation. Therefore, they get the quality they pay for.

Mr Court: In my electorate the population is varying in wealth with a wide range of income levels. The nursing homes range from the bottom of the market to the top of the market. The important point is that this is not an easy area. It is difficult to deal with elderly people and inevitably problems arise.

Dr ALEXANDER: I agree.

Mr Strickland: One important thing that has happened is that the number of beds is frozen and the population has increased. The hostel accommodation that was available in the past is now tending to cater more for nursing home patients. People who in the past went to nursing homes cannot go to them now because of the shortage of beds. If you have observed different behaviours and increased frailty among the residents, it is because there is not enough room for them in nursing homes.

Dr ALEXANDER: That could be so. There may be no simple answer to the points I am raising but, contrary to the comments of members opposite, in some cases at least the pursuit of profit, either within nursing homes or hostels for the elderly, overcomes the need for properly administered health care.

Mr Bloffwitch: It should not.

Dr ALEXANDER: I agree that it should not, but it appears to do so. I have supported a campaign run by a group calling for better care in the nursing-health care system. They have called for greater Federal Government involvement in this area in relation to checking and supervising the system. I am not sure whether greater Federal Government involvement is the answer. I would prefer to see greater community based care so that the local community was involved in the running of these homes and so that local people could have some say in administering homes where probably some of their friends and relatives are located.

Mr Bloffwitch: That is desirable with all of them.

Dr ALEXANDER: I think some of the boards are not particularly answerable to consumers, patients or the relatives of those patients. The Federal Department of Community Services and Health has investigated complaints but the results of those investigations are not readily accessible to the average person so it is unclear to the public what are the results of the investigations by Mr Staples' administration in response to the complaints raised.

Some nursing homes have been subject to adverse publicity. I know that by raising criticisms of particular places we run the danger of reports saying that nursing homes are condemned. I do not want to do that. I do not condemn all nursing homes in any area, certainly not in my electorate where I have named two whose standards of health care, according to my information and judgment, are good. I am aware that most private health care operators belong to the Nursing Homes Association of WA and that to some extent there is self regulation in conjunction with Federal department controls which do the job. However, in other cases it does not seem to do the job.

I will highlight a couple of such cases, one of which is my electorate, which illustrate some of the points I am making. I have a copy of two statutory declarations signed by people who have worked in these establishments. The first is from a part time cook who worked for a few months in Craigmont Hospital in Maylands on the edge of the Perth electorate. It is part of the Craigmont Hospital system. The part time cook says that he or she - I am not sure which it is - catered for 100 patients of which 25 were on a vitamised diet. This declaration is dated 25 March 1991. The cook's first observation is that for 1990-91 year the administration allowed \$2.70 per head a day for food. The hospital budget for 1990-91 was already over so the matron asked for a restriction on buying food and for the cook to cut wherever possible items not thought necessary in the kitchen. It seems that they are running on an even tighter budget now. The cook says -

Cooking in Craigmont Hospital was an experience for me as I was never employed anywhere where you should cook just enough food - such limited food - for certain amount of people.

For example -

For 102 portions of shepherd pie, I was given only 8kg of mince meat. . .

That is, 80 grams per person.

Mr Bloffwitch: It does not sound like a whole lot.

Mr Court: You would need a lot of potato.

Dr ALEXANDER: Exactly. He used a lot of water and flour to make it go further. He does

not mention potato, so perhaps neither he nor the administration read the paper. That was pretty inadequate. The same applied to 102 portions of meat loaf where only eight kilograms of mincemeat was used. When I used to cook shepherd's pie I used at least half a kilogram of mincemeat for a family of five or six and did not think that was over generous. On the Tuesday six medium sized chickens were roasted and two or three kilograms of vegetables were cooked to feed 102 people. The story continues making it clear that the amount of food provided was, to say the least, rather mean. The cook finishes that he was glad to leave the hospital as he did not want to join the conspiracy of feeding old people badly.

The second statutory declaration, also signed on 25 March, which was forwarded to the Department of Community Services and Health complaints section relates to the Undercliffe Nursing Home. A nurse employed there felt she had to draw attention to the conditions, which were often deplorable and which did not meet the standards set for nursing homes. She states, in part -

3. The food was often stale or off, I tried a Christmas dinner once and had to spit it out as it was inedible.
4. Vegetables were peeled en masse and soaked for days in sodium bicarbonate.
5. Blood from defrosting meat was allowed to drop on fresh fruit below, a tray of peaches in one instance.
6. Shelves from the kitchen fridge were soaked in a patient's bath . . .
7. The terminally ill were not given adequate pain relief, when certain staff were on duty.
8. Residents who were not strong or vocal enough were often denied requests to see their Doctor.
9. One resident was left with hundreds of pills in her room (she was admitted with them) many months previously . . .

An acting matron, called "Matron x" in this statutory declaration sounds like she should have been called something worse. The declaration continues -

10. The same Sister/acting matron (I will call her Matron x For ease) would loudly ring around for a new resident stating "I will have a bed today or tomorrow as there is one on the way out now. The resident in question often dying in the room opposite within earshot.
11. Matron x would get staff to falsify times of death if they occurred at night. Thus if someone died before midnight she asked you to record the time as after midnight, then the family would be charged for that whole day and it gave matron x an extra twenty four hours to fill the bed before a days fees were lost. (Drs rarely came in overnight)
12. Matron x would help herself to various drugs from the trolley, usually valium, serepax or cardiac drugs, and at times appeared in the home totally drunk or drugged, although off duty, she would demand the medication keys.

Mr Shave: If you were the boss of that hospital, would you have sacked her?

Dr ALEXANDER: That question may have been raised.

Mr Shave: What if the union said you had to leave her there?

Dr ALEXANDER: I do not think it would get to that stage or that the union would defend practices of that sort. In fact, the union has been vociferous in its criticism of certain of these places.

The letter continues -

The point of this letter is not to be vindictive but to give you an insiders view of what someone in power can get away with. I have worked in three other Nursing homes, none as bad as above, but they all suffer the same problem, too few staff and too many residents.

This person signed the letter, "A well wisher".

Mr Nicholls: Do you believe nursing homes should be run by the Government?

Dr ALEXANDER: No. This person states -

I also pray to God I may never need to go to one of these places, or if it is inevitable at least it is a Government run and owned premises.

I support the campaign which is being run by the Pensioners Action Group to draw attention to the conditions in nursing homes and to have them corrected. Its solution is a nationally run system of nursing home care. While I support in principle Government ownership and operation of most establishments, I believe the answer is not central Government control but community based control, perhaps through local government, and certainly not through the Federal Government.

Mr Shave interjected.

Dr ALEXANDER: I hope that never happens. My model for the management of nursing homes would be a decentralised, democratically based system of control, based in the community, and where the community can have a say in the running of nursing homes so that the complaints which we have heard about, even if they are not typical of all nursing homes, but which clearly occur in some of them, can be corrected. These are just a few of the complaints which the Pensioners Action Group has received since it launched its campaign. It is clear that some changes need to be made in the management and operation of nursing homes.

MR NICHOLLS (Mandurah) [10.51 pm]: There is no doubt that every person who will speak on the Budget debate will focus on the recession or on the current harsh economic times. Without wishing to traverse the same area about which other speakers have expressed strong opinions, I believe there is a real need for the Government not only to look at the devastation which the Federal and State economic policies are causing but also to really listen to some of the positive alternatives which have been put forward. In my electorate of Mandurah the unemployment level is between 25 per cent and 30 per cent in real terms. The youth of Mandurah are suffering immensely. A large number of the students who are leaving school do not have any expectation of gaining employment. Other members may think that is not unlike the situation in their electorates, but I believe we need to focus on trying to stimulate employment opportunities so that our youth can develop a work ethos. We can talk about downturns in the economy, economic cycles, a lower inflation rate, and the recession we had to have, but those statements amount to nothing if our young people do not have an opportunity to develop a work ethos. In fact, when the current economic cycle has gone through this trough we may not have people in our society who understand the work ethos or who will be capable of taking on the challenge of employment. There is no doubt that if the solutions were simple, they would have been put forward and would now be in place.

Areas such as Mandurah are suffering not only because there is a downturn in the economy but also because very few opportunities can be created without some sort of external stimuli. In recent weeks a major contractor, Silverthorne Bros, has gone into liquidation, and from all accounts between 40 and 80 people have been directly affected. I understand that there is still some glimmer of hope that a new buyer will be found for the Dwellingup mill, and that some of the people in that area will remain in their employment. However, we need to take a close look at how we can create some opportunities to stimulate not only employment but also the local economy.

Mr Bloffwitch: We must ensure that if someone buys the mill they have the opportunity of making a go of it.

Mr NICHOLLS: That is right. We must also ensure that we do not place a burden on businesses which will create a disincentive for them to employ people. Currently we provide incentives such as technology to increase productivity, rather than hiring people in any shape or form under our current wages system. I would like to propose a number of options which I believe could create some stimuli in my electorate. The Government has been promising since 1983 that it would construct the Dawesville Cut. We have seen that promise come and go at election time, but all we can see at the moment is a couple of quarries, and while that is progressing towards some sort of hole in the ground it is doing very little to encourage employment or to stimulate the local economy. I hope the Government will keep its election promise and implement a project to construct the Dawesville Cut within the next two years to

provide a major capital injection into the local economy. The people of Mandurah and the surrounding region have a right to expect that this Government will live up to its promises at a time of need when the economy is not only down but nearly out. That sort of commitment should be on top of the Government's list of priorities.

Another area of employment is road construction, which is funded at least partly by the Federal Government, but I believe there is also some sort of State participation in road upgrading. There are currently two road construction programs within the Mandurah area, one to the north, which is a major project, and one on the bypass. Ironically, no local contractors have been given the opportunity of providing their services for those projects. Subcontractors have been brought in from the southern part of the outer metropolitan area, and a contractor has been brought from Bunbury to work on one of the projects. I do not have a problem with the Government's making sure that it is getting the best value for its dollar, but local contractors should have been given the opportunity of tendering for part of that work to give them some glimmer of hope of their staying in business. I have not been able to verify this with any specific evidence, but I am also led to believe that a number of projects are taking place - one near Collie and one near Dwellingup - which involve the Main Roads Department, which has brought to the area workers from Kalgoorlie, and that subcontractors from that region are also working at Collie. I do not wish to try to dictate to the Government, or stipulate that local people must be employed, but in these times of hardship there is some merit and some obligation, where taxpayers' funds are involved, to assist those people in the communities around which the capital works are taking place. There will possibly be two more road projects between Mandurah and Bunbury in the near future. If the Main Roads Department is successful in obtaining the contracts for those two projects, I would like to think that the Government will take some action to ensure that the local contractors in the Mandurah area have an opportunity either to tender their services or provide some consideration of their capacity to be employed. This is not just a plea to have some of the Mandurah people take advantage of work from Government business; this is a plea to keep some of those local business people employed. It is a plea to get some sort of recognition from the Government that people in areas such as Mandurah need to have access to some of these activities. They need to have the ability to put in a tender. They should be able to contribute if they can do the job to the same capacity and at the same price.

Another issue I have raised a number of times in the House is public transport. Where an area such as my electorate does not have the capacity to generate a large amount of employment for local people, they need to be able to get to those areas where industrialisation or employment exists. The only way people can do that, particularly the young, is by using public transport. Unfortunately the Minister for Transport is not in the House tonight, but she gave a commitment that a railway enabling Bill would be introduced into this House during the autumn session. It worries me that the answer to a question I put on notice suggests that that Bill will not be introduced before 1 September 1991. That puts the project further behind and creates a real problem. If the railway enabling Bill is not introduced until late in the year, and there is an upturn in the housing market, not only may the developers looking for opportunities for residential development be severely inconvenienced, but a lot of trauma will be associated with trying to resume or acquire land for the provision of a railway reserve purely because the Government did not ensure that the Bill was introduced on time. Everyone in the community, especially the developers wanting to develop that land, understand that they should not create urban residential development which will have a negative impact on residents because of a railway line being close by. I presume it will be a railway, although I note from the Minister's answer that there is still some doubt about what form of transport the link will take. I do not have a difficulty with allowing the experts to determine the form of transport, leaving the options open for the future, but we must make sure that not only is the reserve well documented, but it is also done as soon as possible before the upturn in the residential market and before developers are inconvenienced or even prevented from creating employment as a result of some sort of hold-up with the railway enabling Bill.

The more immediate form of transport for those in employment is the bus. Undoubtedly, the people of Mandurah deserve a better service. They need more bus services at the weekends, in the evenings and on public holidays. Mandurah is supposedly an area which people use for recreation at weekends and on public holidays, and basically we do not have a bus system

to cater for those without vehicles. It is ironical that the Government does not have the means to provide the buses to create a better service for the people of Mandurah but it has the buses to enable people to travel to the Burswood Casino. Obviously this Government's priorities do not include providing essential services to people like those in Mandurah.

Mr Taylor: Perhaps the workers at the casino use the buses.

Mr NICHOLLS: The radio advertisements I have listened to suggest that they are not provided for the workers; they are provided to attract patrons. I do not have a problem with the casino becoming involved in a good marketing exercise. If the Burswood Casino had put the package together it would have been a good exercise, but when the Government tells me, as the representative of the people of Mandurah, that it does not have the buses and it cannot afford to provide a better service to the people of Mandurah, although it has the buses to run people from all over the metropolitan area to the Burswood Casino and back, something is amiss.

Mr Ripper: It is employment for the people of Belmont.

Mr NICHOLLS: That may be so, but my interest is my electorate. I am suggesting that far more people in my electorate need that essential service than need to be transported to the casino and back. The member for Nedlands hit the nail on the head when he pointed out that during the recession more people are trying to spend their hard earned money gambling in an effort to try to restore some sort of financial status, or earn the money to pay their bills.

Mr Leahy: The TAB will not confirm that statement.

Mr NICHOLLS: It is suggested that punters spent a total of \$1.1 billion on the TAB, the casino, racing and trotting tracks in a recent six month period. That is not bad.

Mr Leahy: TAB and trotting returns are down.

Mr NICHOLLS: Is the member suggesting the casino is the only venue making any profit?

Mr Leahy: The return from all those codes of gambling is down.

Mr NICHOLLS: According to my colleague, the casino recorded a \$40 million rise in revenue in the last half of 1990.

Several members interjected.

Mr Bloffwitch: The point has already been made that a lot of money is now taken by the casino which is not going into those fields.

Mr NICHOLLS: The casino does not appear to be going broke, and we need those essential services such as Transperth buses. I believe the people of Mandurah deserve a better service from Transperth, and if buses are available to provide for the transport of people to the casino it is quite logical for all my electors to feel that they are not receiving the services they deserve.

Another issue of importance to me and my electorate is law and order. I will not stand here and berate the Parliament and say what we should or should not do; enough speakers over the last couple of months have put forward various theories about how to solve juvenile crime and so on. However, one matter which should be addressed is the number of police officers stationed at Mandurah. For some time I have called for the Government to increase police numbers in Mandurah, but the only response I seem to get is attacks by the Minister for Police about causing the problems or not understanding them. I assure the House that I do understand the problems and the needs of my electorate. All members should analyse the numbers of police in their electorates. Where those numbers are insufficient an attempt should be made to increase them. Alternatively, we should examine ways of relieving those officers from clerical duties so that they can do the police work out in the field. I would appreciate the Government's addressing this issue, increasing the number of police officers on general duties work, and stationing them in Mandurah.

Mr Lewis: The problem is that the Government does not understand the needs of your electorate.

Mr NICHOLLS: I can tell the member for Applecross that that is not for the want of my raising the issues with the Government. If the Government is prepared to listen, hopefully the people in my electorate will at least have an opportunity to get some of their needs serviced and some issues addressed.

I refer now to the mosquito problem in my electorate. I do not need to tell any member here that mosquitoes are not only very objectionable animals, or insects -

The SPEAKER: They are not animals, they are insects.

Mr NICHOLLS: Some of my constituents would say that they are animals and not insects, and the stories I have heard about the voracity of mosquito attacks leave me quite stunned.

Mr Graham: Do you want harsher penalties for mosquitoes?

Mr NICHOLLS: No, I want to eradicate them.

Mr Graham: I have difficulty sorting out your policies for juveniles and mosquitoes.

Mr NICHOLLS: I understand that the member would have difficulty because, knowing him as I do, he would need it not only drawn for him but also explained. The reality is that this Government gave a commitment to a five year mosquito eradication program, at least to eradicate the Ross River virus, and it did an excellent job. In fact, the situation in the two years since the election has been extremely good. The larvicide spraying and the other measures that were taken to control mosquito breeding had a dramatic effect on the number of mosquitoes in the Peel-Harvey area. However, I am very concerned that no larvicide spraying has been carried out since April 1990, yet I believe spraying has taken place in the Leschenault Inlet and other areas of the State.

Mr Read: Why is that?

Mr NICHOLLS: That is a good question, and it is one that I would like to have answered.

Mr Read: Is it anything to do with the local governments in those areas - Mandurah and Rockingham - refusing to take part in the Government program?

Mr NICHOLLS: That sort of statement concerns me. It suggests that this Government is quite prepared to risk the health of the people in the Mandurah area because the local councils in that area do not agree with the Government about putting funds into the kitty. That is absolutely pitiful. Are members opposite telling me that the health of the people in the Mandurah region around the Peel-Harvey estuary is to be put at risk because the Government could not get an agreement with the local councils there? Is the Government saying it is quite prepared to turn its back and not take any action at all to continue that eradication program purely because it could not come to an agreement with the councils?

Mr Pearce: No, we are saying that the councils in your area are imperiling that program in a way that councils in other areas are not.

Mr NICHOLLS: I put it to the Leader of the House that the Government's commitment did not say anything about this program not being implemented until agreements were reached with the local councils. It did not say the people of that area would not be given any ongoing service or eradication program.

Mr Pearce: We are prepared to put up our share of the money. You should be making the speech to the Mandurah council.

Mr NICHOLLS: I understand that 80 per cent of the area around the Peel-Harvey Inlet where the breeding takes place is Crown land. Is that correct?

Mr Pearce: I do not ask questions about the sex lives of people or animals, but the fact is that all of the councils involved in this program contributed except yours.

Mr NICHOLLS: It is interesting that mosquitoes apparently travel 10 kilometres to seek the blood they need in order to breed. Therefore, whether they live on Crown land is irrelevant. The fact is that the Crown land is there and that is where the breeding takes place, and in my view the State Government is responsible, if we are looking at who is responsible for that area. I raise the issue because the Ross River virus is a major problem affecting the health of my constituents. The Government did a very good job in controlling mosquitoes for two years and I am appalled that it now turns its back on the people of my electorate purely and simply because it did not get some sort of agreement with the local councils in the area. The health of the people in my area should be the primary consideration, not some petty argument about agreements.

Mr Pearce: Why are the councils in your area so special that they did not agree to contribute?

Mr NICHOLLS: I do not know; I am not involved in the negotiations.

Mr Pearce: Why not?

Mr NICHOLLS: I am a member of this Parliament, not a member of the council.

I refer now to the Mandurah Senior High School. In April last year the then Minister for Education received a letter outlining the maintenance needs of that school. There was a great deal of talk about it, and the response was, "We will look at it." I believe \$130 000-worth of maintenance was required at that time. Money has been spent on refurbishing some of the temporary classrooms there, but still we have seen no funding at all to bring that school back up to the required standard. Where does the Government think it is going when it allows schools and other facilities to decay? The Government should introduce a maintenance program to ensure that facilities are kept at a reasonable standard. The roofs over schools are leaking and the paint is peeling off the ceilings; that is a ridiculous situation. Surely part of that \$44 million which has been under spent - \$30 million on housing and \$14 million on sewerage - can be turned in this direction. Many schools require maintenance; it is an indictment of the Government that schools are falling down around the students and the teachers. It is about time that the Government addressed the issues instead of putting them aside. The Government should manage the State's resources in a proper way; it should ensure that the students and teachers have a decent environment in which to work. Action should be taken to address some of the issues and to rectify the situation. It is about time that the Government went out into the electorate to see how bad the situation is.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Bradshaw.

STATE SUPPLY COMMISSION BILL

Council's Further Message

Further message from the Council received and read notifying that it has adopted the conference managers' report.

BILLS (2) - RECEIPT AND FIRST READING

1. Children's Court of Western Australia Amendment Bill (No 2)
2. Anglican Church of Australia School Lands Amendment Bill

Bills received from the Council; and, on motions by Mr Pearce (Leader of the House), read a first time.

House adjourned at 11.25 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES - TOLL-FREE NUMBERS

24. Mr HOUSE to the Premier:

- (1) What State Government departments, authorities, and agencies have toll-free numbers?
- (2) Are there any plans to extend the toll-free services to other State Government departments, authorities and agencies in 1991?
- (3) If so, which departments, authorities and agencies will be providing the service?
- (4) What is the cost of providing a toll-free telephone service?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1) Information on Government agencies providing toll free services to the public are detailed in -
 - (a) The community information section of country editions of the Telecom directory - compiled by the Rural Women's Taskforce.
 - (b) 008 Directory of State Government agencies compiled by the Library and Information Service of Western Australia - LISWA. The directory also provides listings for a number of Federal Government agencies.

Attached is a copy of the LISWA Directory, together with a list of amendments and additions. These documents are the most up to date listings currently available.

[See tabled paper 329.]

The State Government's entries for a new edition of Telecom's White Pages are currently being coordinated, and where applicable new 008 numbers will be included.

In addition to the agencies listed in the 008 Directory, my department has advised me that there are a total of eight members of Parliament who have 008 telephone facilities connected to their parliamentary office. Refer to the answer to question 451 asked in the Legislative Council.

(2)-(3)

The provision of toll free services are operational issues and are the responsibility of individual departments. There are a number of alternative strategies that departments can use to provide the public with inexpensive telephone access to its services. Departments are constantly reviewing the servicing requirements of their clients.

- (4) The cost of providing the service depends on the current telephone arrangements of the provider and the amount of usage. The basic costs are -
 - (a) Connection to an existing telephone service or switchboard - \$60.00.
 - (b) Rental costs are \$45.00 per month. For each call received, \$2.00, plus 73 per cent of the normal STD charge is levied.

URANIUM - AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY *Policy Review*

116. Mr COURT to the Minister for State Development:

- (1) Has the Australian Labor Party completed its review of its uranium policy?
- (2) If not, when is it expected that this review will be completed?
- (3) Is the State Government reconsidering its ban on uranium mining in this State considering the growing world demand for power generation purposes?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

(1)-(2)

The ALP Uranium Policy Review Committee has sought and received submissions both in writing and orally from a wide range of organisations and individuals.

The committee has presented its report and it is likely to be considered by the party at its next national conference.

(3) The matter is not under consideration at the moment.

HELIX RESEARCH ASSOCIATES - GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

415. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

(1) Has the Government employed Helix Research Associates since 29 August 1989?

(2) If so, what work was it employed to carry out and how much was paid for that work?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

(1) No.

(2) Not applicable.

BICYCLES - ACCIDENTS

475. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Health:

(1) Will the Minister list the statistics of accidents involving cyclists over the last five years?

(2) Will the Minister list the number of cyclists involved in these accidents who sustained -

(a) head; and/or

(b) neck injuries?

Mr WILSON replied:

(1) PEDAL CYCLE ACCIDENT HOSPITALISATIONS 1985-1990

Year	85	86	87	88	89	*90
No	611	654	617	698	602	600

(2) PEDAL CYCLE ACCIDENT HOSPITALISATIONS 1985-1990 BY TYPE OF INJURY

Year	85	86	87	88	89	*90
Head Injuries	276	253	207	253	177	178
Neck Injuries	4	3	6	8	4	11

*1990 data is complete until the end of October.

SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION - GOVERNMENT FUNDING

514. Mr KIERATH to the Minister for Health:

(1) With respect to the Spina Bifida Association's recent loss of a full-time occupational therapist through a lack of available funding, will the Government include funding for this purpose in the 1991-92 Budget?

(2) If not, why not?

(3) Would a firm funding commitment facilitate the Spina Bifida Association receiving interim funding from the Lotteries Commission of Western Australia?

(4) Will the provision of an early intervention occupation therapy service not only

help the sufferer and family, but can alleviate the child's subsequent learning difficulties and help prevent poor self esteem?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) My attention has been brought to the reduction by Princess Margaret Hospital of occupational therapy for children with spina bifida. It is not action which I support and therefore I have asked the Commissioner of Health to request the hospital to immediately restore the service.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.
- (4) A primary objective of the State's health services is to provide access to appropriate and needed treatments for children. In this particular case this responsibility lies with the Princess Margaret Hospital. I have every confidence that the hospital will carefully assess the need for and benefits of providing early intervention occupational therapy services to children with spina bifida.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE - EMPLOYEES
Unfair Dismissal - Right of Appeal Legislation

544. Mr TRENORDEN to the Minister for Productivity and Labour Relations:

- (1) Has the Minister's office been approached in the last six months by an employee or former employee at Parliament House seeking the Minister's assistance to have an appeal against his or her unfair dismissal heard independently?
- (2) Why has the Government repeatedly refused to proclaim the legislation passed by the Parliament in 1987 that gives staff at Parliament House a right of appeal against unfair dismissal?
- (3) (a) If yes to (1), was the Minister successful in getting an appeal heard by an independent person or panel;
(b) if not, why not?
- (4) When will staff at Parliament House get the right of appeal that was legislated for four years ago?
- (5) (a) Will the Minister ensure that, when the right of appeal is eventually granted, that right shall exist from the date on which the 1987 legislation was passed by the Parliament;
(b) if not, what provision will the Minister make for those persons who have been denied the right of appeal since the passage of the 1987 legislation?

Mrs HENDERSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The legislation will be proclaimed when the parties are satisfied that the necessary administrative arrangements are in place.
- (3) Parliament House staff have not agreed that an independent person or panel is a satisfactory solution.
- (4) Answered by (2)
- (5) (a) This matter is yet to be determined.
(b) Not applicable.

SCHOOLS - PRE-PRIMARY CENTRES
Five and Four Year Old Enrolments

555. Mr TUBBY to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many children turning five years of age in 1991 are currently enrolled in pre primary centres?

- (2) How many children living in Western Australia will turn four years of age during 1991?
- (3) Of these children turning four during 1991 -
 - (a) how many are currently enrolled in pre primary centres;
 - (b) how many are currently enrolled in pre school centres;
 - (c) how many are currently enrolled in a program conducted through a family centre?

Dr GALLOP replied:

- (1) Children turning five years old in 1991 enrolled in -

Government and Non-Government Pre-Primary	22 454
Independent and Community Pre-Schools	2 269
Total Children	24 723
- (2) The Australian Bureau of Statistics advise the number is not available. However they also advised there were 23 271 live births in 1987. This would have been the number of children turning four in 1991, but it does not allow for deaths or migration.
- (3) Children turning four years old in 1991 enrolled in -

(a) Government and Non-Government Pre-Primary	6 169
(b) Independent and Community Pre-Schools	4 119
(c) Family Centre Programs	3 405

In addition it is estimated there are 2 580 children turning four years old in Day Care Centres.

* All Ministry of Education student numbers are still provisional at this stage.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT - LONGMORE

Juvenile Institutions - Costs

602. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Community Services:

- (1) What is the cost per head per day of keeping juveniles in detention in Longmore?
- (2) How many juveniles on average are held at this and other similar centres?
- (3) What was the capital cost of the centres and when were they built or acquired?
- (4) What is the annual cost for maintenance of each of the centres?
- (5) How many people, including warders, are employed to maintain the Longmore centre and care for the inmates?
- (6) How many community release order detainees are cared for and housed on station properties?
- (7) How many and which stations are involved in the program?
- (8) In addition to the payment of board and lodging, is any money allocated to the station property owners for equipment and resources for skills development e.g. motor cycles, tools etc?
- (9) If the CRO detainees damage station equipment in the course of their training, does the property owner receive compensation?
- (10) Do different regional offices administering the program have different allowances allocated for detainee training?
- (11) How many properties formerly participating in the program have indicated their reluctance to continue due to the high costs of damages associated with the training?
- (12) How do the institutions compare in the success of their rehabilitation methods i.e. are private properties more successful than institutions such as Longmore in having a reduced return to crime?

Mr RIPPER replied:

- (1) On average occupancy levels, the average cost per day per child if detained in a juvenile institution in this State was recently estimated to be \$254. This has been derived from the salaries, wages and allowances, and contingencies. The calculations exclude depreciation of buildings and equipment. The daily figure will vary depending on the daily average number of children detained and variations in salary movement.

- (2) (i) Longmore Remand - up to 39
Longmore Training - up to 39
(ii) Nyandi - up to 20
(iii) Riverbank - up to 34

Recently, with the exception of some cells held for female detainees at Nyandi, all centres have been at near capacity.

- (3) (i) Longmore Remand and Assessment opened in 1963 - in 1977 became Longmore Training. The new remand section extensions were completed in 1977.
(ii) Nyandi was built in 1968 and opened in February 1970.
(iii) Riverbank was built in 1959-60 and opened in May 1960.

This information is available in Department for Community Services annual reports. Costings relating to the construction of these institutions are not particularly meaningful bearing in mind vastly different cost structures prevailing at the time and inflation in the intervening years.

- (4) The following information was provided by the Building Management Authority. Figures stated are the annual cost of maintenance for each of the centres for the financial year 1989-90 -

	Longmore	Nyandi	Riverbank
Faults	\$105 503	\$47 424	\$61 310
Vandal Damage	\$7 787	\$9 968	\$4 500
Programmed Maintenance	\$37 037	\$11 586	\$3 103
Unprogrammed Maintenance	\$1 680	\$9 745	\$335

- (5) No warders are employed, however group workers and other professionals are employed.

Longmore Training Centre - 61 Full time equivalent -
FTE - positions.

Longmore Remand Centre - 67 Full time equivalent
positions if operating at
full capacity of 39 juveniles.

- (6) Currently there are 16 juveniles serving conditional release orders on station properties.

- (7) 24 stations have been involved in providing placements for conditional release orders. These are -

Bidgemia	Lyndon	Mia Mia
Mardathuna	Ullawarra	Winninh
Williambury	Wooramel	Mooloogool
Cowrana Downs	Wooleen	Ullala
Youanmi Downs	Woorlba	Windimurra
Erong Springs	Windsor	Dalgety Downs
Youno Downs	Fraser Range	Southern Hills
Nanambinia		

Yandiyarra and Cheritah - Aboriginal communities in north country.

- (8) Payments to stations participating in the Conditional Release Order Scheme is \$250 per week per individual. This is composed of -

\$175 for supervision
 \$50 for food allowance
 \$25 personal allowance for young person

In addition all young people are outfitted with work clothes, boots, swag etc prior to placement. This costs between \$300 to \$500 per individual. There is no allowance paid for skills development as the program is one of supervised work experience.

- (9) Any loss or damage to property by offender program participants is covered by departmental insurance policies.
- (10) In the initial stages of the program there were some variations in allowances paid. This has now been standardised across regional offices.
- (11) No station has formally indicated that it wishes to cease participating in the program. A couple of stations have requested higher rates of payment for youths placed on their properties, however the scheme is not meant to replace the main income of a property in harsh economic times.
- (12) Local Children's Court statistics have shown a reduction in offences when alternative custody programs have replaced the use of detention.

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND - EXPENDITURE
Budget Expectations 31 March 1991

606. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) Does the Premier expect actual Consolidated Revenue Fund expenditure to be reasonably close to Budget expectations as at 31 March 1991?
- (2) If yes, what is the approximate percentage variation?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1) Based on actual outlays for the nine months ended 31 March 1991, and agency projections for the three months ending 30 June 1991, expenditure is expected to be reasonably close to budget.
- (2) In percentage terms, the projected savings on this basis are about point four of one per cent of total estimated outlays. I would point out, however, that, in view of the significant downturn in our revenues, all Ministers and agencies were asked to reassess their expenditure programs over the last quarter of 1990-91 to contain outlays to those items considered essential to the maintenance of their functions and the provision of essential services to the community. The actual percentage variation will depend on the outcome of this comprehensive reassessment.

HOSPITALS - PRIVATE HOSPITALS
Building Programs - Assistance With Interest

638. Mr MINSON to the Minister for Health:

Is the financial status of the private hospitals which have received assistance with interest connected with building programs examined by the Health Department to establish the need for subsidies to be made?

Mr WILSON replied:

Yes.

SCHOOLS - WONGAN DISTRICTS HIGH SCHOOL
Air-conditioning Funds

640. Mr McNEE to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Were funds approved for air conditioning for the manual arts/home economics room at the Wongan Districts High School for the 1990-91 year?
- (2) If yes, how much?
- (3) If not, why not?

Dr GALLOP replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) A request was made to the District Education Office to fund this project from the Minor Works allocation last year. The Building Management Authority is completing an inspection report and an estimate of the cost ready for the next minor works meeting, where the project will be considered.

WATER - CHLORINE

Western Australian Water Supplies

643. Mr MINSON to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is chlorine added to Western Australian water supplies?
- (2) If yes -
 - (a) at what levels;
 - (b) what is the minimum safe level of addition of chlorine for human consumption;
 - (c) for what reason is chlorine added?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) Yes, in accordance with internationally accepted public health practice.
- (2) (a) Chlorine is added so as to achieve a free residual chlorine level not exceeding 1 mg/L in water available for human consumption.
- (b) The minimum level of chlorine that is effective in making water safe for human consumption will vary with the time for which the chlorine is in contact with the water and the characteristics of the water but, in general, a minimum of 1 mg/L of free residual chlorine for a contact time of 15 to 20 minutes will produce safe water for human consumption.
- (c) To disinfect water; that is, to destroy microorganisms that may be harmful to human health.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN - REPLACEMENTS

Deputy Premier-Premier Consultations

647. Mr COURT to the Deputy Premier:

Was the Deputy Premier consulted by the Premier on the Premier's decision to have three Ministers replaced earlier this year?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

The background to decisions of the State Parliamentary Labor Party with respect to the composition of Cabinet are not matters of public record any more than the detail of who the member consulted in his own party and elsewhere when he unsuccessfully challenged the Leader of the Opposition last year and was himself replaced as Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

GLUE SNIFFING - YOUTH

650. Mr COURT to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has glue sniffing continued to be a major problem among young people during the past year?
- (2) If so, what action has been taken by the Government to warn people of the dangers of this glue sniffing?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) Most young people never sniff glue. Available data indicates that glue sniffing is a fad behaviour, mainly restricted to a very small proportion of 13 to 14-year-olds. The incidence of glue sniffing by young people in Western Australia is lower than in other States.

- (2) A State Committee on Solvent Abuse has been established to examine the problem, including glue sniffing, and formulate a comprehensive range of prevention strategies. The committee consists of representatives from the Alcohol and Drug Authority, Health Department, Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority, Department of Local Government, Police Department, Ministry of Education, Department of Corrective Services, and Ministry of Sport and Recreation. A comprehensive range of educational and community development strategies have been implemented in specific metropolitan areas and country centres to deal with solvent abuse problems, including glue sniffing.

SCHOOLS - PERTH MODERN SCHOOL
Asbestos Roofs

656. Mr COURT to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) What was the safe period recommended before the public could again use the buildings at Perth Modern School after the asbestos roofs were recently replaced?
- (2) When the roof was replaced, was all contamination removed at the time, or is there a residual problem that needs to be addressed?

Dr GALLOP replied:

- (1) The public were permitted to use the buildings at Perth Modern School following cleaning and environmental testing carried out in locations nominated by the school's health and safety representative.
- (2) Eleven persons, including the school's health and safety officer, conducted an examination of roof spaces and areas around affected buildings. The areas were declared dust free according to current environmental standards.

There is no known residual problem.

FOOD - PILBARA-KIMBERLEY REGIONS
Average Family Food Basket Surveys

657. Mr COURT to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Has the Government carried out any surveys determining the cost of an average family food basket in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions?
- (2) If yes, what are the most recent results available?

Mrs HENDERSON replied:

- (1) Yes. The Prices Monitoring Unit carries out surveys of the cost of a standard basket of 50 commonly purchased grocery items. The surveys are conducted at the middle and the end of each year. The most recent survey was undertaken on 20 and 21 November 1990.
- (2) The survey results are published as an Index Price which has been weighted and standardised to enable the basket cost to be readily compared between towns. The figures shown as the Index Price are not the actual purchase price required to purchase the 50 item basket. The Index Prices for towns in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions included in the November 1990 survey are as follows -

		\$
KIMBERLEY -	Broome	127.78
	Derby	124.23
	Kununurra	131.67
PILBARA -	Port Hedland	123.84
	Meekatharra	121.07
	Paraburdoo	121.99
	Wickham	122.62
	Tom Price	124.52
	Mt Magnet	127.58

Exmouth	120.25
Karratha	120.48
Camarvon	114.83
Onslow	123.87

SCHOOLS - ENEABBA PRIMARY SCHOOL
Refurbishment History

662. Mr TUBBY to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Further to question 459 of 1991, why is the information I sought on the refurbishment history of the Eneabba Primary School not readily available?
- (2) Does the Minister's response indicate that the Ministry does not maintain accurate and readily available records on the status of buildings under its control?

Dr GALLOP replied:

- (1) The information supplied in question 459 related to maintenance. Major works were last carried out at the school in 1977-78 as follows -
 3 x Classrooms
 1 x General purpose room
 1 x Staff room
 1 x Student toilet block
- (2) All maintenance records are kept by the Building Management Authority.

SCHOOLS - GRAFFITI

664. Mr TUBBY to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Further to question 556 of 1991, how many schools are currently on the record for removal of graffiti as part of the 1991-92 annual maintenance program?
- (2) What is the total cost of this backlog at the present time?
- (3) (a) If this backlog is to be undertaken in the 1991-92 program, is the allocation for annual maintenance going to be increased in real terms in the 1991-92 budget;
 (b) if so, what amount is proposed for annual maintenance in 1991-92?

Dr GALLOP replied:

- (1) Graffiti removal is now categorised as a fault and responded to according to essential need, as are other faults calls. Previous calls have been recorded at 153 schools.
- (2) Figure not available.
- (3) (a)-(b) The allocation for maintenance funding in 1991-92 will be subject to Budget allocation. However, every endeavour will be made to increase the allocation on that available this year. No actual figures can be released prior to Budget finalisation.

CHILD CARE CENTRES - FEE RELIEF SCHEME
Albany Occasional Child Care Centre

667. Mr HOUSE to the Minister for Community Services:

- (1) Can the Minister explain why child care centres which are funded to provide care for non-working parents like the Albany Occasional Child Care are ineligible to apply for the fee relief scheme?
- (2) Since the introduction of the fee relief scheme for private child care centres in Albany, have enrolments to the Albany Occasional Child Care Centre declined due to the fact that only working parents can afford the service due to the subsidies that the other private centres can now offer the non-working parents?

- (3) Was the State manager of the department alerted to the possibilities of the above situation developing during a visit to Albany in March?
- (4) Can the Minister explain why the department has created a service provided by the Albany Occasional Child Care Centre to cater for the needs of non-working parents when only working parents can afford to pay the fees due to the subsidy which the other private centres receive from the department?
- (5) Will the Minister consider extending the fee relief scheme to the Albany Occasional Child Care Centre?
- (6) If not, why not?

Mr RIPPER replied:

This question is not appropriately addressed to the State Minister for Community Services. The Albany Occasional Care Centre is funded and administered by the Commonwealth Department of Community Services and Health.

TUCKER, MR WARREN - GOVERNMENT ADVICE
Land Administration Department Relocation

672. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for Lands:

Has Mr Warren Tucker or any company associated with him given any professional advice to either the Department of Land Administration, the Office of Government Accommodation or any other Government department specifically on the relocation of DOLA to Midland?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

Neither the Department of Land Administration nor, I am advised, the Office of Government Accommodation has received any professional advice from Mr Warren Tucker, or any company associated with him, specifically on the relocation of DOLA to Midland. I have not sought to contact every other Government department on the matter but I am not aware of any such advice being sought by any other department.

HOSPITALS - PUBLIC HOSPITALS
Translation Services

675. Mr MINSON to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Are translation services available to non-English speaking persons in public hospitals?
- (2) If yes -
 - (a) What languages are available;
 - (b) what hospitals have what services available?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) Yes. Both interpreting and translating services are available. Interpreting services deal with spoken communication.
- (2) (a) Public hospitals generally use the Telephone Interpreter Service, which provides interpreters in 81 languages.
- (b) Royal Perth Hospital and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital each have an officer whose role is to book interpreters and educate staff regarding interpreters. They also interpret in their own languages. Princess Margaret Hospital has an acting ethnic liaison officer who has a similar role but does not interpret. Fremantle Hospital has one full time welfare officer-interpreter and one half time interpreter. Languages outside those spoken by Fremantle Hospital interpreters are supplied by the Telephone Interpreter Service. King Edward Memorial Hospital and most larger regional hospitals such as Osborne Park and Geraldton have multicultural access contact officers who

primarily have other functions in the hospital, but also encourage the use of interpreters and in some cases handle bookings.

Translations of written information relating to health are provided by the multicultural access unit of the Health Department of WA. More than 50 topics are available, some of them in 16 languages.

LAND - AVON LOCATION 29014 (RESERVE C30364)

Noxious Industries Park Proposal

676. Dr ALEXANDER to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Does the Minister support the noxious industries park proposed development on Reserve C30364 - now Avon location 29014 - near Bakers Hill?
- (2) Does this reserve have high conservation value and has the Department of Conservation and Land Management requested it be set aside as a nature reserve?
- (3) Will industries that produce agricultural chemicals such as 2,4D be allowed to locate on this site?
- (4) If the proposed noxious industry park is established near Bakers Hill, will the Minister give an assurance that the local landowners will be compensated for any pollution, loss of income or reduced land values caused by its presence?
- (5) Will the noxious industry park still go ahead if the public environmental review deems the site unsuitable?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1) As previously stated, the Government's support for the establishment of a special industry park on Avon location 29014 will be dependent on the outcome of the public environmental review currently in progress.
- (2) The Department of Conservation and Land Management believes that the site does have conservation value; should it not be environmentally acceptable to be used for other purposes, consideration would be given to the creation of an appropriate reserve.
- (3) The nature of industrial activities and products proposed for any industrial site, whether at Bakers Hill or elsewhere, is subject to prior approval by the Environmental Protection Authority.
- (4) It is not Government policy to pay compensation in respect of changes in approved land use in such cases. However, local landowners would have the normal rights to seek compensation from industries whose activities, in contravention of operating approvals, caused them damage or loss.
- (5) No.

STATESHIPS - ANNUAL REPORT 1990

Stevedoring and Cargo Expenses - Container Transfers

677. Mr McNEE to the Minister for Transport:

With reference to question 494 of 1991, would the Minister -

- (a) indicate how many containers were transferred;
- (b) outline the details of the trade transfer?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

(a)-(b)

One ingredient of Stateships' withdrawal from the Papua New Guinea trade in favour of developing the South East Asia trade was the quite natural requirement to reposition containers delivered to the various ports on the final scheduled voyages of the service. Some 800 containers fell into this category, the majority of which were in Papua New Guinea ports with the remainder spread over ports in eastern Australia. In the absence of Stateships' continuing service, repositioning to ports where the units could be off hired

was undertaken over time when suitable shipping or transport was available. Costs associated with residual hire, transportation, redelivery and off-hiring of the containers, including retention costs in the case of hold Ord River grain, were allocated to "Trade transfer expenses" in the commission's accounts.

MV GORDON REID - MAIDEN VOYAGE
Containers and Cargo Details

678. Mr McNEE to the Minister for Transport:

With reference to question 495 of 1991, would the Minister indicate -

- (a) what the containers contained;
- (b) how many tonnes this constituted;
- (c) the total cargo tonnage;
- (d) the cargo details, including total tonnage, for the southbound voyage;
- (e) the cargo details, including total tonnage, for the following northbound voyage?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

To answer comprehensively I must draw the attention of the member to the fact that in modern day container shipping the old style freight tonnage, being the greater of one tonne or one cubic metre as the case may be, is not in use for freighting purposes. Freight is charged on a container basis with a container being 25 tonnes gross and with a capacity of some 33 cubic metres. For statistical purposes one can choose either of these two parameters, but using the old freighting tonnage basis a container could be taken as 33 tons. The actual weight or quantity of cargo inside the container is irrelevant since freight is paid for the container regardless of the degree of utilisation. Furthermore, as to the contents, ship owners must reply on advice from shippers as to what the containers contain, and such advice is usually in general terms.

In the context of the above, the answers to the member's questions are -

- (a) Purported to contain cement, stock feed, fencing, bulk oil, chiller foods, groceries, beer, fertiliser, vehicle, fibro planks, beverages, bricks, carbon, glass, personal effects, hazardous and general cargo.
- (b) Total for containers and cargo Northbound V.1 -

Tonnes @ 1 000 kilograms	-	973.2
Tonnes @ 1 cubic metre	-	1 657.0
- (c) Not separately recorded.
- (d) Cargo details included in (a) being personal effects and general cargo and empty containers for repositioning.
 Total for containers and cargo Southbound V.1 -

Tonnes @ 1 000 kilograms	-	151
Tonnes @ 1 cubic metre	-	* 297

 * = excluding empty containers being repositioned.
- (e) Cargo details purported to be cement, boats, refrigerated foodstuffs, chiller foodstuffs, steel, pvc, beverages, fertiliser, beer, paper products, general and hazardous cargo.
 Total for containers and cargo -

Tonnes @ 1 000 kilograms	-	396.6
Tonnes @ 1 cubic metre	-	1 002.2

RAILWAYS - PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS
Westrail Policy

679. Mr McNEE to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is Westrail's current policy as regards pedestrian crossings which actually traverse the lines on the metropolitan passenger train service?

- (2) Has the policy changed since the recent fatality at Subiaco?
 (3) Is there any intention to replace all such crossings with under or overpasses?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) For safety reasons the number of pedestrian crossings over the suburban railway is limited, the preferred option being a footbridge or subway. Where this is not practicable all pedestrian crossings are equipped with a maze that ensures the pedestrian must face oncoming trains. If there is inadequate sighting distance the crossing is equipped with warning lights and bells. Where practicable an intervening maze is provided at island platforms.
- (2)-(3) No.

RAILWAYS - QUESTION 2108, 1990
Headings Details

683. Mr McNEE to the Minister for Transport:

With reference to question 2108 of 1990, would the Minister provide an extensive breakdown of the headings -

- (a) maintenance;
 (b) staff and operating costs;
 (c) depreciation of assets;
 (d) interest on loan funds?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

	1989-90 \$ 000s
(a) <u>Maintenance</u>	
Railcars overhaul	1 216
Railcars servicing and maintenance	576
Track maintenance	44
Track and structure maintenance	115
Signal and communications maintenance	385
	2 336
(b) <u>Staff and operating costs</u>	
Train and on-train crew	475
Fuel	239
Cleaning railcars	181
Catering	619
Travel agent's commission	54
Station and booking office staff	520
Signalling duties	148
Corporate overheads	767
	3 003
(c) <u>Depreciation of assets</u>	
Railcars	366
Line assets	92
	458
(d) <u>Interest on loan funds</u>	
Railcars	1 016
Line assets	310
	1 326

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES SUPERANNUATION BOARD -
WESTERN REEFS LTD
Shares Purchase

688. Mr COURT to the Minister assisting the Treasurer:

- (1) When did the Government Employees Superannuation Board purchase its first shares in Western Reefs?

- (2) What was the maximum holding it had in Western Reefs?
- (3) Did Western Reefs receive any loan funds from the State Government Insurance Commission?
- (4) If yes, when and what amounts?

Dr GALLOP replied:

- (1) 14 July 1986.
- (2) 5 018 fully paid shares and 900 100 options.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.

**MOTOR VEHICLES - GOVERNMENT
Management**

696. Mr COURT to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Government satisfied that the management of the Government's fleet of cars is fully accountable and operating on a fully commercial basis?
- (2) Do any Government departments operate more vehicles than their approved limits?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1) Under the Public Sector Motor Vehicle Policies 1989, responsibility for the management of the Government's motor vehicle fleet rests with accountable officers and authorities. Accountability is enforced through the Government's legislative and budgetary framework. Many statutory authorities fully operate on commercial principles. However, these principles cannot be applied to CRF agencies as section 64 of the Constitution Act and the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985 require all revenue to be paid into the CRF.
- (2) The fleet levels of all departments are currently under review by Government.

**STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION - BELL GROUP SHARES
Bond Corporation - Counterclaim Action**

698. Mr COURT to the Minister for Microeconomic Reform:

- (1) Is the State Government Insurance Commission going to pursue its counterclaim against Bond Corporation over the Bell indemnity agreement?
- (2) If no, what are the reasons for not pursuing this matter?
- (3) Did Mr Ferrier say "a trial of the action may involve the disclosure of evidence politically embarrassing for the Government"?

Dr GALLOP replied:

- (1) Yes, SGIC will maintain its defence against Bond Corporation's action.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not known.

**URANIUM MINING - FEDERAL THREE MINE POLICY
Modification Notification**

699. Mr COURT to the Minister for Mines:

Has the Federal Government formally notified the State Government that it will not be modifying its three mine policy this year in regard to uranium mining?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

No.

**COMPUTER AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT - FORMER
OFFICERS EMPLOYMENT**

State Information Technology - Water Authority of Western Australia

700. Mr COURT to the Minister for Services:

- (1) How many officers from the former Department of Computer and Information Technology are now employed in State Information Technology?
- (2) Are any of these officers currently working at the Water Authority of Western Australia?
- (3) If yes, what services are they providing the WAWA?

Mr McGINTY replied:

- (1) 138 officers.
- (2) Yes. Two officers, on short term secondments.
- (3) These officers are assisting with telecommunications planning.

LAND - MT BARKER LOT 613

Future Use

704. Mr HOUSE to the Minister for Construction:

Can the Minister inform the House for what specific purpose Mt Barker lot 613 will be used?

Mr McGINTY replied:

Residential purposes.

LAND - "TOWLSHIRE", CANNING VALE
North of Cross Street - Rezoning Refusal Review

706. Mr BLAIE to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) With recent planning decisions made by the City of Canning in refusing to rezone land known as "Towlshire" south of Ranford Road in Canning Vale and the rezoning of land north of Cross Street have these matters been further reviewed by the Commissioner?
- (2) Further to (1), has the Government made any review of the decision and/or requested or directed the Commissioner to provide advice?
- (3) If yes to (2), would the Minister provide detail?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1) I do not know.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.

SCHOOLS - DUNSBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL
Building Program

707. Mr BLAIE to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Government considering a building program for the Dunsborough Primary School?
- (2) What is the extent of the buildings sought and costs involved, and will funding be provided in the 1991-92 financial year?

Dr GALLOP replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) As the brief is yet to be determined it is not possible to give details of this proposed building program or the anticipated cost. The brief will be determined as a result of a consultative process between representatives of the school, the school community and Ministry of Education facilities and operations officers.

CABINET - DIRECTION FEBRUARY 1990
Statutory Authorities - Ministerial Directions

708. Mr BLAIKIE to the Premier:

- (1) What were the reasons for the Cabinet direction in February 1990, as a (then) new standard procedure relating to all statutory authorities that Ministers may give directions to performance or any particular matter?
- (2) Further to (1), what were the reasons for the Cabinet direction in February 1990 applicable to all statutory authorities that provides for Ministers to have information in possession of respective authorities and to have and retain copies of documents?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

The member appears to be referring to a series of measures approved by Cabinet in January 1990 implementing recommendations of the Burt Commission on Accountability.

- (1) The commission recommended that all ministerial directions be in writing and appropriately reported by the organisation concerned. Legal advice was received that, because of the wide diversity of authorities and variation in Ministers' powers, a case by case assessment should be adopted rather than a blanket provision in a central Act. This was further supported by a Standing Committee on Government Agencies report which recommended that certain bodies should not be subject to ministerial direction; for example, quasi-judicial and trade and regulatory bodies. Cabinet therefore adopted the policy that provisions requiring ministerial directions to be in writing and published in annual reports should be included in all new or amending legislation, except where Cabinet specifically approves otherwise.
- (2) Counsel advising the Government was of the view that, if a Minister is to be fully accountable for an agency, it is necessary for the Minister to have full and unrestricted access to the records of the agency's decision maker and power to call for explanations as required. Cabinet accepted this advice. For reasons similar to those outlined above for ministerial directions, this is being implemented by including relevant provisions in all new or amending legislation, except where Cabinet approves otherwise.

SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY - BUNBURY BUILDING
Office Space

712. Mr BLAIKIE to the Premier:

- (1) What is the term of the lease, total rental area, ingoing cost and yearly rent of the South West Development Authority building in Bunbury?
- (2) Who are the present Government agencies and the area of office space in the building?
- (3) How much unused space is still available in the building?
- (4) Will the Minister provide details of any other building leased by the Government in the Perth metropolitan area where there are vacant floors?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| (1) Lease expires | - 20 November 2011. |
| Rental area | - 8 874 square metres. |
| Ingoing cost | - \$2.75 million approximately for fitout. |
| Annual rental | - \$1 901 766 for 1990-91 - includes car parking bays, all rates and taxes and insurance. |

(2) <u>Government Agencies</u>	<u>Area Currently Occupied</u> (square metres)
Commonwealth Electoral Commission	140
Department for Community Services	243
Department of Employment and Training	174
Department of Land Administration	137
Department of Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare	108
Department of Planning and Urban Development	314
Department of Services	79
Ministry of Sport and Recreation	141
Department of State Development	179
State Taxation Department	255
Department of Transport	28
Health Department of WA	382
Minister for Lands	367
Ministry of Education	1 790
South West Development Authority	750
WA Tourism Commission	87
Water Authority of WA	1 374
Shared conference, amenities and training facilities	<u>312</u>
	TOTAL 6 860
(3) 2 014 square metres - 400 square metres of this space currently being planned for use by the -	
Building Management Authority	180
Health Department	60
Department of Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare	160
(4) Public Trust Office Building, 565 Hay Street, Perth - four floors.	
Law Chambers Building, Cathedral Avenue, Perth - one floor.	
These were vacated by the Corporate Affairs Department when the Australian Securities Commission was established.	

LAND - QUEENS PARK

Lot 295 Hamilton Street, Lot 296 Cross Street - Rezoning Discussion

715. Mr BLAIKIE to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) Has the Government had any discussion with the Commissioner of the City of Canning with regard to the rezoning of lot 295 Hamilton Street and lot 296 Cross Street, Queens Park?
- (2) If so, with what result?

Dr WATSON replied:

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

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE) - STRATEGIC PLAN

716. Mr TUBBY to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) What has happened to the strategic plan for languages other than English (LOTE)?
- (2) When is it going to be released?
- (3) When is it planned to commence implementation?

Dr GALLOP replied:

- (1) The plan reflects the status of LOTE as a ministry priority. It has undergone some refinement and will soon be ready for release.

- (2) The complete plan is due for general release in mid-1991.
- (3) Implementation of some elements has already begun, and several new programs have commenced in schools as a result. Work is being carried out in the following areas -

primary and secondary school teacher development;
secondary curriculum development;
Aboriginal languages;
distance education; and
partial immersion programs for primary schools.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT - CANNING CITY COUNCIL

Sacking - Tabled Report Copies

717. Mr KIERATH to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Considering the Minister sacked the Canning City Council on the basis of a report tabled in Parliament, will the Minister make a copy available to each councillor free of charge?
- (2) If so, when will this report be available?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

(1)-(3)

Copies of the report have been provided to the City of Canning and are available for perusal free of charge. The report may also be purchased at a cost of \$40.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT - CANNING CITY COUNCIL

Sacking - Councillor Charges

718. Mr KIERATH to the Minister for Local Government:

In respect of the recently tabled report on the sacking of the Canning City Council, as there were allegations of a councillor and his wife not declaring a pecuniary interest in matters associated with Canning Vale land rezoning -

- (a) will the Minister advise when charges will be laid against this particular councillor;
- (b) if charges are not to be laid, why not;
- (c) if charges are to be laid, will the Minister please advise when this may occur and when the matters are expected to be concluded?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

(a)-(c)

The councillor in question declared an interest in the matter referred to in page 20 of the report and sought a ruling under section 174(5) of the Local Government Act. Council refused to grant him a ruling and consequently the councillor did not vote on the issue.

AGE DISCRIMINATION - NEW LEGISLATION

Forced Retirement

721. Mr NICHOLLS to the Minister for Justice:

When will legislation be introduced into the Legislative Assembly to remove age discrimination in respect of forced retirement?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

Legislation to amend the Equal Opportunity Act to include discrimination on the ground of age is expected to be introduced during the current session or early in the spring session.

RAILWAYS - RAILWAY ENABLING BILL
Rail Reserve Mandurah-Metropolitan Area

722. Mr NICHOLLS to the Minister for Transport:

When will the railway enabling Bill to create a rail reserve between Mandurah and the metropolitan area be introduced into the Legislative Assembly?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

The steering committee established to recommend to the Government on a rapid transit link between Mandurah and the metropolitan area is currently considering three transit modes -

- (1) Bus
- (2) Light rail
- (3) Heavy rail

The mode chosen will determine the type of legislation required to create a route reservation. The steering committee expects to be able to make recommendations to Government on a preferred transit mode by the end of September 1991.

MOSQUITOS - PEEL-HARVEY ESTUARY REGION
Larvicide Spraying Eradication Program - Ross River Virus

724. Mr NICHOLLS to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does the Government intend to continue the mosquito eradication program in the Peel/Harvey Estuary region, using the larvicide chemical?
- (2) When was the last larvicide spraying carried out in this area?
- (3) Have the eradication programs achieved the desirable results in the previous two years?
- (4) Does the risk of Ross River Virus still exist in the Mandurah region, as a result of the current mosquito numbers which are breeding in the area today?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The last Government funded larvicide application took place during April 1990.
- (3) Yes. Ross River virus mosquito control programs carried out by the Government using the aerial application of larvicide achieved estimated success rates of 70 per cent to 90 per cent during 1989-90.
- (4) The large mosquito populations currently active in the Mandurah region pose only a low risk of Ross River virus infection because ambient temperatures are thought to be too low for effective virus replication at present.

PENSIONERS - WATER CHARGES AND SHIRE RATES
Rebates Legislation

725. Mr KIERATH to the Treasurer:

With reference to pensioners who share or co-own their house with a non-pensioner being penalised in respect of Water Authority of Western Australia and local government rebates and deferments, and an article in the *Canning Melville Times* where the Premier was quoted as saying that an "Act was expected to be in operation by early July and would give pensioners the choice of a full rebate or full deferment" -

- (a) when is this Act expected to be proclaimed;
- (b) how will this affect the above pensioners in terms of their 1991-92 annual charges for water and shire rates?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (a) Although the Government intends to introduce the new provisions prior to

water and shire rates being levied for 1991-92, a number of practical drafting problems may delay the anticipated implementation date.

- (b) If the new legislation can be proclaimed on time subject to eligibility, entitlement and registration requirements being satisfied, pensioners who co-own and occupy a residence with a non-pensioner will be able to claim a rebate proportionate to their share of ownership in the property. However -
- (i) where the other owner/occupier is a non-pensioner spouse, a full rebate can be claimed; and
 - (ii) the deferrals option will not be available to pensioners who share ownership with non-pensioners, other than a spouse.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS - ABSENTEE VOTES

Polling Day

727. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) What are the reasons absentee votes cannot be lodged on polling day in local government elections?
- (2) Will the Government consider amending the Local Government Act to enable absentee votes to be lodged on polling day in local government elections?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1) In accordance with sections 118 and 119 of the Local Government Act absent votes may be cast at another council office up to 4.00 pm on the third day prior to the polling day. The three days are to provide sufficient time for the ballot papers to be posted or delivered to the council holding the election and to be accepted by the returning officer by the end of the polling day.
- (2)-(3) The procedures for local government elections are being reviewed as part of the proposed new Local Government Act.

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNMENT AND OTHER MATTERS - DONATIONS

Labor Party-Burke, Mr Brian

732. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Was the Minister aware, either directly or indirectly, of all or any or some of the details of the donations to the Labor Party and/or to Mr Burke, as revealed in the recent evidence given to the Royal Commission into Commercial Activities of Government and Other Matters?
- (2) If so, how did the Minister become aware of that information; for example, was the Minister informed at a Cabinet meeting or elsewhere?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

See reply to question 728 of 16 May 1991.

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNMENT AND OTHER MATTERS - DONATIONS

Labor Party-Burke, Mr Brian

735. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Was the Minister aware, either directly or indirectly, of all or any or some of the details of the donations to the Labor Party and/or to Mr Burke, as revealed in the recent evidence given to the Royal Commission into Commercial Activities of Government and Other Matters?
- (2) If so, how did the Minister become aware of that information; for example, was the Minister informed at a Cabinet meeting or elsewhere?

Dr GALLOP replied:

See reply to question 728 of 16 May 1991.

GUARDIANSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION BILL - PROCLAMATION
Project Implementation Team

739. Mr NICHOLLS to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) In reference to question 490 of 1991, when was the project implementation team set up and who are the members?
- (2) Has any time frame been specified as parameters in -
 - (a) establishment of the Guardianship Administration Board;
 - (b) the Office of the Public Guardian;
- (3) If so, what are the respective dates:
- (4) (a) Have any unforeseen problems arisen since the Guardianship and Administration Bill gained Parliament's approval;
- (b) if so, could the Minister identify such problems?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1) The project implementation team met for the first time on 28 March 1991. Its members are -

Mr D. Doig - Under Secretary for Law
 Mr K. Bradley - Public Trustee
 Ms R. Shean - Spastic Welfare Association
 Mr D. Hounscome - Irrabeena
 Mr M. Campbell - Supreme Court
 Ms J. Toohey - Office of Minister for Justice
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) (a) Yes.
- (b) The project implementation team has identified a number of issues which are at present being considered by Cabinet. They relate to procedural and resource matters.

SCHOOLS - ROSSMOYNE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Health and Safety Report Recommendations

741. Mr KIERATH to the Minister representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) With reference to a report from the health and safety officer of the Teachers Union with respect to conditions at Rossmoyne Primary School, what action is being taken to implement the recommendations of the report in respect of the following -
 - (a) that the school roof be included in the Ministry's Asbestos Management Plan for encapsulation, removal and replacement (this view being supported by a report from the Asbestos Diseases Advisory Services which stated that close inspection revealed copious loose blue asbestos fibres);
 - (b) that two first aid resting rooms be provided, one for staff and one for students, to replace the makeshift couch in the deputy principal's room which already contains duplicating machines, sporting equipment, tables, typewriters, spare folding beds, sink, crates and boxes, etc, all in an area measuring 5 metres x 7 metres;
 - (c) that the problem of cramped inadequately lit and poorly ventilated classrooms be addressed;
 - (d) that the administrative block, which the report describes as a disgrace because of overcrowding, bad ventilation and poor public image, be upgraded;

- (e) that extra toilet facilities be provided for female staff who presently number 30 and must share one toilet, which is inadequate for requirements during the short recess times;
 - (f) that cleaning materials be allocated to a special shed, and that the gardener be provided with a new shed to replace the existing gardener's shed which is contaminated by chemical odour;
 - (g) that the lack of any first response fire extinguishers be remedied;
 - (h) that, considering the wide area the school covers, more than one first aid box be supplied;
 - (i) that slippery concrete pathways be etched or painted with non-slip surface coating;
 - (j) that drinking taps in an open area without any overhead protection be placed under cover?
- (2) With respect to other problems at the school -
- (a) what provision is being made for interview rooms to be provided for deputies who currently have to borrow the principal's office or use vacant classrooms;
 - (b) what provision is being made for storage facilities at the school, which currently has three small storerooms and uses an old washroom as a kiln room, to store curriculum materials, sports materials, cleaning equipment and other equipment;
 - (c) what action is being taken to remove the gaps in school ceiling edges which may allow asbestos fibres or fibreglass fibres to become airborne?

Dr GALLOP replied:

- (1) (a) While the school has been included in the ministry's management plan for asbestos cement roofing, no final decision has been reached at present regarding the schools which are to be encapsulated in the first instance. Reroofing will only be considered where a roof has reached the end of its effective life.
 - (b) Current regulations do not require the provision of a separate sick bay for staff when staff numbers are under 200. The school is listed in the 1991-92 Capital Works Program for consideration. This upgrade will address the school's sick room, reception, female staff toilet, and administration needs.
 - (c) There is no evidence to suggest that there is a problem with lighting, ventilation and size of classrooms.
 - (d)-(e) See (1)(b).
 - (f) The ministry recently spent \$3 600 upgrading the gardener's shed.
 - (g) Fire extinguishers are provided in areas where everyday use of flammable materials or equipment presents an extreme fire risk.
 - (h) The school, like all other schools, has been provided with a standard first aid box. The provision of additional equipment is the responsibility of the school.
 - (i)-(j) These matters should be considered within the context of the district based minor works scheme.
- (2) (a)-(b) See (1)(b).
- (c) It is not considered necessary to cover the ceiling gaps.

EVIDENCE AMENDMENT BILL - PASSAGE AND PROCLAMATION

742. Mr COWAN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Is it the Government's intention to have the Evidence Amendment Bill 1991 pass through all stages before Parliament rises for the winter recess?
- (2) If yes, does the Government intend to delay proclamation of all or part of the legislation?
- (3) If yes, which parts and why?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

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

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNMENT
AND OTHER MATTERS - TRANSCRIPTS
University Libraries

745. Mr SHAVE to the Premier:

- (1) Following question 106 of 1991, will the Premier confirm that transcripts of the Royal Commission into Commercial Activities of Government and Other Matters are only available to university libraries at considerable cost (i.e. \$60 per day for computer floppy disc and \$75 per day for hard copy)?
- (2) Will the Premier take immediate steps to ensure that university libraries will, on request, receive floppy disc and paper copies of all transcripts for research and study purposes?
- (3) Will the Premier in the interests of universities also ensure that the charge for the transcripts supplied to them be based only on the actual costs incurred in reproducing them, not on the cost of compiling the transcripts in the first instance?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1)-(3) The Royal Commission has determined that hard copy transcripts will cost \$1.50 per A4 page up to a maximum of \$75 per day. Transcripts made available on disk cost \$1.50 per A4 page up to a maximum of \$60 per day. These charges are understood to be similar to those charged by other Royal Commissions operating in Australia at the present time.

From information conveyed to me, I have been made aware that daily transcripts free of charge are not made available apart from the Government, Opposition parties, Parliamentary Library and Crown Law Department. All other parties wishing to acquire the transcripts pay the above charges. However, I understand the commission is prepared to give consideration to applications wishing to acquire daily transcripts but for one reason or another are unable to meet the designated fee. For obvious reasons it would be inappropriate for me to be seen to be directing the commission in any way, particularly as avenues are available for those libraries seeking special consideration to make application to the commission.

EAST WEST INSIGHT PTY LTD - INSIGHT WEST
Government Employment

746. Mr BRADSHAW to the Premier:

- (1) Does the Premier intend to honour the Premier's commitment to question without notice 125 of 1991?
- (2) If so, when?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

(1)-(2)

I refer the member to my letter to him dated 15 May 1991, copy of which is tabled.

[See paper No 321.]

**ROYAL COMMISSION INTO COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNMENT
AND OTHER MATTERS - SUBPOENA**
Member for Marangaroo

782. Mr LEWIS to the Speaker:

- (1) When was Mr Speaker first advised, or became aware that agents of the Royal Commission into Commercial Activities of Government and Other Matters, intended to serve a subpoena on the member for Marangaroo?
- (2) When was Mr Speaker first advised, or became aware that the member for Marangaroo had invited agents of the Royal Commission to serve the subpoena at Parliament House?
- (3) Referring to (1) and (2) -
 - (a) was Mr Speaker advised by a member of the Legislative Assembly;
 - (b) if so, who was the member?
- (4) Referring to (1) and (2), if Mr Speaker was not advised, how did he become aware of the matter?
- (5) When was the statement of Mr Speaker, as read in the Legislative Assembly at 2.55 pm on Thursday 16 May 1991 to do with matters of parliamentary privilege prepared?
- (6) Referring to (5) what officers of the Parliament assisted with the preparation of the statement?

The SPEAKER replied:

- (1) I was aware that people from the commission intended to talk to the member for Marangaroo on the Wednesday before their attendance at Parliament House. I was not aware of their intentions in respect to the subpoena before the service of it.
- (2) I have not been advised that the agents were invited to Parliament House, although I am now told by the member for Marangaroo that Detective Sergeant Gillespie indicated to the member's secretary on Wednesday, 15 May that he was coming to see the member at Parliament House on Thursday. The member's statement to me indicates that at that stage in the proceedings even though Detective Sergeant Gillespie had told at least one other party he was definitely coming to Parliament House, he had not yet spoken with the member for Marangaroo.
- (3)-(4) See (1) and (2) above.
- (5) The statement was prepared between the time I received advice of the subpoena in the House at 2.15 pm and the resumption of the suspended sitting at approximately 2.55 pm. It was prepared by adding to advice already prepared for me as a result of a general inquiry I made of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, 15 May 1991.
- (6) The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly assisted with the drafting of the statement.

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT - MOTOR VEHICLES
Hire Cars Policy

785. Mrs EDWARDES to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Queensland Government decided to sell its whole fleet of motor

vehicles owned by all departments and agencies and is going to use hire cars claiming to save \$7.6 million per year?

- (2) Has the Government examined whether following such a policy would result in savings in Western Australia?
- (3) If so, will the Government implement such hire car service policy instead of using Government owned vehicles?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

(1) Yes.

(2)-(3)

The Government's Motor Vehicle Policy Committee has commenced an immediate feasibility study on whether an internal lease/hire policy would result in savings to the State. This will involve the critical examination of the processes of other States and the Commonwealth, with particular attention to the Q-fleet arrangement in Queensland.

STATE TAXATION DEPARTMENT - RELOCATION PLANS

789. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Government planning to relocate the State Taxation Department?
- (2) If so, where will it be relocated?
- (3) When will it be relocated?
- (4) What will be the cost of the relocation?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

(1) No.

(2)-(4)

Not applicable.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

MINING - AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

Anti-mining Attitude - Member for Eyre's Comments

154. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware of the comments made last evening by the member for Eyre at the ALP State executive meeting when he attacked the anti-mining attitude of the ALP?
- (2) Given that his criticism is widely acknowledged as being accurate, what action does she intend to take to change the Government's attitude to the mining industry?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

(1)-(2)

I begin by welcoming back the Leader of the Opposition. I wondered, after the last couple of weeks, whether he was going to stop asking questions in this House. I am delighted to have one from him that gives me the opportunity to indicate that the member for Eyre was rightly drawing attention to the views of a certain section of our party and of the community which has a very negative attitude toward mining. It is not a view that is shared by the Government nor is that what the member for Eyre said. I think we all must be vigilant as he suggested.

Mr MacKinnon: That is what he did say.

Mr Pearce: That is not what he said at all; I was there.

Dr LAWRENCE: I was there, too. The Leader of the Opposition could well learn from attending ALP State executive meetings because they are forums for a

wide range of people within the community which the Labor Party represents to discuss their views. Our party covers a wide range of views, particularly on the question of mining and uranium mining which was being discussed last night. This Government unashamedly recognises the importance of the mining industry to Western Australia. It has ensured that it is properly recognised and that everything is done to foster its activity. The Government has suffered considerable criticism from sections of the environmental movement for allowing the potential for exploration and mining in three of our major national parks in a way that properly recognises the environmental value of those parks but which has been recognised also by the mining industry as sensible and appropriate. Therefore, any suggestion that we do not value the mining industry is ill-based and not the basis for the member for Eyre's comments. However, I agree with him that, as a community, we need to ensure that we have proper debates about the mining industry and that we do not operate on reflex views, whether they be totally supportive, no matter what - which is equally unintelligent - or totally opposed no matter what, which was the view criticised by the member for Eyre.

WOMEN'S INFORMATION AND REFERRAL EXCHANGE - PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION REPORT

Delay

155. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Women's Interests:

Will the Premier explain why the Public Service Commission report on the Women's Information and Referral Exchange has been delayed?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

Mr Speaker, -

Mr Lewis: Cover up!

Dr LAWRENCE: The member is wrong. If it were a cover up, I would not have insisted, after discussion with the Minister assisting the Minister for Women's Interests, on extending the inquiry by the Public Service Commission. It is important to report to the House, because it has shown an interest in this matter, the reasons for that extension. Serious public concern was raised by the collapse of the Western Women financial group - concern that all of us share, particularly those women in the community who felt that the principle behind establishing organisations such as the Women's Investment Network was important. It failed and the reasons for that are the subject of an inquiry by the Australian Securities Commission, as they should be.

From my understanding, the close connections that some of the members of that organisation had with members of the Liberal Party might cause members opposite a little concern. However, on receipt of the results of the investigation from the Public Service Commission, it was clear to me that it had not completed the task and that it needed to further examine and clarify the submissions it has received from the public so there could be no criticism that the Government had attempted to do what the member for Applecross implied. Far from wanting to cover up this important matter, we want the truth to emerge. If that takes a few more weeks, so be it.

RURAL ADJUSTMENT SCHEME - MATCHING GRANTS

Part B Funding

156. Mr HOUSE to the Premier:

Further to my question 67 of 30 April 1991 in relation to matching grants for the rural adjustment scheme, and given the meeting which took place last week between the State and Federal Ministers for Agriculture, will she give any further indication as to when matching State finance will be made available for part B carry-on finance?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

That meeting was described by one of the officers who attended as one of the most appalling he had attended. The level of cooperation between the Commonwealth and State Governments apparently left a lot to be desired. I have asked for further information on why it was so acrimonious. As I indicated to the member, we are opposed to tied matching grants. However, we will be doing the right thing for the rural sector and providing the funds appropriately as soon as we are able to make the allocation which will be beyond 1 July.

Mr House: Part B?

Dr LAWRENCE: Yes.

PUBLIC SERVICE - LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION'S PROPOSALS
Propriety

157. Mr KOBELKE to the Premier:

Is the Premier able to comment on the propriety of the Leader of the Opposition's proposals in relation to the public sector which he outlined to the House earlier today?

Mr Lewis: Ah!

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

The member for Applecross might well say, "Ah" because that was precisely my response when I heard the Leader of the Opposition. I was not in the Chamber at the time.

Mr Clarko: As usual. You are never here.

Dr LAWRENCE: However, I was listening. I remind members opposite that the proceedings are broadcast to other areas of this place. I distinctly heard the Leader of the Opposition. He might have become a phantom, but he is not that remote from this place.

Mr Lewis: Caught out!

Dr LAWRENCE: No, I distinctly heard him.

The SPEAKER: Order! Members, it is my understanding that the program for tonight indicates that we will be here for a long time. My suggestion is that we might be here for breakfast.

Mr Thompson: I won't be.

The SPEAKER: In the member's party, he can come and go as he likes. I do not have the choice.

Dr LAWRENCE: Despite interjections, I heard the Leader of the Opposition. Indeed, I would not have needed the broadcasting system to hear him because he was shouting. It seems to be a substitute by the Leader of the Opposition for reasoned argument. Today he outlined what was an interesting plan for the public sector. It is reminiscent of some of the threats made by his counterpart in Victoria. What is clear to me is that he shares with his Liberal colleagues in that State, and in New South Wales it seems, an overwhelming desire to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

Mr Taylor: Say that again. New South where?

Dr LAWRENCE: New South Wales. Those people who were going to be the heroes of the Liberal Party, who were going to open the flood gates for the Liberal resurgence. However, that has not happened.

Mr Pearce: Mr Greiner told the people of New South Wales that if they voted Labor they would get a Western Australian style of Government. Apparently they wanted one.

The SPEAKER: Order! My request about interjections applies to both sides.

Dr LAWRENCE: Levity aside, what I heard the Leader of the Opposition say frankly alarmed me. Firstly, he implied - I think he said it - that any public servant who supported the Labor Party should be sacked.

Mr Lewis: Nonsense.

Dr LAWRENCE: That is an extraordinary proposition. He is undermining the right of any citizen in this country, including public servants, to join any political party they want to join. It is a democratic right for which people in eastern Europe are dying and the Leader of the Opposition is trying to curtail the rights of our civil servants in the same way as the Soviet Union has always attempted to do.

Mr Court: You have taken 10 per cent of their pay packets for Labor Party funds.

Dr LAWRENCE: I will get back to that. Fortunately, our legislation prevents the sort of action that the Leader of the Opposition contemplates. Returning to that point, every individual has a right to decide how he spends his salary.

Several members interjected.

Dr LAWRENCE: Members opposite want to be able to complain at the end of this question time that they have not had time to ask enough questions, but it is quite clear why that will be the case, if they do so. The second thing the Leader of the Opposition said was that people should not have the right to decide how to spend their own money. I heard a ridiculous proposition put by the member for Applecross during the week that the money paid to public servants - being taxpayers' money - should not be used to support political parties.

Mr Lewis: Not if it is conditional.

Dr LAWRENCE: Who said it is conditional? Nobody suggested that it is conditional. Members of the Public Service are entitled to contribute to the Liberal Party, the National Party, or the Labor Party.

Point of Order

Mr COURT: The Supply Bill is currently before this House of Parliament, and the Premier will have an opportunity to reply to the comments on that legislation. It is improper for her to use question time for that debate.

The SPEAKER: That is not a point of order, it is a point of view.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Dr LAWRENCE: It outlines the sensitivity of members opposite to what is obviously an absurd proposition. Members of this House are paid by the taxpayer and I am sure that members opposite provide funds to support the Liberal Party and probably for their own election campaigns - shock, horror! The proposition by the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Applecross is clearly arrant nonsense. It was when they said it and it is today. Whether or not it is debate on the Supply Bill, it needs to be said in this House and in other places that we should be straight and honest.

Mr Clarko: Practise what you preach.

Dr LAWRENCE: I do and the member for Marmion does not. Had the Leader of the Opposition been honest when he went on to describe the facts -

Mr Clarko interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Dr LAWRENCE: It is very difficult to speak over that stentorian noise from the member opposite. It has the desired effect of stopping me in mid-sentence, but it is hardly parliamentary. The Leader of the Opposition would have been more honest when he said that the Liberal Party would never make political appointments of its officers, to remind himself of the taxpayers' money being used to fund at various times, for instance, Mr Tom Herzfeld as private

secretary to the Leader of the Opposition, or Mr Peter Wells, a former politician, as an officer in his employ. Is he trying to suggest that these people do not have positions within political parties or that they are both former members of Parliament? Equally many people sitting on the Opposition benches have been in the employ of the Public Service. Did they suddenly develop their political views? The member for Roleystone was a teacher, employed by the Public Service and taking taxpayers' money. Is it suggested that he did not have a political view, or any party support, or did not pay any money to the Liberal Party? It was nonsense when the comment was made and it is nonsense now.

SWAN BREWERY SITE - FUTURE

158. Mr FRED TUBBY to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware of comments made on Howard Sattler's radio program yesterday morning by Hon Sam Piantadosi regarding the future of the old Swan Brewery?
- (2) Does the Premier agree with the statement that the Government should proceed with the demolition of these buildings?
- (3) If not, what action has the Premier taken to overcome public confusion on this matter as a result of contradictory messages being relayed by various Government members?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1) Yes, I am aware of the views put by Hon Sam Piantadosi.

(2)-(3)

I am also aware that he clearly said it was his own opinion; members of the Labor Party are allowed to have their own opinions.

Several members interjected.

Dr LAWRENCE: No, the Government has not changed its position on the brewery, and there is no confusion in the public mind on that question.

SWAN RIVER - PHOSPHORUS LEVELS

159. Mr CATANIA to the Minister for the Environment:

Has the Minister read an article in *The West Australian* of 25 May about phosphorus levels in the Swan River? If so, will he comment on whether the levels given in the article are accurate?

Mr PEARCE replied:

The West Australian has been carrying a series of articles on the Swan River in recent times.

Mr Thompson: Justifiably so, because the river is sick.

Mr PEARCE: That is the view of the member for Darling Range. One article contained a series of statements about phosphorus levels in the river, and it contained one statement that I had said phosphorus levels had not risen significantly in recent years. That is an accurate statement. The reporter went on to quote the head of the Waterways Commission, Dr Bruce Hamilton, in contradiction to the view I had put. I was surprised when I read that view because the advice I had received came from the same person, Dr Bruce Hamilton, of the Waterways Commission.

Mr Lewis: Did you ring him about it?

Mr PEARCE: Yes, I checked with him when I read the article to ask whether he had given the reporter from *The West Australian* different information from that he had given to me. I had no objection to his advising *The West Australian*, but I felt it reasonable for him to give the same advice to me that he gave to the newspaper. He informed me that he had quite specifically provided the same information. The advice he gave to *The West Australian* was

transmuted somewhere between the reporter and the machines which print the newspaper. Dr Hamilton advised that in the 1940s, when phosphorus levels were taken in the Swan River, the reading over an average period was 0.03 micrograms per litre. No significant measurements were taken in the river in the 1950s, but they were again started in the 1960s. In 1962 readings were taken which consistently showed a level of phosphorus of 0.1 micrograms per litre, and that level has not changed significantly between 1962 and 1991. That bears out my statement that no significant increase has occurred in phosphorus levels in the Swan River in recent years - "recent years" meaning over the past decade. The measurements indicate that that has been the case for the past 30 years. The error arose because, firstly, the reporter in taking the dates mistook the 1940s for the 1960s. The member for Darling Range could have made the same mistake, having lived through both eras - probably as a swinger in one and a sugar daddy in the other. I was not born in the 1940s but I remember the 1960s moderately well. The reporter transposed the dates by 20 years, and he then transposed the decimal point in the figure showing the amount of phosphorus in the river -

Mr Lewis: Are you saying that he is incompetent?

Mr PEARCE: I am not making a judgment; I am telling members what happened. The reporter transmuted 0.1 into 1.0. That is a significant difference because the figures used by the Waterways Commission indicate a threefold increase in phosphorus levels between the 1940s and the 1960s. Overnight *The West Australian* increased the figure tenfold, and thus came up with a figure 30 times higher than that in the 1940s. That is a significant change, which fortunately is not reflected in the state of the river. In order to further confuse poor layman such as me, the reporter referred to the measurements as millilitres per litre - for members who are interested, there are 1 000 millilitres in a litre - which is a fairly standard measurement, when he should have been talking about micrograms per litre. It is unfortunate that that level of reporting has led to the view that my statements on the health of the river are not supported by the Waterways Commission. The truth is quite the reverse; the phosphorus levels in the Swan River have not increased significantly in the past 30 years. That is the basis upon which I question the claim made by the two Swiss students, who spent some time in Western Australia, that detergent levels were contributing significantly to the phosphorus pollution of the Swan River.

I have never said there are no problems with the Swan River; there are. Certainly they need to be managed and controlled, and they are being managed and controlled. However, I have said previously - and this is borne out by Dr Colin Porter and others - that the Swan River is one of the cleanest rivers to flow through a major city anywhere in the world. I do not say that out of smugness or complacency because we understand the management problems and we are working on that on a day to day basis. It is wrong to suggest that there has been a significant deterioration in any of the pollution measures being undertaken in the Swan River is recent times. The series of articles in *The West Australian*, while probably helpful in some ways in raising people's consciousness, have unfortunately contributed to a quite inaccurate view about the health of our river. *The West Australian*, despite its current time of financial stringency and of laying people off, ought to provide a bit of money for some its reporters to trek around the world and to see what a really unhealthy river flowing through a city looks like, because there are many places in the world where one can find that, but Perth is not one of them.

SNAKES - AUSTRALIAN PYTHONS

American Tourist's Export Fine - Human Consumption

160. Mr GRAYDEN to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Has an American snake enthusiast recently been fined \$10 000 for trying to export three Australian pythons to the United States?

- (2) Does current State law allow nearly 40 000 Western Australians to eat two of these three types of pythons every day of the year if they so wish?
- (3) Does the Minister intend to continue to allow these pythons to be food items for such a large section of our population?

Mr PEARCE replied:

(1)-(3)

I am not aware whether an American snake charmer has been fined, but I am happy to look at the matter. My understanding is that there is not a significant level of consumption of snakes in Western Australia at the present time.

Mr Court: There would be none of you left if there was.

Mr PEARCE: Fortunately monkeys are not part of many people's diets either. The member, who is an affront to all chimpanzees, ought not to make those anti-animal statements in this place.

I am not aware of any level of consumption of snakes by people who may be entitled to do so under various forms of legislation that would pose a serious threat to that wildlife. However, I am happy to ask the Department of Conservation and Land Management if any species are being endangered by being eaten, and if that is the case I am happy to take action to ensure that species which may be in short supply are not consumed in the course of the next few months while the Parliament takes the appropriate action.

VOLUNTARY UNIONISM - EMERGENCY SERVICES LEGISLATION

Leader of the Opposition's Comments

161. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Productivity and Labour Relations:

- (1) Does the Government concur with the proposals outlined by the Leader of the Opposition today for voluntary unionism and emergency services legislation?
- (2) What has been the success of attempts to introduce these proposals elsewhere in Australia?

Mrs HENDERSON replied:

(1)-(2)

I am happy to respond to those questions. I was interested to hear the Leader of the Opposition state, as two of the planks of his industrial relations policy, that he would seek to introduce emergency services legislation and voluntary unionism. It is useful for all of us to consider that in recent times another Liberal leader in this country has pursued, in a very strong and determined manner, his intention to introduce those two kinds of legislation. I remind members that on 12 April this year Premier Greiner said that if his industrial relations package were not passed by the upper House of the New South Wales Parliament, he would promote it during the election campaign and would expect to be returned with a resounding mandate to implement those reforms. In fact, the New South Wales leader campaigned extensively on his package of so-called industrial relations reforms, which bear a close similarity to the items which the Leader of the Opposition raised here this afternoon, and which he indicated would form planks of his election platform.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs HENDERSON: I think almost all the political commentators around this country have described the election result in New South Wales as a drubbing for Premier Greiner. In fact, he has been described as arrogant and out of touch with the electorate. It is about time the Leader of the Opposition realised that Australians do not want that kind of draconian, last century-type industrial relations legislation, and that we will continue to promote consultation, conciliation and cooperation because that approach works.

STATE TENDER BOARD - CARPET TENDER

162. Mr HOUSE to the Minister for Services:

Further to my question without notice 151 of Thursday, 16 May can the Minister now advise the House of the details of the Tender Board's deliberations with respect to its carpet tender for the next 12 months?

Mr McGINTY replied:

I thank the deputy leader of the National Party for that question because I am in a position to advise him that on Thursday of last week, the State Tender Board met to consider awarding a tender for the provision of carpet to the Government generally for the next 12 months, with an option for a further one year renewal. Five major carpet type categories, worth slightly less than \$1 million, will be purchased during the course of the next 12 months. Westwools Carpets Pty Ltd, which is a major Fremantle carpet manufacturer, uses wool exclusively from the Albany Woollen Mills, so it was of some interest to me to learn that the Tender Board has awarded to Westwools the vast bulk of its contract for the provision of carpet to the Government for the next 12 months, with consequent benefit both to Fremantle and to the Albany region.

Westwools was awarded the tender for four of the five major categories of carpet, which are worth 85 per cent of the total contract. That contrasts with the position in 1990 when Westwools won the tender for only 51 per cent of the estimated carpet needs of the Building Management Authority, which resulted in a sale of just over \$500 000 worth of carpet to the Government. In 1991 that is fixed at 85 per cent, which has an estimated value of \$820 000 worth of carpet. I am sure the member would be pleased that in awarding that tender we have contributed significantly to the economies of both Albany and Fremantle and also to the economic viability of two companies which, in the absence of this tender, might have experienced some difficulty. I am also hopeful that the awarding of this tender will see a growth in employment at both the Albany Woollen Mills and at Westwools in Fremantle.
