

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 13 September 1988

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

PETITION

Crime - Vandalism

MR WATT (Albany) [2.17 pm]: In accordance with the right of every citizen to petition the Parliament, I have two interesting petitions. The first is worded as follows -

To the Honourable, the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned request that second offender vandals be confined to "the stocks" and paraded for specific periods near their homes or supermarkets in the vicinity of their crimes. They will at all times be supervised by a prison officer. No tomatoes, eggs or anything else may be thrown.

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

Mr Peter Dowding: Is this the Liberal Party's crime platform?

MR WATT: No, it is not, but it has a message.

The SPEAKER: Did the member manage to obtain sufficient signatures for that petition?

MR WATT: I did not collect any signatures, Mr Speaker, but the author collected 97 signatures. 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 61.]

PETITION

Property Owners - Powers

MR WATT (Albany) [2.19 pm]: The second petition by the same author reads as follows -

To the Honourable, the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned request that a property owner be given far greater control over his house and property and the powers of citizens arrest. Also that he be absolved from any legal liability for injury to transgressors provided they are not maimed or killed by mal intent.

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

The petition bears 126 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 62.]

PETITION

Lockridge Community - Newspaper Article

MR DONOVAN (Morley-Swan) [2.21 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 citizens of Western Australia view with outrage the most recent attack upon the Lockridge community by the Community Newspapers' publication "Eastern Suburbs Reporter".

Further we ask the State Government to condemn their front page story of September 1st headlined "Lockridge set for riots".

Finally we urge the State Government to do all in its power to end this continuous media portrayal of Lockridge in such negative terms; and to support the many locally organised projects aimed at improving both the quality of community life and the public image of Lockridge.

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

The petition bears 583 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 63.]

Mr DONOVAN: I also seek leave to table a copy of the article referred in the petition.

Leave granted.

[The paper was tabled for the information of members.]

PETITION

Police - Truancy Patrol

MR CUNNINGHAM (Balga) [2.22 pm]: I have a petition which reads as follows -

To the Honourable Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

The Truancy Patrol that has been operating from the Warwick Police Station covering the suburbs of Mirrabooka, Marangaroo, Balga, Girrawheen, Koondoola, Nollamara, Alexander Heights, Wangara and Landsdale is considered to have been a great success in the community's fight against crime, since its inception in March this year with a 20 per cent reduction in the number of daylight breaking and enterings committed in the first four weeks.

We, the undersigned, therefore humbly request the Government of Western Australia to establish the pilot Truancy Patrol on a permanent basis.

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

The petition bears 2 656 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 64.]

PETITION

Children - Bicentenary Medallion

MR SCHELL (Mt Marshall) [2.24 pm]: I have a petition signed by 690 residents of Western Australia, which reads as follows -

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

We, the undersigned, believe that all Australian children should receive the special bicentenary medallions and not just a select few, which has already happened at schools.

Bicentennial babies are recognised with a fifty dollar (\$50) gift and special certificate. School children from Grade 1, receive a silver medallion the size of a 10 cent piece presented in a green pouch. Children below school age receive nothing. Is this fair, when all Australian children should be treated equally by our Government?

The medallion reads "Building a nation together" and yet not all our children receive one.

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

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 65.]

PETITION

Deep Sewerage - East Carnarvon

MR MASLEN (Gascoyne) [2.25 pm]: I have a petition which reads as follows -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled -

We the petitioners wish to appeal against the installation of Deep Sewerage in the East Carnarvon locality for the following reasons:

1. The majority of residents have not been approached regarding the proposal for Deep Sewerage in East Carnarvon.
2. The majority of residents do not want Deep Sewerage.
3. The cost involved would be astronomical for all residents of East Carnarvon.
4. Only 1/3rd or less of the water used is recycled, and so 2/3rds is pumped away and lost to the ecology of the land.
5. All established residents in the area already have septic tank systems installed, and trees and shrubs rely on this water.
6. The added drain on the water reserves could well be detrimental to the Market Garden Industry during drought years.
7. It appears the Water Authority is trying to use the same yardstick for all of the State. This is certainly not practical for the Northern arid regions.

The petition bears 152 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 66.]

BILLS (10) - ASSENT

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

1. Road Traffic Amendment Bill
2. Local Government Grants Amendment Bill
3. Justices Amendment Bill
4. Supreme Court Amendment Bill
5. Bail Amendment Bill
6. Acts Amendment and Repeal (Fair Trading) Bill
7. Road Traffic Amendment (Random Breath Tests) Bill
8. Real Estate and Business Agents Amendment Bill
9. State Engineering Works Repeal Bill
10. Electoral Amendment Bill

BILLS (2)

Message - Appropriations

Messages from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following Bills -

1. Appropriation (General Loan and Capital Works Fund) Bill
2. Appropriation (Consolidated Revenue Fund) Bill

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND AUDIT ACT

Report Tabling - Extension of Time

THE SPEAKER (Mr Barnett): I have been informed of the following ministerial approval for an extension of time for the presentation of annual reports in accordance with the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985 -

The Minister for Transport -

Annual report of the National Trust of Australia (WA).

Annual report of the Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission.

The Minister for Agriculture -

Annual report of the Camarvon Banana Industry Compensation Committee.

Annual report of the Fruit Growing Industry Fund Committee.

Annual report of the Potato Growing Industry Trust Fund Advisory Committee.

I table the relevant correspondence.

[See paper No 417.]

LIQUOR LICENSING BILL

Second Reading

MRS BEGGS (Whitford - Minister for Racing and Gaming) [2.36 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill repeals the Liquor Act 1970 and replaces it with a new Liquor Licensing Act. The existing Act arose from the 1969 Committee of Inquiry into Liquor Laws carried out under the chairmanship of Mr P.R. Adams, QC. For many years the Act provided an adequate framework for liquor licensing in this State. Increasingly, however, it has been unable to cope with the changing demands of the industry and the public, especially those relating to tourism. The Act has also been amended so often that it is now difficult to interpret and apply.

This Government appointed an Honorary Royal Commission in 1983 to examine the Act. The resulting report led to some changes to the Act, and further changes were made to accommodate the special demands of the America's Cup challenge. Late in 1986 I introduced amendments to the Act which abolished the existing Licensing Court and created a new Liquor Licensing Court and an Office of Director of Liquor Licensing. These amendments also introduced the concept of category A licences, and provided that the court would hear all applications for category A licences where objections were lodged. All other applications for licences are determined by the director. At the time I informed the House that this was a first stage in reviewing the Act, to achieve a clear separation between judicial and administrative functions under the Act. The second stage of that process - a complete review of the Act - is implemented by this Bill. Last year the Government established a committee within the Office of Racing and Gaming to re-examine and consolidate past submissions, consult industry groups and other interested parties, and to make recommendations for change. The committee also took into account recent reviews of liquor licensing legislation in Victoria and South Australia, and the Bill implements the thrust of the recommendations of the review.

The Bill still provides, except in some specified cases, that liquor may not be sold other than by a person licensed under the Statute. The number of licence and permit categories has been reduced from 30 to 13. The court will still hear applications for the grant or removal of category A licences where objections have been lodged. The court will also hear disciplinary complaints, applications for review of decisions of the director, and applications for major alterations to category A licensed premises, where objections have been lodged. All other matters, including applications for the grant or removal of category B licences and transfer of all licences and minor alterations to premises, are to be determined by the director whether or not objections are lodged. Matters which attract objections and are important in the potential effect they may have on the balance of the industry or on local amenity are, therefore, still to be determined judicially by the court. The remainder, making up the majority of applications

overall, will be dealt with by the director. The industry will benefit from having the matters determined informally.

The Bill changes significantly the provisions relating to objections by widening the grounds of objection and classes of people who may object to applications, to give more scope for the general community to affect licensing decisions. In the case of category A licence applications, an affected area will still be set but persons outside the area will be able to object if they can show the licensing authority they have a worthwhile case. The grounds of objection include public interest factors and considerations such as neighbourhood amenity and potential disturbance to nearby residents. The Government recognises the important role played by local government in deciding where licensed premises should be located. The licensing authority will not be able to grant a licence unless prior local government planning approval is given. Only in the case of category A licences will the applicant have to show that the licence is necessary to satisfy the requirements of the public for the facility. This criterion no longer applies to category B licences. Where the reasonable requirements of the public must be satisfied, the likely expected patronage can be taken into account, which will, unlike now, assist those tourism-related developments which are an attraction in themselves.

A new special facility licence category has been inserted. This is for special facilities when no other single licence is reasonably adequate. It will still have to be shown that the reasonable requirements of the public warrant the licence grant but, if these criteria are satisfied, the licensing authority will be able to grant a licence subject to whatever conditions are needed to satisfy the special needs which have been established. This licence category will absorb those which now exist for theatres, ballrooms, works canteens, reception lodges, historic inns, boats and aircraft, and for major sporting venues which are the headquarters of sport in the State. Special facility licences will also be able to be sought for developments which enhance tourism or are themselves tourist attractions, where no other licence is reasonably adequate. Developers in these cases will no longer have to modify their proposals to fit the licensing laws. Instead, a licence can be obtained which is moulded to suit the special needs of the project. This will assist considerably our most important tourism industry.

The licensing authority is given an overriding discretion to grant or refuse an application if the public interest so dictates. The authority could, for example, grant a licence where a ground of objection has been established, but could impose conditions aimed at ensuring that the conduct alleged in the ground of objection does not eventuate. The paramount consideration will be the public interest rather than the specific interest of a sectional group.

The unlicensed club permit is abolished and replaced by a club restricted licence - that is, a club licence subject to restrictions including no takeaway liquor sales, and a requirement that liquor supplies be obtained from nearby hotel, tavern or liquor store licences. Any club with a club restricted licence may apply to the director to have those restrictions revoked if it is incorporated and has premises of adequate standard. This will reduce considerably the time and expense involved in clubs achieving complete trading rights under a club licence.

Trading hours from Monday to Saturday are not changed. On Sundays, hotels, taverns and restricted hotels will be permitted to operate at any time between 12.00 noon and 9.00 pm, or for all that period, at the licensee's discretion. Club licences may operate between 10.00 am and 10.00 pm at their discretion. Hotels, taverns and liquor store licences will still be obliged to trade each day from 11.00 am to 7.00 pm, or some other eight-hour period nominated by the licensee, except on Sundays and some public holidays. Outside the Perth metropolitan area, the eight-hour period is reduced to four hours in the case of hotels and taverns. This recognises the greater hardship faced by licensees in those areas.

Enforcement of provisions relating to liquor consumption ancillary to meals is significantly enhanced. There is no longer any obligation for licensees to provide food or meals, except for hotels and restricted hotels which must supply breakfast and dinner to lodgers. Licence renewal applications are abolished. A licence will remain in force, subject to payment of the annual fee, unless the licence is suspended, surrendered or cancelled. However, at any time during the year, a complaint for disciplinary action against a licensee may be lodged with the Liquor Licensing Court by the director, police or relevant local government authority, including one adjacent to the premises.

The grounds for complaint include factors such as the management of the licence, suitability

of the premises, or public health or safety. If a ground is established, the court has available a wide variety of possible sanctions ranging from reprimands, through imposing conditions, fines or bonds, to suspension or cancellation of the licence in serious cases. In the case of undue noise, disturbance or the like at or near licensed premises, a complaint may be lodged with the Director of Liquor Licensing by the local council or shire, including one adjacent to the premises, police or local residents, worshippers or workers. If the complaint is established and the parties cannot agree on an acceptable solution, the director may impose conditions on the licence aimed at eliminating the problem. These could include conditions restricting trading hours, the use of parts of the premises, numbers of persons on the premises or the provision of entertainment. Licensees are not expected to control the behaviour of patrons off the premises, but where persons who disturb nearby residents, workers or worshippers are attracted to licensed premises, licence conditions may be imposed to alter the nature of the licensee's operations where this would result in a reduction of the problems.

Premiums have been abolished. This should provide an incentive for licensees to undertake renovations to premises which may now not be feasible because of the additional cost of the premium. No other State or Territory has provision for premiums. During the recent moratorium on the grant of some types of licences, some small country communities were disadvantaged when the only hotel or store licence in the area was purchased for relocation. Where a small community loses its only liquor outlet, the relevant local shire may obtain approval to conduct a liquor outlet for up to 12 months, until alternative arrangements can be made.

Provisions relating to the sale, supply and consumption of liquor by juveniles on and off licensed premises have been strengthened. Licensees are made responsible for unlawful actions of their staff in all areas. For many offences under the Act, including those relating to juveniles, there is provision for infringement notices to be issued. This should further aid enforcement. Licence fees will be assessed in the same way as now, but the provisions for detection and collection of evaded licence fees have been considerably strengthened. The transitional provisions in the Bill deem the licences which now exist to be appropriate licences under the new Act automatically. No licensee will be given fewer rights than under the existing Act.

The Government recognises the important role played by the liquor industry in the economic and social life of the State. Within the industry itself, there are several competing interest groups. With social legislation such as this there are also the legitimate expectations and interests of the general community to be considered. While maintaining regulation of the industry and a balancing of industry interests through different licence categories and criteria, the Bill takes greater account of general community considerations by placing emphasis on the public interest and the requirements of the public in specific localities.

The Bill is a carefully balanced set of interrelated measures, which must be seen and treated as such. The Government is confident that the Bill provides a proper and responsible set of measures which give due emphasis to the legitimate interests of relevant groups, tempered with a degree of flexibility and discretion vested in the licensing authority which will ensure that future demands can be accommodated without altering the scheme of the Statute.

I inform the House that earlier today I gave notice that I would introduce an amendment to the present liquor Act which although related to this Bill is to be treated separately and will allow the appointment of an acting judge of the Liquor Licensing Court for the conduct of business as required.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Thompson.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) BILL

Second Reading - Budget Debate

Debate resumed from 1 September.

MR MASLEN (Gascoyne) [2.48 pm]: When I sought leave to continue my remarks at the last sitting I had reached the subject of teacher morale in the education system. I pay tribute to the present Minister for Education for her endeavours in rectifying this situation. I said at

the time that I had only had short notice before I spoke to the Budget debate and there did not appear to be any specific benefits for my area. However, I find that there are some benefits, small as they may be, and the electors of my electorate are grateful to the Government for its consideration, particularly pertaining to the extensions at Shark Bay, Denham Police Station and the marine and harbours facility there, and I thank the Government for that.

Since speaking last in this debate Liberal Party supporters who are constituents have approached me in my electorate saying that they hold great concern in relation to the Labor Party's endorsed candidate for Northern Rivers. I will outline briefly some of their concerns. First, they are concerned that there appears to be a misuse of his office in furthering his political ambitions. I will be specific about this because we in this place often have doubts about the specifics of allegations which are made. I have here photocopies of 17 Press statements relating to this candidate. More than half of these statements were put out by the Government on his behalf, including one relating to the Budget, which was released when most of us did not yet know what the Budget was about. However, I can tolerate that happening because that is the nature of politics.

A person came in to see me and gave me a copy of a letter from Kevin Leahy, the Labor Party candidate for Northern Rivers, who happens to be the Clerk of Courts in Carnarvon. The envelope is a franked envelope, and bears an Electoral Department address stamp. The letter - which is the all too familiar coloured letter put out on behalf of Labor Party candidates; and good luck to them - bears a picture of the Premier -

Mr Court: Which Premier?

Mr MASLEN: The current Premier - the pretty one.

The letter gives this man's contact numbers at work - and I have found I have not been able to contact him at work, so I assume he is out campaigning - and also in the town of Newman, which is also in that electorate. That contact number happens to be that of the electorate office of Mr Tom Stephens MLC. I have done my best to ignore these situations because this man happens to be a drinking mate of mine, and I would not like to see him come to any harm, but he is a bit of a slow learner because during the by-election he stood against me as a candidate for the seat of Gascoyne. Everyone got off the mark pretty quickly during that campaign, and Hon Tom Stephens was his campaign manager, and Hon Phil Lockyer was my campaign manager. They inadvertently used their Government offices for this purpose, but after a day they were warned about doing this, and rectified the situation. I would not have thought it would happen again.

I can tolerate the making of Government statements, because that is politics, although some of my constituents do not tolerate it. I can tolerate the fact that this candidate accompanies the magistrate in his chartered aircraft. He states in the letter that his work brings him regularly to all the population centres in the electorate, and that he can be contacted from time to time, so I assume he does a bit of campaigning when he goes out with the magistrate. I can tolerate the candidate accompanying the local Ministers when they go out to make their various Father Christmas handouts to organisations such as the Yugoslav Club. However, some of my constituents consider it to be a bit thick when it appears that he is not only using Government premises to carry out his political campaign - although he says in one of his Press statements that he is not campaigning - but is able to get results on matters that I have been battling with for, in some cases, three months. People have come into my office and said they cannot get anything done through me but they have gone to see the endorsed Labor candidate, who makes a phone call to the appropriate Minister, and it is fixed just like that.

Some of my constituents are also a bit cranky about -

Mr Gordon Hill: Do you think he is more effective than you are in getting things done for your electorate?

Mr MASLEN: I have said I do not want any harm to come to this gentleman because he is a good drinking mate of mine. I saw him only last Saturday when we were at the Junction races together. He knocked me off in the Calcutta; he got more money than I did. We are good mates, and I do not care what he does. I would not care if he set up the whole courthouse for his campaign, because he is going to need all the help he can get with a handicap on his side like the present Government.

What I would like to draw attention to is the blatant attitude that is being displayed.

Members may recall that in July 1987 a man called Detective Constable Paul Filing resigned from his job in the Police Force in order to stand as a Liberal Party candidate in the Federal election. This man was defeated in the by-election, and even though he applied on three occasions to be reinstated in the Police Force, he could not get his job back. We see now in advertisements a certain senior policeman, who happens to back up everything that the Government is trying to do, whether that is good, bad, or indifferent, and I am sure that is the same Commissioner of Police who would not give back to this man his job. It is no wonder that if such blatant arrogance is being displayed by candidates, when they come into power they go mad and become megalomaniacs.

My constituents have raised these matters with me, and I believe I should bring them up in this House.

MR DONOVAN (Morley-Swan) [2.57 pm]: I do not intend to take up much time in the House this afternoon, but there are some aspects of the Budget Speech that I would like to touch on. I might say at the outset that if I had to choose a handicap, I could not think of a handicap I would rather have on my shoulders than this Government, which has been so successful in economic and social policy terms. I think that by anyone's imagination, the economic success of this Government has been well documented in the media and in the private and public sectors. The measure of that success is seen in the constant carping engaged in by the Opposition in this House, not over policy issues but rather over figures and people in the private and public sectors.

Mr Court: Is corruption irrelevant?

Mr DONOVAN: It is not that corruption is irrelevant; both the Commissioner of Police and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services have made their positions clear as to what ought to be the view of a responsible public agency.

Mr Court: We are talking about corruption in Government, not in the Police Force.

Mr DONOVAN: The Opposition is constantly talking about corruption but has consistently failed to evidence that corruption; and that is the standard by which its performance will in the end be measured. The economic success of this Government is on record.

The next matter I wish to raise - which I have no doubt will attract some disagreement from the Opposition - is what we do with that sort of economic success. The approach of the previous Liberal Government with its limited economic success - certainly in its dying years - was to spend money on pipelines and to invest in operations and activities which bore little relevance to the needs of the people.

Mr MacKinnon: Your Premier was telling us the other day what a great thing it was.

Mr DONOVAN: He was not saying what a great thing it was; he was making a cost and management comparison between the decisions taken by the Leader of the Opposition's predecessor -

Mr Court: He said it was too small; we need a bigger one.

Mr DONOVAN: It not only proves this Government's ability to manage those sorts of exercises, it demonstrates this Government's ability to get on top of the handicaps it inherited.

Mr Court: Do you think that pipeline was a bad thing?

Mr DONOVAN: Yes, one could say that that pipeline was too small. But that is not to the credit of members opposite; it is to the credit of this Government.

Mr Court: Rubbish! It would not have been here if you were in Government.

Several members interjected.

Mr Court: You have been there for five years and you have not got things up and done. The Deputy Premier is in Tokyo having another go.

Mr DONOVAN: Getting things off the ground. That is precisely the difference between the stamp of this Government and the stamp of its predecessors. As I was saying, what does one do with the economic success anyway? The priorities which have been adopted by this Government will stamp it for some time to come. The answer to that question is, one puts it back into the people; back into the services; back into the community.

Mr Court: How many people? Four?

Mr Burkett: Four Liberals who tickled the till; cooked the books.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr DONOVAN: I was not going to talk about the till ticklers. I will resist that temptation, though I am reminded of till tickling which went on in the early 1980s.

The answer to what one does with economic success has been clearly painted by this Government in successive Budgets. Last year the Budget was couched in terms of the family package. We saw the maturation of a fairly comprehensive social policy being implemented. This year sees the logical extension of that kind of social policy planning. We have seen that in the family foundation, the creation of an Office of The Family and a budget in related portfolios which is greater now than would ever have been enjoyed under a conservative administration.

I am reminded of my time in the Department of Community Welfare, as it was then. I recall Budget time in the mid 1970s, waiting with bated breath around the divisional offices of that department to know whether this would be the year to crack the \$5 million mark. The community welfare budget was always at the bottom of the budgetary ladder. I notice in 1988 the Community Services portfolio is number six in terms of expenditure; sixth from the top. If members look at the summary in the Estimates, they will see that seven of the eight highest expenditure items by portfolios are in people-oriented and service sectors. We have now a clear priority established by this Government over a number of Budgets to emphasise the importance of social policy; in other words to emphasise the importance of a redistribution of the economic resources under the control of the State.

Mr Lewis: A real social policy!

Mr DONOVAN: Is it not?

Mr Lewis: The redistribution of the wealth. More people are below the poverty line now than five years ago. That is how successful your party has been!

Mr DONOVAN: Redistribution is a concept that members opposite could not understand in the 1970s and they were thrown out because they could not, and they will be kept out because they still cannot understand it.

Mr Clarko: We were not thrown out in the '70s over that.

Mr DONOVAN: I am sorry, I meant 1983.

Several members interjected.

Mr DONOVAN: The member may say "only 12 years". So little of any positive worth happened in those 12 years that it could be bypassed very quickly.

Mr Clarko: The State made more progress then than at any other time in its history.

Several members interjected.

Mr DONOVAN: The greatest progress the State has ever made in whose terms?

Mr Clarko: Economically and socially.

Mr DONOVAN: If the member measures that economic success in such general terms, surely he would not expect to see, in a State that enjoyed that progress, the sorts of scenes witnessed in 1979! One would not expect to see armed convoys secretly registered to impose the will of a Government which is making so much progress. We have not seen those convoys since 1983.

Mr Clarko: You tried to stop the Noonkanbah convoy; is that what you are saying? You and your nifty mates caused the stir.

Mr DONOVAN: The member for Karrinyup wants it on record that the opposition to those events in 1979 was no greater than a rent-a-crowd organised by the Labor Party.

Mr Clarko: The Aboriginal adviser at Noonkanbah recommended it; he said it was okay to drill and search for oil on that property.

Mr DONOVAN: That is not the point the member is making.

Mr Clarko: That is what it was about.

Mr DONOVAN: The point the member is making is that the opposition to those sorts of events, specifically the 1979 convoy, was organised by the Labor Party rent-a-crowd.

Mr Clarko: The loony left!

Mr DONOVAN: In the week after Aboriginal Week that is the greatest insult to the Aboriginal community in this State that anybody could hear, and it will do members opposite no good in the next election.

Mr Clarko: The Aboriginal experts on that station recommended it was okay to dig for oil; you can deny that if you want to.

Mr DONOVAN: That is beside the point.

Mr Thomas: That might have been his view; what did the community think?

Several members interjected.

Mr DONOVAN: I can see the member for Gascoyne starting to worry about the member opposite.

Mr Clarko: The airstrip had already been put in place; septic tanks had been dug - holes in the ground.

Mr DONOVAN: The member opposite is about to dig a hole in the ground for his colleague behind him.

Mr Clarko: You have not thought the thing through; that is your trouble. The Aboriginal adviser chose specifically to make that decision, and he made the same decision as we did. Your rent-a-crowd mob were trying to stop it going through; they defied the law.

Mr DONOVAN: If rent-a-crowd produced those results, then perhaps the way to electioneering in the future is to adopt the theory of rent-a-crowd. Is that right?

Mr Clarko: We won the 1980 election within a few months of that.

Mr DONOVAN: Was it rent-a-crowd which threw members opposite out in 1983?

Several members interjected.

Mr DONOVAN: Tell us how you went in the Kimberley.

Mr Clarko: We won the 1980 election.

Mr DONOVAN: How did you go in the Kimberley?

Mr Clarko: The 1980 election was won easily within months of that.

Mr DONOVAN: I was not going to take a lot of time on this. May I, with your forbearance, Mr Deputy Speaker, return to the social policy in the 1988 Budget.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would be happy for you to do just that.

Mr DONOVAN: I want to canvass briefly, in relation to my own electorate, some of the impacts of this approach to social policy, given the distributions in the Budget policy. There are some areas of administration and expenditure which have a particularly high priority in the area of Morley. I suppose they largely come under the labels of education, health and community services, policing, transport and housing.

In education we have seen in the Beechboro area the creation and establishment of one of the finest schools it has been my privilege to see, and the member for Karrinyup would appreciate the new Beechboro school. It was programmed to come on stream next year, but because of the rapid expansion of the Beechboro area due to the success of the Landbank scheme and the low start building programs generating a high demand for residential property and building in that area, the response of this Government last year was, "Obviously 1990 is not good enough; the school must open in 1989." I am proud to say that that school was opened in time for the beginning of the school year in 1989. While I regard it as a fine example of school building and architecture I can report to the House that the community in Beechboro has really welcomed it. They regard that school as one of their finest facilities - one which will be used widely by the community.

In health and community services we have seen this year a final expenditure allocation needed to complete the long awaited new community health centre in Lockridge. As members will recall from a petition tabled earlier, Lockridge unfortunately has suffered from a pretty poor public image which has been portrayed by the media, by word of mouth and, more than anything else, by reputation. It is unfortunate that that is the case because in fact Lockridge, in social policy and community development terms, not only is one of the most progressive communities in this State but also repeatedly attracts visitors from the Eastern States and overseas. They visit Lockridge to see how different voluntary organisations and professional agencies go about meeting social and health problems. It is interesting to note that, while it may well be regarded poorly here in Perth, the education and social development projects at work in Lockridge are considered to be of an exemplary standard. I find it sad that we are unable to appreciate what goes on in the eastern suburbs as much as are other people from interstate and overseas, such that they come here to learn from us.

Another feature of community services that is becoming a landmark of social policy in this State - and indeed, it has been announced in this Budget - is the allocation of funds for the development of family centres in various locations. Prior to this Budget's being announced there was locally generated in Beechboro a plan for a child health and family centre which is a multifunctional kind of facility; that is, it provides for the infant health and child health needs of a community, for some child care necessary in that community, for activities for women and men, and for a range of other community support programs that are necessary. These had their precedent in the development of the community house concept that arose from the 1983-84 "Wellbeing of the People" report. That is now in hand. Not only has it been established in Beechboro but it is now about to be established in West Beechboro. That will be warmly received by the community there, which is largely one of young families with young children, sometimes feeling quite isolated and sometimes actually being quite isolated socially and materially. I might add that although those communities in the eastern suburbs are in many ways marginalised they are also some of the most progressive communities in terms of the development of groups and organisations that meet locally the sorts of problems that people experience locally.

The feature of the development of community services and social policy under this Government is now being recognised as one of partnership between Government and community. It is interesting to note that in this Budget we have that same emphasis: in the grants to families, organisations and community groups through the recently announced Family Foundation. The emphasis again is on partnership between community based organisations which will use those funds, and the Government which will distribute those funds and require a built in accountability for their expenditure.

In policing there has also been a great deal of success, certainly in my electorate and also in the eastern region as a whole. A most important point to make about that success is that it is beginning to be achieved because of the level of participation and community involvement with the police in operations such as the Neighbourhood Watch program, the crime prevention program, and the community policing policy of the Police Force. Again, therefore, I find it sad and unhelpful to have that important advance taken out of the context of progressive policing and put into the context of some sort of suspicion being attached to the Commissioner of Police, or the Minister, or the Government as a whole. In recent months one of the most unfortunate features of the development of the community policing policy has been this sort of negative criticism undermining the approach to that policy. Generally that negative criticism has come from Opposition members in this House.

Another aspect that is quite important in the eastern region as a whole - and this again reflects the joining of economic and social policy - is transport. The development of both the Tonkin Highway and the Northern Perimeter Highway is now well in hand. While there have been and remain some unresolved problems attached to both those projects by and large they are well received in the community and are succeeding in the transport objectives for that region. By and large the problems that have arisen with the development, planning, design and implementation of those two roads are being resolved happily by an almost institutional process now of consultation between ministry, department and community. In fact, no better example of that exists than the sequence of meetings that have occurred recently for the proposed extension of the Tonkin Highway from Morley Drive to Benara Road which will be under way by the end of the year.

I was at a meeting at Noranda last night, as was the Liberal candidate for Nollamara, Bill Stuart.

Mr Lightfoot: He has a score of nine on a scale of one to 10.

Mr DONOVAN: Is that right? I think he was really surprised at the meeting at Noranda last night. He went there expecting, quite properly, to experience some debate about the problems associated with certain of the feeder links to the Northern Perimeter Highway. I think what he was less expecting was the unanimous support at that meeting for the Northern Perimeter Highway and the Tonkin Highway as a whole. It was as though he had been poorly briefed by his party; it was as though somebody had suggested to him, "Get yourself involved with those Noranda people because I am telling you that the Northern Perimeter Highway is the Achilles heel of this Government." I can tell this House that the Northern Perimeter Highway, far from being the Achilles heel of this Government, is probably its greatest asset.

Mr Clarko: But it wasn't your idea. It was there long before you ever came to Government.

Mr DONOVAN: But we implemented it. The member and his party did not implement it - they did not do anything with it.

Mr Clarko: We did scores of other things. Most of the construction of Western Australia was done during the time of Liberal Governments, without question. And I support the Northern Perimeter Highway too.

Mr DONOVAN: I am one of those old fashioned people who believe in giving credit where it is due. I think it is to the credit of the member and his party that they presided for so long over the plans on paper for the Northern Perimeter Highway. It was a bit unfortunate that they stayed on paper. It is to the Liberal Party's credit that it presided over the expenditure on a gas pipeline, the product of which it could not sell. Those sorts of things are to the Liberal Party's credit and I think credit should be given where it is due.

There has been a consistent attempt recently by some of the member's colleagues to downgrade and to denigrate the value of the transport plan in the eastern and northern regions. It is now becoming clearly apparent that not only do the communities affected and benefiting from those projects see their value, they are also prepared to become involved in the process of resolving the sort of local problems that arise with any engineering project like that. If the Tonkin Highway experience is anything to go by, those problems will be resolved. They have been resolved by local consultation, sensible discussions, public meetings and regular contact between the ministry, the department and the community. My point is that while that is true of the transport portfolio under this Government, it is consistently true across all portfolio areas administered by this Government. That could not have happened under the Liberal Party, because the Liberal Party had no understanding, no processes and no methodology by which it could consult local communities.

Dr Alexander: They did not think it was necessary.

Mr DONOVAN: That is true. In the view of the Liberal Party, it was not necessary.

Mr Clarko: What is not necessary?

Mr DONOVAN: Consultation.

Mr Clarko: Over what?

Mr DONOVAN: My colleague was saying that that level of consultation did not happen under the Liberal Administration.

Mr Clarko: How would he know? He spent five minutes on the Perth City Council and then came away accusing it of being corrupt.

Mr DONOVAN: I was just reminding him that the Liberal Party when in Government did not have the methodology and the processes available to it at that time for that sort of consultation.

Mr Clarko interjected.

Mr DONOVAN: No, in regard to the development of any sort of transport, educational or health -

Mr Clarko: Nonsense!

Mr DONOVAN: Well, consultation is at the very least a two way component part of planning. It is not something where the Government says, "This is what you have got. Hands up those who do not like it"; of course nobody would put their hands up because the Government would say to them, "Well you are not getting it next year either." That sort of consultation did not work -

Mr Clarko interjected.

Mr DONOVAN: I am talking about consultation between Government and communities on particular issues. At the moment we are seeing the well established implementation of this kind of tripartite consultation. It is not just going on in transport; it is also going on in health, community services and in all arms of government at the present time - ministry, department and community. I attend on average three public and community meetings of different kinds a month. Whereas those meetings would have attracted perhaps half a dozen cynics years ago, today they attract large numbers of people who say, "Yes, we are going to get results if we do this."

Mr Clarko: You are kidding yourself if you think you invented consultation.

Mr DONOVAN: The member is right, I would be kidding myself if I were to suggest that my party invented consultation. It is true that consultation was developed first of all as a workable process within the industrial movement, and certainly the Labor Party has always been willing to learn from the processes developed in the industrial movement.

Mr Clarko: The citizens of Athens were deciding these things long before there was any trade union movement.

Mr DONOVAN: Even my grandparents are not that old. I have trouble relating to that. I have been talking to preschool children this week in respect of the bicentennial medals. I wonder whether other members have ever tried explaining the Bicentenary to preschool children? It is really difficult: One has to talk about birthdays, because they relate to birthdays; then one has to take things in chunks - five years, 200 hundred years, 2 000 years since Christ, 40 000 years since Aborigines occupied Australia. One has to do that sort of thing. I have the same trouble when the member for Karrinyup refers to Athens.

Mr Clarko: It is considered to be the start of political consultation - supposedly the birthplace of democracy.

Mr DONOVAN: They also had a fairly simply industrial system in those days.

Mr Clarko: No trade unions.

Mr DONOVAN: Thank God that due to the rise of the labour movement in Australia we have developed quite a sophisticated industrial system, which would not have developed had it not been for that labour movement.

Transport is very much a priority concern in the eastern region and one which has seen some rapid and successful development. Related to that - and perhaps not so grandiose - is the provision of new bus routes. Obviously when there are new, expanding areas such as Beechboro and Carramar, public transport facilities must be provided. It is encouraging to see senior Transperth personnel, under the direction of and in consultation with the ministry, spending time in the electorate consulting people. The result of that consultation process has been the development - stage one of which will go into effect on 9 October - of a very important three route bus system in the Beechboro area, which will form part of the bus-rail connection that is so necessary to the development of the eastern regional centre of Midland.

The development of bus routes on the one hand and the announced electrification program on the other hand will enable a quite sophisticated transport network to be developed in the region, which will be widely patronised by residents from my electorate. These main areas highlight the impact of a Budget couched in social policy terms, which focuses on social policy initiatives because of the economic underpinning this Government has been able to establish within its management process. I think this Government has made its stamp on Western Australia in general terms. This Government will be known not only for its sound and creative economic development, but also for generating and maintaining an unprecedented emphasis on social policy. Digressing for a moment, I remember that, in the

mid 1970s, if one talked about social policy in Public Service circles one was warned to do so quietly, behind closed doors, to make sure the boss did not hear, because if he did it would get back to the Minister and there would be trouble. We have seen a dramatic move from those days and that atmosphere, to the atmosphere of today with the double approach of this Budget, firstly, in the Government's economic strategy and, secondly, in its social strategy.

The economic strategy provides the financial ability to extend a worthwhile social policy with the redistribution of the benefits of economic development to those who deserve them, that is, the people in the community. My region has certainly seen that happen, and will experience more of it. I do not suppose I will ever be fully satisfied - being a local member I want as much as I can get for my electorate. Nevertheless, this concept of social policy being extended through good economic management will become the future for Western Australian State politics for a long time to come. This Budget brings together the community and the Government in a positive, social partnership. That is happening in many ways in my electorate, and I am sure it is happening elsewhere. I commend the Budget to the House.

MR HASSELL (Cottesloe) [3.32 pm]: We are debating the Budget and it is an appropriate occasion to examine the financial performance of the Government and its responsibility in relation to that financial performance.

Two weeks ago yesterday the *The West Australian* newspaper published a number of statements I made about the financial performance of the State Superannuation Board. The Treasurer spoke on the radio and entered into other media in the following 24 hours with a general attack on the fact that the issue had been raised, and an attack on other members of the Opposition, but he did not have the gall to deny the detail of anything I said. Within a couple of days, as these things do, the matter settled down: The Treasurer went on his merry way, despite the fact that we had a motion in this House calling on him to explain what was going on at the State Superannuation Board. The Treasurer gave absolutely no explanation and, instead, indulged in personal abuse of the Leader of the Opposition and, once again, a generalised rebuttal.

The Treasurer was asked to table the unaudited accounts of the State Superannuation Board, which he refused to do, notwithstanding the fact that a couple of weeks before he had been able to cook up, with the State Government Insurance Commission, a convenient arrangement whereby the SGIC could announce, from its unaudited accounts, an alleged profit which the Treasurer claimed would enable him to carry out some of the policies included in the Budget. The matter of the State Superannuation Board was brought up a couple of weeks ago. Despite the vigour of the debate, no explanation was given by the Government, there was no tabling of the unaudited accounts, and there was no accountability given to this Parliament or the public in respect of the tens of millions of dollars of losses incurred at the State Superannuation Board.

Last Saturday *The West Australian* newspaper again published information about the substantial losses incurred by the State Superannuation Board, specifically referring to losses incurred by its involvement with the Danbury Group of Companies. The newspaper indicated a huge loss in relation to that single transaction. Further material followed in the *Sunday Times*, and yet more on Monday in *The West Australian*. In the 48 hours that have followed these disclosures the Treasurer has again ignored the issue; he has failed to tell the public what is going on, failed to explain the losses, and failed to make public the accounts of the State Superannuation Board.

Mr Peter Dowding: You criticised the release of the unaudited figures of the SGIC. You ridiculed the figures of the SGIC.

Mr HASSELL: The Treasurer has had ample opportunity in the last two weeks in the media - on his own radio program - and in this House, to explain the dirty dealings of the State Superannuation Board.

Mr Peter Dowding: Don't be silly.

Mr HASSELL: He has not done so. I have no intention of treating his interjections at this stage with any regard whatsoever. I give notice now that I am not interested in his interjections. If he wants to explain the dealings of the State Superannuation Board, he knows more than any person in this House about them, and has had more opportunity than anyone else to do so.

Mr Peter Dowding: There are only seven of us in the House at the moment.

Mr HASSELL: The fact is the Treasurer does not want to explain those dealings because they represent a monumental cover-up for the Labor Party.

Mr Peter Dowding: Of what?

Mr HASSELL: Of one of its mates - friends. It is a deliberate and concerted attempt to hide illegal activities.

Mr Peter Dowding: Illegal activities? What is your evidence for that?

Mr HASSELL: I will explain to the House, in the time I have available to me, precisely what is going on.

Mr Peter Dowding: Explain it, because that is an outrageous allegation.

Mr HASSELL: The Treasurer will not escape his responsibility in this matter by making wild, unsubstantiated and cowardly allegations about the activities of unnamed members of the Opposition overseas, which grabbed him some convenient headlines and diverted attention from what has been going on.

Mr Peter Dowding: Isn't it wild and unsubstantiated to say "illegal activities"?

Mr HASSELL: We are saying that, apart from the claimed, publicised profits, four things have been going on at the State Superannuation Board Investment Trust. Firstly, the State Superannuation Board Investment Trust entered into extraordinary dealings with the Danbury group of companies. They were high risk investments - I do not know whether a loan or a guarantee can be called an investment, but they were certainly high risk transactions - and they have been proved not only to be high risk, but to be a thoroughly bad risk because millions upon millions of dollars have been lost. There has been no explanation as to why the State Superannuation Board Investment Trust would give a guarantee of activities undertaken by this group or its associates. That is the first point: Let it be very clear that what I have said and will say in each of these cases is precisely the situation.

Secondly, the Opposition believes that the Government's hand picked people, Mr Leonard Brush, Mr Tony Lloyd, Mr Stewart Gregory and Mr Bill Rolston - I put it on record now that no suggestion or complaint of impropriety is made against Mr Rolston; he is the victim of his predecessors and of the political activities of this Government and I do not believe he is to blame; however, he has been caught up in these filthy transactions - have been on the board of a company called Digital and Allied, which is part of the Danbury group of companies, with a man named Neil Ohlsson and his family.

Mr MacKinnon: He has an interesting background.

Mr HASSELL: He certainly does have an interesting background. They have been caught up on boards and in transactions with Mr Ohlsson who has such a bad record that the Victorian Government was forced to reject him and his company as a participant in a major Victorian project. Mr Ohlsson and his associates were rejected by the Victorian Government from being involved in the multi million dollar Victorian Museum project as a result of evidence before two Royal Commissions - the Costigan Commission and the Stewart Commission.

Thirdly, and this is where the culpability of the Government and its friends comes in, the deliberate, negligent or reckless failure - whichever one likes - of this Government in the investment of trust moneys from the superannuation fund in the Danbury group. Those transactions were entered into when it was on the public record, for all the world to see, that Mr Neil Ohlsson and his associates had been rejected by the Victorian Labor Government because of their unsuitability. The Government has allowed these things to happen when it was absolutely open to the Government to have known what was the background of these people - not from any secret documents unavailable to it, but from newspaper reports on the public record from debates of the Victorian Parliament and from the Victorian Premier, Mr John Cain, who would not allow Mr Ohlsson's company to manage a major project in Victoria.

Mr MacKinnon: Why did the State Superannuation Board enter into a guarantee in the first place?

Mr HASSELL: The Leader of the Opposition has asked one of the most important questions and there has been no response to that question despite the repeated opportunities the Treasurer has had to respond to it and to explain what has been going on.

Fourthly, I point out that the Opposition is saying, as disclosed by the public record and the public evidence, that superannuation funds of Government employees in this State have been invested, loaned to, or put at risk through guarantees in favour of people who can be described at least as shady characters and associates of criminals in organised crime. That is on the record and while it is on the record that Mr Brush and other friends of Mr Burke and the current Treasurer were busy dealing with these people - sitting on boards with them, playing around with the public money of this State - we have no explanation from this Treasurer. What has been going on is absolutely shameful and it is time that this Parliament and the public of Western Australia were given an explanation.

Mr MacKinnon: Is there any evidence that these companies have any investments in Western Australia?

Mr HASSELL: There is no evidence that they have investments, but there is evidence that at 30 June 1988 the Superannuation Board's investment trust valued its investments in the Danbury group at nil.

Mr MacKinnon: What was their cost?

Mr HASSELL: The cost was quite considerable and I will come to that matter in a moment. Millions of dollars are involved in those investments - \$562 000 for Aloglen, \$750 000 for Essington, and there are others.

Several members interjected.

Mr HASSELL: Mr Acting Speaker (Dr Alexander), I have made it clear that I do not intend to respond to the Treasurer. He can babble on as much as he likes. I ask you for your protection to enable me to make my speech. He has plenty of opportunity to speak in this House and I do not want to be interrupted by him. He has had two weeks and a day to tell the public of this State about those issues and I do not intend to banter with him now. He is a cowardly man who makes attacks outside the Parliament.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! If you do not intend to banter with interjections, I suggest you do not solicit them. That is what is happening at the moment together with unsolicited remarks.

Mr HASSELL: I have the figures which were lodged with the Corporate Affairs Commission on 31 August 1988 and the Superannuation Board valued its interest in the Danbury group as nil. As I said, I have a copy of the return and I point to the lines drawn under "Market Value" next to Danbury group. The same applies to Aloglen, Critical Materials and Digital and Allied and yet, Mr Acting Speaker, would you believe that three months ago the Superannuation Board took a security for \$450 000 from those companies? In about March of this year it tried to secure the disastrous situation in which it found itself by belatedly registering a charge to secure \$450 000. I can give members the precise date as I have all the search documents with me.

By its own actions, the board admitted there was an almighty mess. The whole situation simply screams out for an inquiry and for the people responsible for these kinds of dealings to be identified and action taken against them. Does any member imagine that Mr Brush, who received \$100 000 from Mr Martin on his own admission in his trial, entered into these extraordinary transactions for legitimate commercial reasons? Why would the Superannuation Board of this State guarantee a purchase by Danbury? What is the justification for the money of public servants of this State being put at risk to support a guarantee in favour of a company called Danbury, the principals of which were named in the Costigan and Stewart Royal Commissions and who were rejected by the Cain Government in Victoria for a string of reasons, about which I will be more specific in a moment? Dealings took place with Danbury and with the Danbury group. On 30 June 1987 the Superannuation Board Investment Trust reported to the Commissioner of Corporate Affairs that it had acquired shares in Aloglen for \$562 500, on the same date that it had acquired 469 500 shares in Austec for \$781 089.97; and that it had acquired 50 shares in a company called Essington for \$750 000. Essington was the company of Mr Ohlsson and Mr Edwards who split up in 1986, following their rejection by the Victorian Government for involvement in

the museum project in that State. The report of 30 June 1987 shows that among other shares held by the Superannuation Board Investment Trust, at that date an unspecified number of shares was held in Aloglen - part of the Danbury group - valued at \$562 510; that it held 3 962 024 shares in Austec, valued at that time at \$7 329 744.40; and 50 shares in the strange company called Essington, valued at the balance date at \$750 040.

When one turns to the return filed at the Corporate Affairs Commission for the year ending 30 June 1988, mysteriously, although a section of that report is devoted to the sales of shares, and a section is devoted to the shares held at 30 June, Essington has disappeared. No explanation is given in the accounts as to whether it may have changed its name. Although at 30 June 1987 a purchase of shares for \$750 000 and the holding of shares to that value were disclosed, by 30 June 1988 the board did not report either that the shares had been sold or that they were still held. I wonder what the explanation is for that transaction. Of course, Essington goes right back to the Danbury group and the people involved with that group. In note 10 to the accounts of the Superannuation Board Investment Trust, filed at the Corporate Affairs Commission a couple of weeks ago, under the heading "Post Balance Date Event" it states that on 18 July 1988 the Commonwealth Bank of Australia exercised a put option which required the trust to acquire 4 million shares in Austec International Ltd at a cost of \$2 per share. The market value of the shares at the exercise date was 20c per share, resulting in an unrealised loss at that date of \$7 200 000.

I will now deal with some of these matters: In 1987 the Commonwealth Bank gave a loan to Danbury, and Danbury put up its shares in Austec as security. Either the State Superannuation Board or the Superannuation Board Investment Trust - I think it was the latter - gave a guarantee to the Commonwealth Bank that if the loan was not repaid, it would purchase the Austec shares at \$2 each. It is on the record that this resulted in an unrealised loss of well over \$7 million.

I turn now to the personnel involved in this matter: Firstly, Mr Len Brush who was the first full time chairman of the State Superannuation Board until he resigned in disgrace on 13 March 1987; he should have been dismissed. Mr Brush became a director of Digital and Allied Technologies on 29 August 1986, presumably to represent the interests of the Superannuation Board in that company, which was part of the Danbury group. However, he remained on the board of Digital and Allied until 12 June 1987; in other words, more than three months after he resigned in disgrace from the State Superannuation Board, he was still on the board of one of the companies in which it had invested and whose board he was allegedly a member of to protect the interests of the State Superannuation Board. Secondly, Mr Tony Lloyd, another one of the Government's hand picked men and political supporters, was involved. Mr Tony Lloyd became head of the State Superannuation Board on 19 March 1987 and remained as head of the board until 1 July 1988. He was a director of Digital and Allied, part of the Danbury group, from 25 June 1987 to 27 April 1988. He was the managing director of Rothwells from 16 April 1988, having previously been a director, supposedly to protect the Government's interests, but more likely to make sure the truth did not emerge. Mr Tony Lloyd, who was appointed to the State Superannuation Board to clean up the mess left by Mr Brush, failed to clean up the Danbury mess. He failed to act in relation to Danbury and even failed to remove Mr Brush from the board of one of the Danbury companies. Mr Tony Lloyd was appointed in the wake of the Brush disaster to do just that - to clean up the mess, and yet for all this time the Danbury affair went on. Of course, as I have said before, it was not until March of this year, a full year after Tony Lloyd became head of the State Superannuation Board, that belatedly some security was sought from the Danbury group in respect of the millions of dollars which it has now been required to pay out for the guarantee given to Danbury. Mr Brush was not alone in playing all sorts of games while he was chairman of the State Superannuation Board; the Government's hand picked man, Tony Lloyd, did not clean up the mess he was put there to clean up, and this whole business was allowed to drag on.

I now refer to Mr Rolston and Mr Stuart Gregory. Mr Rolston was on the State Superannuation Board from 1 July 1987. Mr Stuart Gregory was with the WADC. I do not think Mr Gregory was on the SSB. Mr Rolston and Mr Gregory were directors of the Danbury interests from 27 April 1988.

Let us have a look at what this Danbury group is so far as we have been able to work it out from the published records. One does not have to dig around too deep in the tonnes of

published material to produce more than one could possibly put down in a speech in this House. The Danbury group includes the companies Digital and Allied, Danbury Capital Corporation, Danbury Critical Materials, Danbury Limited, Danbury Investments, Danbury Hi-Tech Securities and Aloglen. The identified principals of the group are Mr Neil Ohlsson, Mr Mark Ohlsson, the son of Neil, Mr Richard Hugh Davis, a son-in-law of Neil Ohlsson, and Dr Colin Ryan, an associate in business of Neil Ohlsson since 1984. Prior to June 1987, Neil Ohlsson was a business partner of Malcolm Edwards. They had been together in business since 1974. They were together in the Essington Group of companies. The SB Investment Trust invested in Essington in 1987. I have already pointed out that was an investment which appears to have disappeared from the accounts, but there may be some explanation for that.

We come now to the interesting part, and it is important that the dates be clear. In August 1985, long before any of this began, as far as we know, the Victorian Cain Labor Government dropped Essington - which included at that time Ohlsson and Malcolm Edwards - from the \$400 million museum project, after public disclosure of references to Ohlsson and Edwards in the Costigan and Stewart Royal Commissions, including a recommendation by Costigan that Ohlsson be investigated further. I will come back in a moment to the points that were raised by Mr Costigan in dealing with Mr Ohlsson, the man who has been dealing with the funds of the SSB. In the meantime, I will refer to a few things that were said in Victoria. I have here an article from *The National Times* dated 25 to 31 January 1985. The heading is, "High fliers hit Costigan snag." The article says -

Victorian Premier John Cain overlooked the Costigan report when his Government chose Essington Ltd as partners in Melbourne's biggest building project.

The article goes on to talk about Mr Edwards and Mr Neil Ohlsson and their previous dealings, and says -

But their greatest coup to date was announced last week - the award of the tender for Victoria's largest high-rise property development, the \$400-million Victoria Project, to E.K.G. Developments, a joint venture of Essington and the Japanese corporation, Kumagai Gumi Company.

The award of this tender, announced with great fanfare by Premier John Cain, has become a political minefield for the State Labor Government on the evening of an important State election.

Cain failed to pick up that the fast trackers from Essington, Ohlsson and Edwards, have received mentions in the reports of two royal commissions, have been linked with the failed Nugan Hand Bank, and that one of his men is the subject of Federal and State police files.

According to an Age report earlier this week, which precipitated Cain's nightmare, the Costigan commission recommended to the State Government before the project began that there should be a close and extensive inquiry into Essington's activities and that this inquiry should concentrate on taxation fraud.

This is a matter about which the Treasurer is quite an expert.

There are so many articles that it is impossible to read them all out. However, it is important to note that this matter began with a report in *The Age* on 22 January 1985, under the heading, "Two named by Costigan are in big State project." We then go on for months and months with all sorts of newspaper articles about Mr Edwards, Mr Cain, Mr Ohlsson, and Essington. I refer to an article in *The National Times* of June 1985, headed, "Essington: more facts Premier Cain didn't know." We come then to an editorial in *The Age* in January 1985 headed, "Project vetting was inadequate." It is worthwhile quoting a couple of the things said by Mr Cain -

When he tabled the final Costigan report in State Parliament last November, the Premier, Mr Cain, said it was "by any reckoning an impressive document". The report, which climaxed four years' work by the Costigan commission and which cost \$12 million, had been of enormous value to the country, Mr Cain said. It had raised some profoundly important social issues, and set a busy agenda for investigations and reforms in the years ahead. The Government would ensure "that detailed examination of the reports by the appropriate State agencies begins without delay".

This being so, it is astonishing that when the Government decided to award a multi-million dollar contract to a company for a Government backed project it was not aware of detailed references to the company in a volume of the Costigan report. The Government should have known, as "The Age" reported yesterday, that two of the company's directors were suspected of having been involved in taxation fraud and with having had close links with the collapsed Nugan Hand Bank. Mr Costigan is believed to have recommended that there should be a close and extensive inquiry into the group's activities, including its business transactions and its relationship with the Nugan Hand Bank.

I would not have thought that *The Age* is a Liberal newspaper.

In the face of this controversy, the Cain Government dropped the Essington group from the development. A report in *The Australian* of 21 August 1985 says -

State drops developer from \$400m enterprise. The Victorian Government has dropped EKG Developments as developer of Melbourne's \$400 million Museum Station project after allegations that the director of the company had been referred to in confidential volumes of the Costigan Report.

The Premier, Mr Cain, said yesterday that the huge Japanese construction company Kumagai Gumi would manage and control the project, which will be dominated by an 84-storey skyscraper.

That was the outcome - that whole involvement was dropped as a result of those links and those reports. But those same people, with the exception of Mr Edwards who is now separated from business relationships with Mr Ohlsson, so far as we know, are the people whom this Government has allowed, through its people, to invest and deal with the State Superannuation Board funds.

Mr Peter Dowding: That is just not true. Where does the Government give its imprimatur to an individual investment of the board?

Mr HASSELL: Let me put on the record the points raised by Costigan which led to the forced withdrawal of Essington; that is, the Ohlsson-Edwards company in which our Superannuation Board may or may not still have an investment. I am talking about those things that Costigan raised which led to the forced withdrawal of Essington from the project. Firstly, there were numerous financial transactions with the Nugan Hand Bank continuing into 1980 after Nugan had died - he suicided, it is believed. Secondly, Neil Ohlsson's offer to raise loans during the Whitlam loan crisis was described by the Federal Treasury at the time, in a memorandum dated 3 July 1975, as "a classical funny money proposal". There we have it - that is very clear. The Federal Treasury described the proposals put forward by this man Ohlsson as "a classical funny money proposal".

When will this Treasurer explain to the House why the State Superannuation Board has been involved in this funny money proposal or activity, and, indeed, many others? I tell the House that the Treasurer had better face the facts in the matters that have been raised in the newspaper.

Mr Peter Dowding: What are you suggesting? Are you suggesting that I should go through the investment portfolio and make an individual judgment?

Mr HASSELL: The Treasurer should face the facts that the matters raised in the newspaper -

Mr Peter Dowding: By you.

Mr HASSELL: - and proved by the documentary evidence, and raised in this House today - and which will be further raised in this House tomorrow on the motion of which we have given notice - barely scrape the surface. What is amazing is that this Treasurer continues to defend the situation.

Mr Peter Dowding: Are you suggesting that this Treasurer has to go through the portfolio?

Mr HASSELL: This Treasurer is not concerned to find out the truth, to publicise it in relation to the taxpayers' and the public servants' money and to identify those responsible. What is the duty of the Treasurer?

Mr Peter Dowding: Not to go through the portfolio of investments!

Mr HASSELL: I will make a clear suggestion to this House of what the duty of the Treasurer is. That duty, without question, is to order a proper, independent and impartial inquiry with proper and appropriate terms of reference to examine what went on in the State Superannuation Board in the years 1984 to 1988 inclusive -

Mr Peter Dowding: Do you know what the answer is?

Mr HASSELL: - and to identify those people responsible for reckless and loss-causing investments.

Mr Peter Dowding: A return of nearly 18 per cent, if it hadn't been for the Halls Head investments.

Mr HASSELL: I have sought not to answer the Treasurer's interjections, but if he wants to go on to talk about the returns of the State Superannuation Board I have news for him. There are a couple of things to be said about those claimed profit figures and about the creative accounting which transfers moneys from the Superannuation Board Investment Trust to the State Superannuation Board, or transfers liabilities and then claims that those transfers constitute the profits. What an amazing system; and this Government - this Treasurer - is happy to let it go on, it would seem, and is not interested in finding out the truth.

The third point raised by Costigan which led to the forced withdrawal of Essington from the Victorian project was that Mr Ohlsson was a principal of the failed Dollar Fund of Australia, together with operators of the Nugan Hand group. Fourthly, he was photographed in San Francisco by the San Francisco Police Crime Intelligence Unit with Rudi Tham, Mafia leader, and Bela Csídei who was subsequently gaoled for drug importation. Fifthly, there were numerous other factors including allegations of his own investment in the bottom of the harbour schemes.

Let me go over this situation very carefully. The Danbury group of companies was controlled by Neil Ohlsson after he split with Edwards in 1986. That Danbury group was his part of the Essington group which was split up between Ohlsson and Edwards when they parted the ways after losing the Victorian contract because of being ruled out.

I will spell out again very simply and clearly what we are saying in relation to this matter. Firstly, the Superannuation Board Investment Trust entered into extraordinary dealings with the Danbury group. They were high risk, they were proved to be bad risk, and there has been no explanation of the granting of the guarantee. Secondly, the Government's hand picked people, the Government's own appointees - Mr Len Brush, Mr Tony Lloyd, Mr Stuart Gregory and Mr Bill Rolston, although I repeat that I think Mr Rolston is a victim - have been on the board of a company called Digital and Allied Technologies, part of the Danbury group, with this man Neil Ohlsson who was rejected by the Victorian Government as unacceptable because of his background. Thirdly, these investments - and they were not just investments but transactions involving the Danbury group and others - were made by the State Superannuation Board at different times when it was publicly on the record that this was the situation with the people who were the principals of the Danbury group. Fourthly, superannuation funds in this State - money belonging to the contributors, the Public Service, and money which has to be supplemented by the taxpayers when it is lost to meet the guaranteed benefits of the Public Service - has been invested with people who could be described at least as shady characters and certainly as associates of criminals in organised crime.

Finally, I make it clear that what the Opposition has said should be done is very simple. The Treasurer's defensiveness is in itself a comment on the whole situation. If I were in the Treasurer's shoes today I would want to get the facts out - to find out what happened, what Mr Brush did or did not do, who cheated or did not cheat, why the money was lost - and to draw a distinction between what the Treasurer has so often referred to as swings and roundabouts losses on the stock exchange investment and these sorts of transactions which are clearly not within that category. There should be an independent impartial inquiry into the activities of the State Superannuation Board between 1984 and today to find out what went on and why, and, importantly, to attribute to those responsible the responsibility that they should bear. That, of course, includes the Government which appointed those people, has defended those people and goes on defending those people, and which fails over and over

again to account to the taxpayers of this State. This Government refuses to be accountable, it is secretive, devious, defensive and anxious.

MR GREIG (Darling Range) [4.21 pm]: My contribution to this Budget debate will deal with four areas. I will deal with employment and training and cast this Budget against the efforts of the Government and its lack of real success in that area. Secondly, I intend to cast the Budget and the cynicism of the Budget against the electorate of Helena which I will be proud to represent after the next election. Thirdly, I will address a matter which I dealt with the other day relating to the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service. If time allows, I will deal generally with the issue of industrial relations.

On the question of employment and training the statistics give an indication of the way that this Government and this Minister boast about steps taken to address employment levels in this State, and the boast that they have achieved better results than those achieved across the nation. The statistics clearly warrant examination not just in global terms but more in the area of what this Government confidently boasts is employment generation.

Mr Gordon Hill: They are not our statistics; they are Australian Bureau of Statistics' figures. If the member cannot understand that, something is wrong.

Mr GREIG: The Minister is very sensitive about this point.

Mr Peter Dowding: Listen! There is no question that under this Government employment has been better than ever under your Government.

Mr GREIG: At least when the Treasurer was looking after labour and employment he performed better than his successor. When we look closely at the statistics we find that employment generation has been largely an action of the Government in inflating the public sector.

Mr Peter Dowding: Nonsense!

Mr Gordon Hill: Nonsense!

Mr GREIG: If members are prepared to listen rather than interject, I will deal with both members at the same time. We need to look at the statistics that relate to the residential population of the State, the number of people employed, and where the growth has occurred or not occurred. The growth in the residential population in the State increased 1.4 per cent between 1984-85; in 1985-86 by 3.1 per cent, and in 1986-87 by 2.7 per cent. The total number of people employed in 1984-85 increased by 7.3 per cent; in 1985-86 by 4.7 per cent, and in 1986-87 by 1.5 per cent.

The ABS statistics show that industries are covered by mining, manufacturing, electricity, gas and water, construction, and wholesale and retail trade. Community services covers totally and exclusively the public sector, and is made up of health, education, museum and library services, and welfare and other community services. In 1984-85 the community services section rose by 13.2 per cent compared with the total of 7.3 per cent.

Mr Thomas: Is that good or bad?

Mr GREIG: That is almost double. That was when we were coming up to an election year. In 1985-86 when the figures came out, there was a drop of 2.8 per cent. After the people of Western Australia rewarded members on the other side by returning them to the Treasury benches, the Government then squeezed the people right out. That is where the teachers are, and the nurses and doctors. With this Budget the Government has attempted to pork barrel the electorate again as it did leading up to the 1986 election. We will show that in stark reality.

Mr Thomas: Good economic management.

Mr GREIG: Good Labor Party management. In 1986-87 the community services sector rose, having had a negative year in 1985-86, by 5.9 per cent - softening the people up for another splurge before the election. Over the three year period the residential population of this State rose by 6.9 per cent, the total employment figure rose by 13.5 per cent, and the community service sector rose by 16.7 per cent - a major area of public sector expenditure. That would be great if that was taken on a non cynical and a sound basis but over the last two years - the years immediately after the election and before the pre election year - the real growth in employment has been in the community services sector. We have seen community

services growth of only 3.1 per cent, compared with a population growth of 5.8 per cent. In other words, this Government boasts that it has done something in a positive, constructive and permanent way in education and health, but this is clearly a fallacy.

This Government is gearing itself again, as it did prior to the 1986 election. When we look at the figures in the Helena electorate we see how blatant that pork barrelling is. The most recent statistics show that from December 1986 to December 1987 the total number of people employed rose by 7 600; that is, an increase of 1.5 per cent. The community services segment relating to that total rose by 6 700; that is, an increase of 5.9 per cent at a time when there was an increase in population of 2.7 per cent. In other words, we had employment growth in that period and something like 13 700 new jobs were created. This Government is keen to boast about the number of new jobs it has created, yet 6 100 jobs were lost and we ended up with a net increase of 7 600 jobs, of which this Government pumped 6 700 jobs into the community services sector. It is clearly an exercise by this Government in not actually creating employment. It proceeds to deflate or inflate the figures according to its electoral aspirations or its attempts at Budget management. Either way, this Minister and the Government have failed and the population of Western Australia will deal with them. The community will not be caught a second or third time. The Government set about to inflate the community services sector in 1985-86 and proceeded to pork barrel the electorate.

Mr Gordon Hill: Is this your swan song?

Mr GREIG: I will have the opportunity to deal with my contestant very shortly. I am sure it will be an interesting contest. He is a very nervous man and I will deal with this matter, in some detail, at a later stage.

Mr Pearce: You had your chance against the member for Kalamunda and you flunked. That will put you out of this place.

Several members interjected.

Mr GREIG: The situation is that it will require a swing for the Liberal Party to win the seat. It will have its best and toughest candidate to contest that seat.

On looking at the employment Budget the first thing one sees is the comparison that has occurred over the last couple of years. Of course, there has been a significant change in the holder of the portfolio. The previous holder of that portfolio, now the Treasurer, was deemed by either the factions or his colleagues, or both, to be the very best person on that side of the House to handle that portfolio. In 1985-86 the then Minister had a ministerial staff of 12 which cost the taxpayer \$320 000. The staff employed in the employment division numbered 34 and cost the taxpayer \$609 000. At the time, he had a total staff of 163.

In the following year there was a modest increase, notwithstanding the fact that unemployment at that time was, without question, the most important issue facing this nation. Nevertheless, the then Minister, the now Treasurer, had a modest increase in staff and his total staff increased to 180. The staff employed in the employment division was reduced to 29 and there was an increase of two in his ministerial staff. Notwithstanding generous budgeting, he was able to keep within his budget, and in actual figures the ministerial staff cost the taxpayers \$309 700 in the financial year ending June 1987 and for the same period the employment division cost the taxpayers \$655 000.

I now turn to the current Minister - a temporary member - and it is clear that because of his and the Government's nervousness, the Government has had to prop him up and his ministerial staff has increased from 14 to 21, a 50 per cent increase.

Mr Gordon Hill: That is not true.

Mr GREIG: It is in the Budget. The ministerial staff has increased to 21 and the cost to the taxpayers has almost doubled.

Mr Gordon Hill: Don't you bother to check the facts?

Mr GREIG: I am quoting from the Budget papers. There was an increase from \$388 700 to \$662 000. It shows that the Minister needs support and help because not only can he not run his electorate, but also he cannot run his department.

Mr Blaikie: Would there be jobs for the boys in that lot?

Mr GREIG: Yes, and the girls.

I said earlier that the number of staff employed in the employment division was 29 in 1987-86, but in the following year it increased to 63. The major contribution this Minister has made to the employment levels in this State is to increase the number of jobs available in his department. The actual cost of the employment division staff in 1987-88 was \$537 000 and the estimate for this financial year is \$1 800 000. Clearly the Government is worried and it wishes to prop up the Minister. The total number of staff in this section of the Budget has increased from 180 in 1987-88 to 278 this financial year.

Mr Cash: More than an increase of 50 per cent.

Mr GREIG: It is more than that, it is about 70 per cent.

Mr Gordon Hill: I do not have 278 people on my staff.

Mr GREIG: It is the Government's Budget and it is clear that the Minister is nervous.

There is clear evidence in this portfolio that the Government is attempting to repeat its performance of three years ago when it flushed the electorate with money. The electorate should know that if it were so foolish - I am sure it is not - as to re-elect this Government it would pull in the belt in its first year in office, loosen it a little in the next year, and in the third year it would flush the electorate with money. We will see this sort of thing occur when the short term money market income is brought in this year. The Government will spend all this money this financial year in an attempt to pork barrel the electorate of Western Australia which, I am sure, will not be fooled.

I shall now demonstrate how this Government's actions have become evident in an electorate in which I have a particular interest. I shall be pleased to elaborate further about it after the next election and give details of changes that have occurred in the electorate of Helena. This electorate covers the foothills of Perth and stretches from the suburbs of Wattle Grove and Forrestfield through to High Wycombe and Maida Vale. It follows the base of the Darling Range and covers Greenmount, Koongamia and Bellevue and cuts across the south of Midland, including the suburbs of West Midland, Guildford and the wine growing area of Caversham. A most pleasant electorate, it has clustered urban development, a mixture of rural and special rural land, and a unique feature in the Helena Valley. Much of the development in the Helena electorate has been thwarted and stunted by the Government with its proposals for infill development and its abandonment of the corridor plan for the urban area of Perth. The Minister for Employment and Training is known in the electorate as the "Minister for Agreeing with Everything and Delivering Nothing". He is also known as "Give-away Gordon", but I will come to that shortly.

Mr Donovan: I thought you said you knew the electorate well.

Mr GREIG: I do know it well. The member for Morley-Swan would be very pleased to know how the people in that part of the electorate which has been excised from his electorate will vote in the next election.

Mr Donovan: Your interest in the electorate will be fairly short-lived.

Mr GREIG: I would be interested to hear what the member for Morley-Swan has to say when he hears how much money has been promised to the electorate compared to what was promised last year, which was absolutely nothing. The Minister for Employment and Training, the member for Helena, ignored his electorate. People in the electorate would say, "Who is our member? Gordon who?" They did not know him. He ignored his electorate until he was on the skids. He sat back, content with the thought that he had a safe seat and a margin of about 5 000 votes. He thought he did not need to work and he was lazy.

Mr Cash: He had better hope that there are not too many police officers in that electorate.

Mr GREIG: I thank the member for Mt Lawley. Significant problems in the area have been ignored; for example, law and order. There is significant youth unemployment and a lack of facilities for those young people. The failed ex-Minister for Police and Emergency Services did more damage to the morale of the Police Force than any other single factor. Small numbers of young people are resorting to vandalism. Large numbers of them are decent, law abiding young people who stop me on my frequent visits to the electorate. They say, "You're Bob Greig, aren't you? You're going to be our next member. What can you do for us? We need some facilities."

Government members interjected.

Mr GREIG: Members opposite are fairly sensitive because they have ignored the people in the foothills suburbs.

The SPEAKER: Order! I suggest the member ignore the interjections.

Mr GREIG: Clearly, young people are concerned about the lack of facilities in the area. Setting aside the major domestic and business area of Midland, there is only one sporting complex of significance in the southern part of the electorate, that at Hartfield Park. That caters for those who are coping well in a social sense; that is, it caters for those who are involved in organised sporting teams or youth groups. Young people who have dropped out of school find that they do not have the facilities to cater for their interests. They are begging for facilities and they are begging to be recognised. When these young people reach the age of 18, they will turn away from the Government and the Minister.

Lack of child care facilities in the area is a major problem. The electorate has a significant number of single parent families and families in which both spouses work. A lack of attention has been given to child care facilities.

I now come to the absolute duplicity of the Budget. Since March of this year the Minister for Employment and Training has inundated the local media with Press releases in an attempt to convince the electorate that he is doing something. Some of the promises made are Clayton's promises, consisting of no more than words to the effect that the Minister will talk to someone about something. We also have what are called picture opportunities and hollow Press releases which beat like a drum. In the toilet of Parliament House someone picked up a copy of the Minister's newsletter called "Focus" and handed it to me. In the May 1988 newsletter the Minister referred to a trial bus service having been established between Forrestfield Senior High School, High Wycombe, Maida Vale and Midland. One would imagine that the Minister could get it right.

Mr Gordon Hill: It will be running in October.

Mr GREIG: The Minister told people in the May newsletter that the service had been introduced. On Saturday a lady asked me what had happened to the bus service that was supposed to be already running. I was able to tell her that it would be introduced in two weeks, that the number of the service would be number 294 and that it would run between the Carousel shopping centre and Midland. It will be a marvellous bus service, but it has nothing to do with what the Minister has done; it is part of the overall upgrading of the bus service by Transperth. Establishment of the bus service had absolutely nothing to do with "Give-away Gordon".

Mr Donovan: Are you opposed to the service, or do you support it?

Mr GREIG: I gave it absolute support, the member will be pleased to know. I was consulted twice by officers from Transperth. I took a great interest in it. The people of Helena have found out that I am looking after two electorates. I work the electorate of Darling Range and all the people of Helena ring me up.

In another Press release, the Minister for Employment and Training urged the allocation of funds for the upgrading of the Forrestfield Senior High School. An amount of \$300 000 for upgrading was provided in the Estimates and \$100 000 of that will be provided to the Forrestfield Senior High School.

Mr Gordon Hill: Are you critical of that now? Do you support that too?

Mr GREIG: Yes, I do. However, the conclusion is that the member for Helena ignored all those calls in previous years.

Mr Cash: People do not forget.

Mr GREIG: They do not forget.

Mr Gordon Hill: Planning at the Education Ministry does not happen overnight. It may take years.

Mr GREIG: I am pleased that the Minister interjected, because now we have finally heard him say that he ignored it all before, but delivered it this year. The allocation has been made as part of the overall planning of the Education Ministry. The Minister is caught either way.

I now move to 29 May. This is quite interesting. The Press release said that the Minister would be approaching the Shire of Kalamunda and the Minister for Education about considering sharing the cost of building parking areas at the local high schools, particularly Dawson Park High School. There was no allocation for this in the Budget; it was nowhere to be found. On 7 June there was a promise of a covered assembly area for the High Wycombe Primary School; excellent, and needed. That was not identified in the Budget, but it may be there under sundry items. I come to a beauty that was promised twice, on 7 June and earlier on 30 May when the Minister said that what we needed was a foothills community centre, and he promised that. The end result was not one mention of it in the Budget. The people of Helena will be pleased to know that although they have been promised something, it is not there. Next, the Edney Park Primary School, the jewel in the crown, and very much needed. It was estimated that \$2.4 million was needed. The Budget includes an amount of \$2.060 million for this purpose, and the school will be built in the next year. Then there is a classic: On 21 June the Minister said he was allocating two of his departmental officers to his electorate to look after unemployment. Well, what a responsible move by the Minister - "I will look after my own electorate." That is tremendous! Other sundry items have been scattered through the local Press to the point where the newspapers are resolving to cut them out. They have been presented by the Minister with what is generally called in the journalist's trade "picture opportunities". A picture is sent by the Minister's staff which has not been taken by a reporter from the paper, and a story is attached. The local papers have realised, because citizens have complained to them, that this was a misuse of community newspapers.

Clearly, much money is being spent on advertising in the Helena electorate. Advertisements costing about \$800 each appear every couple of weeks. One of them mentioned the new electoral boundaries and underneath mentioned "Gordon Hill's seat of Helena." The people of Helena say that this is their electorate and it is for them to decide whom they will endorse and whom they will return to this State Parliament. The local people used to call him "Gordon who", but now it is "Giveaway Gordon". They say that it is definitely not Gordon's seat and they will time and again show this member up for what he is.

Mr Blaikie: They will call him "Gordon the goner" next year.

Mr GREIG: Yes. I have here a double page spread showing two members side by side. They are clearly concerned. Obviously some of the people who are candidates for the party opposite do not receive this sort of favoured treatment. My colleague, the member for Dale, said, "The candidate down here has not got that sort of money. He just puts a little advertisement in the newspaper." There is clearly a panic on the other side of the House.

Mr Court: Where does the money come from?

Mr GREIG: That is a question worth answering. I conclude in relation to the Helena electorate by saying that \$2.5 million has been promised in the 1988-89 Estimates for schools. However, if one looks at the 1987-88 Estimates one sees that not one dollar was allocated. The actual figure in the 1986-87 Estimates was \$450 000. Clearly the people of Helena have realised that the Minister is on the skids, and he realises that he is on the skids.

Mr Gordon Hill: You cannot add up.

Mr GREIG: They are the Minister's Estimates. That is what is occurring in the electorate of Helena and indicates what is occurring with this Budget. I repeat my opening comment that this Government blatantly and deliberately sets about paying money into the electorates to give almost anything in a pre election year. It then turns around and tighten things up hard so as to, in some cases, cause negative growth the year after an election to help pay for that, hoping also that there will be a bit of inflation to help bail it out.

I come now to a matter in which the member for Helena would not be interested, but which relates to something I hope and trust has bipartisan support; that is, the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service. I had occasion on 8 September to join the Minister for Health at the launching of a publicity drive by the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service. That service is currently under a major threat in its objective to maintain what I believe is the unsurpassed blood transfusion and blood bank service in this country, and in the world. The service currently has some 30 000 donors who give about 71 000 donations a year. Its target is to increase the number of donors to 40 000. Because of the AIDS epidemic growth in donor

numbers has dropped off and as a consequence the donation level has failed to keep pace with the demand for blood.

There are approximately 1 500 donations each week at the three metropolitan centres which are situated in Wellington Street, King Street and at Fremantle. There are another 300 to 400 donations each week at country and mobile clinics. There has been a major increase in demand for blood, not as often thought because of road trauma, but because of increased medical technology which is enabling surgeons to undertake new surgical procedures with such things as the rapidly rising increase in open heart surgery and leukaemia treatment. One of the problems that has seen the Red Cross Blood Bank calling almost fortnightly for fresh blood donors is that in its push to encourage an increase in the elective surgery list to reduce hospital waiting lists this Government has caused an increased demand for blood that the Red Cross service is having difficulty meeting.

I wish to mention the Wellington Street centre, where the building is fairly restricted in its capacity to meet not only its current demands but the future demands which will be placed upon it. It is now inadequate, and the Red Cross is currently preparing a submission to the Government for new headquarters. That submission is expected to be in the Government's hands within the next six to eight weeks. I see no Budget provision for it, but I hope that the Government will give every encouragement to finding money before the end of the next financial year. There will shortly be a change of Government, and I will be pushing my leader, who will then be the Treasurer, for sympathetic consideration of the Red Cross' demands.

Mr Gordon Hill: This is your swan song.

Mr GREIG: I think I will be around for a lot longer yet. The building is hopelessly overcrowded. If I may I would like to give an indication of the difficulties involved in this building. It consists of five storeys. Generally members of the public come into the foyer and go to the first floor where the blood donation clinic is. The public does not see what is going on in the rest of the building. The corridors are choked by freezers. We have complained about what our Hansard reporters have to put up with, and rightly so, with their cubicles, but the conditions people are working under in the Red Cross building are appalling. In one area, where donor records are processed, 12 people, together with two volunteers and a person on work experience, are working in an area of roughly eight by six metres. These 15 people are trying to work in this area which I do not think would suffice for a lunch shed on a building site.

Mr Thomas: They have to be pretty good.

Mr GREIG: Those people process all the membership records, not only for the stationary clinics but for the mobile clinics and country collection centres. I trust that when the submission by the Red Cross for new facilities is put before the Government it will be received favourably and the Government will act on this pressing need quickly.

Expenditure for the Red Cross from 1985-86 to 1986-87 increased from nearly \$5.7 million - which was an increase over the previous year of 7.4 per cent; it increased the following year by 7.9 per cent - and I note the estimates show an increase this year of 13 per cent. I applaud the Government for recognising the critical needs facing the Red Cross transfusion service.

The last thing I wish to speak about relates to what the Government is doing in the area of industrial relations. I present this to the Government in as objective a way as I possibly can. The Government claims to have a good industrial relations record. I will dispute the details and statistics of that on another occasion, but two things have occurred.

Some two years ago the Government, as part of an arrangement to step back from deregistering the Builders Labourers Federation, introduced a code of conduct. Two years later it has now decided to abandon it. In that situation the Government needs to look beyond the traditional knee jerk reactions it has had to industrial relations. It has sought to bandaid and patch issues in the building industry. To that extent it must be prepared to bite the bullet totally. So far I applaud the move to deregulate industrial relations in the building industry. The Government has said the building industry should look after itself, but I hope the Government takes the next step and puts into the Act a capacity for the State Industrial Relations Commission and the Federal Conciliation and Arbitration Commission to delete

the building awards from its jurisdiction and enable the building industry to try to sort itself out rather than have the circumstance where the brawls and precedents set in the building industry, as a result of being common law awards, are then able to flow on in wage levels, conditions and industrial practices. I urge the Government to think about that.

Mr Thomas: No awards?

Mr GREIG: Yes, no awards at all; just one base State award. From there let the industry sort itself out.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park) [5.06 pm]: It is my pleasure to support the Budget presented by the Treasurer a few weeks ago in that it continues Government policies which on the one hand promote economic growth and employment of our citizens and at the same time secure a fair distribution of the fruits of that growth throughout the community. Our Government now has in place a very clear statement of its philosophy, its strategy and its policies in respect of the economy, community welfare, crime prevention, education and health. Those are the major issues facing a State Government. We see in the Budget a very clear indication from the Dowding Government of where it stands on these major issues and where it allocates its Budget priorities.

I would like tonight to look at a number of different areas. First of all, the Budget as it pertains to my electorate of Victoria Park; secondly, the important question of consumer credit in our society; thirdly, the sport of volleyball; and finally a proposal which has been put forward by the Opposition to have citizen-initiated referendums in the State.

In respect of my electorate of Victoria Park, the Government continues to offer constructive support. Of particular importance to my electorate are the 52 Homeswest units planned for the suburbs of Bentley, Carlisle, Kensington, Victoria Park and East Victoria Park - some by way of joint venture with the private sector. I am very pleased to see that a good proportion of these units are pensioner units. It is important to provide opportunities for our senior citizens to stay in the district by offering comfortable and affordable units which have been carefully developed. Anyone who has been through my electorate in recent times would agree that Homeswest's standards are very high and appealing to those citizens who live in the area.

Other items of importance in the Budget include the continuing capital works expenditure on Carlisle College of TAFE as part of its expansion program into refrigeration and air conditioning studies - a very important area of development.

Mr Blaikie: Is that a speech you had prepared for you, or are you reading it?

Dr GALLOP: How pathetic! We also see the confirmation of the commitment of \$49.8 million on rail electrification, starting with the Perth to Armadale line, which goes through Welshpool and Victoria Park. We have yet to hear the Opposition's position on this major question of public transport.

Mr Blaikie: They are prepared notes.

Dr GALLOP: Of course they are. I always prepare my speeches.

Mr Pearce: Not like you; you ramble on.

Dr GALLOP: The member for Vasse rambles on. We see \$300 000 to upgrade the Longmore Remand Centre. We see an increased subsidy in the Budget for the Braille and Talking Book Library at the Association for the Blind in my electorate. It is up to \$70 000 from \$50 000 last year. It is an association of which I am proud to be on the board.

Under the sporting facilities fund, \$20 000 will go to the Perth Cricket Club and the Victoria Park Hockey Club, which work together in the Carlisle area. There is also money provided for much needed replacement toilets at the Kensington Primary School and the development of Kent Street High School as a technology school. I am particularly proud of the continuing achievements of the Kent Street Senior High School, which is rapidly approaching its fiftieth year of service to the district, having been opened in 1940 as only the second high school in the metropolitan area. I was privileged to officially open the "Back to Kent Street Day" on 3 September. The event was organised and conducted by staff, parents and students, and it raised \$6 000 for the school. With its special courses in aeronautics, flight and cricket, Kent Street is attracting attention in the wider community. Given the increasing number of young people in the district, the school can look forward to further growth and development.

My constituents were also very pleased to learn that the holders of the Seniors' Card, introduced by this Government, will now be able to travel at the pensioner rate on Transperth and Westrail services. This represents a very clear recognition of the importance of travel for senior citizens when visiting doctors, shopping centres and for general recreational purposes. Mr Speaker, I know that you, among others, were very strongly supportive of this initiative in the Budget for this year.

I wish to address the issue of consumer credit in our society. Members may be aware that I recently chaired a consumer credit task force set up by Hon Graham Edwards, the Minister for Consumer Affairs. That task force comprised representatives from the industry, from consumer organisations in our State and from the Government sector. The basic figures are these: Overall consumer debt in Australia, excluding home mortgages and referring simply to consumer debt, is running at about \$22 000 million - that is, more than \$1 700 per person aged 15 years and over. Included in that figure are individuals and, by implication, families who are in a state of over commitment. That is, they face levels of debt which cannot be managed without suffering undue hardship. That indeed was the definition we used in our report for dealing with over commitment. It was not a narrow financial definition of over commitment; it was a broader, social definition which takes into account the effect that a particular debt will have on an individual and therefore on family lifestyles. They may very well be paying back the debt but in a way which is damaging to a healthy personal and family life. Given the level of this debt, it also means that individuals - particularly young individuals entering a phase of their lives where extra commitments are by the nature of their position going to grow - are increasingly vulnerable to changes in circumstances, such as unemployment, illness or increases in interest rates.

None of this is good for the individual or indeed for that individual's family; nor is it good for the society which has to pick up the pieces either directly or indirectly. Put simply, we have created a system in which consumer credit is marketed aggressively and then sold without proper care being taken to be sure that the borrower has the capacity to meet the repayments without undue hardship. We have created a system which is profitable for the individual firms concerned but which is not profitable for society as a whole. The risk facing the credit providers in operating their current assessment system is an insufficient check on unacceptable outcomes.

To bring together the private interests of these firms and the wider public interest we need to do two things: Firstly, we need to actively encourage better practices in respect of loan application forms and assessment procedures. The old fashioned method of weighing up a person's income alongside their expenditure commitments to determine whether or not they are capable of meeting the weekly or monthly repayments is increasingly falling into disuse in the credit provision industry. The committee believes there ought to be a renewal of interest in those old fashioned methods of credit assessment. We also ought to make it more in the direct commercial interest of the credit providers to act properly by establishing a duty of care principle in the Credit Act.

However, there are those in the community who believe otherwise. For a brief time - he appears to have backtracked now - the newly appointed Minister for Consumer Affairs in New South Wales believed that in this all important area where business and consumers meet in the market place there ought to be complete deregulation and that Government rules which currently apply by way of legislation ought to be replaced by a system of self regulation. In other words, some people argue that the Credit Act, as we now know it, ought to be abolished and replaced with some form of industry self regulation. This would be a disaster. It ignores the mountains of evidence which have been built up in the period in which the current Credit Act took shape in the late 1970s and early 1980s and which pointed to exploitation and abuse in the market place. Without any proper mechanisms to control or remedy such abuses consumers would suffer. We do not want to see a return to the situation where business-consumer relations in the credit market place are not properly regulated by the Government. In fact the temptation to indulge in deceptive and exploitative practices still exists and has increased in recent years as competition between credit providers has intensified.

It is my view that in this very important area of business-consumer relations, there is no room for a philosophy of deregulation and belief in the virtue of industry self regulation. At a recent conference on consumer affairs in New Zealand, Mr Gordon Borrie, Director

General of Fair Trading in the United Kingdom, said what I believe are words of great wisdom. He said -

It is inconceivable that the law should try to embrace the whole of what society considers moral behaviour in the market place. The law should not be so ambitious. Yet, in a society where there is less consensus on moral questions, where religious restraints are less effective than they once were and where the club-like restraints of the City of London and other exclusive homogenous trading groups are loosened under the pressures of competition a somewhat greater role for the law is both inevitable and desirable. The good health of the community demands that the law should intervene more than once was the case. So it is that recent years have seen not only the Consumer Credit Act but also the Fair Trading Act 1973 . . .

He is referring to British legislation, which indeed has been paralleled in this country. He continued as follows -

. . . the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 and the Financial Services Act 1986. Consumer protection and now investor protection have both been given complex legislative frameworks and these frameworks are based on moral foundations of truth in trading and equity and fairness. The difficult question is not whether the law should intervene but how far and to what extent the law should impose higher moral standards.

Mr MacKinnon: You read well.

Dr GALLOP: I am quoting Mr Gordon Borrie, the current Director General of Fair Trading in the UK.

Mr Blaikie: Was that prepared by your advisor or by one of the Government advisors?

Dr GALLOP: That is a pathetic interjection by the member for Vasse. He is a pathetic figure, somewhat like the Leader of the Opposition who completely lacks grace and intelligence, and is a really pathetic Leader of the Opposition for this State. His religious knowledge is also weak, as we noticed in *The Australian* newspaper on the weekend.

Of more importance and relevance to the consumer than the fantasy of deregulation and industry self regulation is the guarantee of proper legal advice and representation in respect of the Credit Act. Our State needs to see an expansion of the range of advice that is available to consumers in this area. The committee that I chaired proposed the setting up of a consumer credit legal service in this State along the lines of those services currently in existence in New South Wales and Victoria which do a very fine job. We recommended the establishment of a community based service offering legal advice and representation which will provide a wider educational function in relation to credit matters. Consumer credit is very important in our society. It impacts on the welfare of individuals and their families. The duty of care principle should be incorporated in the Credit Act to provide credit providers with an incentive to act in a proper way in the marketplace. It will be interesting to see where the Opposition stands on this important issue of consumer credit and on the legislation required to protect the rights of the consumer. The committee also advocated in its report the setting up of a proper legal service to protect consumers who are impacted upon every day by their market relationships with credit providers. Does the Opposition believe the consumer should have proper legal advice and representation or does it believe we ought to apply the law of the jungle when only the strongest finish up at the top of the pile?

The second area I wish to address tonight is the sport of volleyball. As members of Parliament we are privileged to participate in a wide range of community activities within our constituencies. We can become involved in the local senior citizens' groups. I am on the board of and bookkeeper for the Victoria Park Senior Citizens Association. We can also become involved in junior sport and various welfare organisations. We should also be aware of how our society works and the way we, as legislators and policy makers, can assist the voluntary organisations in our electorates. The Western Australian Volleyball Association is based in my electorate, with its headquarters at the Park Recreation Centre. As the member for Victoria Park I have become involved with this association as chairman of its international committee. In August I was privileged to act as head of a delegation for the Western Australian Institute of Sport's men's volleyball team - the WAIS Raiders - which participated in the Hombill Cup in Kuching, Sarawak. The tournament was organised as part

of Sarawak's celebration of 25 years of independence within Malaysia. Sarawak has a fascinating history. It was run by the white rajahs, the Brooke family, and eventually became a British colony. In 1963 it became an independent State within Malaysia. The WAIS Raiders finished second to the Philippines. Teams which participated included Sarawak, the Malaysian national champions, the neighbouring State of Brunei, Indonesia, the national team of the Philippines and our own WAIS Raiders. Unfortunately we finished runners up despite having beaten the Philippines in what was the most exciting match of the tournament. The WAIS Raiders finished equal first on points, but on a countback, the tournament went to the Philippines.

Western Australia is a very popular destination for secondary and tertiary students from Sarawak. They have a good knowledge of and much interest in Western Australia. Indeed, many students live in my electorate and study either at the Curtin University of Technology, Canning College, or private schools. Western Australia is also well known to the Government of Sarawak. Sarawak's water resources development project was initiated by the former member for Avon, Hon Ken McIver, who is also well known to Ministers in Sarawak. Western Australia is also involved in the development of a strategy to manage Government assets and inland information systems. I was privileged to pay a courtesy call on Hon Encik Chong Kiun Kong, assistant Minister of Culture and Sports. I also visited Hon Daruk Doctor Wong Soon Kai, the Minister of Infrastructure Development. They are both cultured and civilised human beings with a good knowledge of Western Australia. They showed a commitment to their relationship with Western Australia and one of them visited our State during the America's Cup and was interested in our political, sporting and economic development. Mr Raymond Wee, a graduate of the University of Western Australia, is our Government's local representative. He promotes our education system and did a marvellous job of arranging for the Press to meet our team when we arrived. He also arranged the courtesy calls to the Ministers. At the end of the tournament I was asked to deliver a speech on behalf of the foreign teams. The organising committee of the tournament was impressed with the fact that a Western Australian politician had headed the delegation. The organising committee in Sarawak was headed by local architect, Ng Lim Yong and included senior public servants and businessmen from Sarawak. The possibilities for encouraging further sporting, business and cultural contacts are very strong. For example, one member of the organising committee of the tournament, architect Edric Ong, had already visited Australia in his capacity as a promoter of Sarawak's arts and crafts. He plays a significant role in the preservation of Kuching as a fine example of a colonial city in a traditional Malay setting. He has arranged for some artistic exchanges between Sarawak and Australia and expressed an interest in coming to Western Australia which was not on his itinerary when he visited earlier this year. I am keen to take up this matter with the Minister for The Arts.

Mr Lewis: How many goals did you score?

Dr GALLOP: I had the great privilege to be the team's water boy and to meet with the people of Sarawak and pass on the best wishes of Western Australians in a bipartisan manner, unlike members of the Opposition when they go overseas.

[Leave granted for speech to be continued at a later stage of the sitting.]

Debate thus adjourned.

[Continued on p 2682.]

PARLIAMENTARY SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Thursday, 15 September

THE SPEAKER (Mr Barnett): Before taking questions without notice, I take the opportunity to advise members of changed arrangements for Thursday of this week. The President and I intend to adjourn each House on Thursday at 5.30 pm. The purpose of the early adjournment is to entertain the 40 or so Commonwealth Parliamentary Association delegates who are visiting Perth on their way to a conference in Canberra. As a result of adjourning early, it will be necessary to take questions at five o'clock on Thursday instead of at 5.30 pm.

[Questions taken.]

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL*Council's Message*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that it did not insist on its amendments to which the Assembly had disagreed.

STATE ENGINEERING WORKS REPEAL BILL*Returned*

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.15 pm

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS CENTRES BILL*Receipt and First Reading*

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

Second Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the second reading.

MR PEARCE (Armadale - Leader of the House) [7.17 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr PEARCE: The purpose of this Bill and the accompanying Acts Amendment (Community Corrections Centres) Bill is to establish community corrections centres and programs to divert fine defaulters from prison. They will also meet the requirements of a community based work release program. The Community Corrections Centres Bill establishes the centres and their management, and the nature of their programs. The Acts Amendment Bill amends the Justices Act to enable the diversion of a fine defaulter from prison. It also amends the Offenders Probation and Parole Act to provide the Parole Board with an absolute discretion to approve the conditional release of an offender from prison for the purposes of employment and participation in a program.

The community corrections centre concept is based on the attendance centres which are operating successfully in Victoria, although the Victorian model has been modified to meet Western Australian conditions. The system is an important part of the Government's program to reduce the rate of imprisonment and to require offenders to do useful community work instead. It will, of course, be limited to cases which do not compromise the public's safety and security. The proposed programs for fine defaulters and community based work releasees are basically similar. However, while both will be closely supervised, the community based work release program will feature more intensive supervision. The intention of these Bills is to deal constructively with two separate categories of offender. On the one hand, we have offenders in respect of whom the courts, by imposing a fine, have indicated that imprisonment is not an appropriate sentence. Imprisonment in such cases would appear to benefit neither the offender nor the community. On the contrary, the cost in both social and financial terms of imprisoning offenders who default on payment of fines suggests that the community and the offender would both be better served by alternative measures.

A separate group of offenders will participate in the proposed community based work release program. This is designed to replace the current work release scheme which, under the Prisons Act, is institution based. The community based work release program is aimed at offenders at the other end of the spectrum from the fine defaulters. These are prisoners who have served substantial terms of imprisonment and who, in the absence of a suitable program, could be released back into the community without proper family and social skills. The risk of recidivism in such circumstances will be obvious. The community based work release program is designed to address these potential problems by providing intensive supervision and systematic resocialisation for those prisoners who are nearing the end of

their sentences. This specifically structured resocialisation process aims to assist in the orderly, peaceful, and successful reintegration of selected prisoners into the general community.

Before a prisoner is considered for community based work release, the prisoner must have attained a security rating indicating a minimum risk to the safety and security of the public. Reports will be prepared by prison staff and community corrections officers who will closely scrutinise the prisoner's prison history and work release plan, including the proposed employment and accommodation arrangements. These reports will be sent to the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Corrective Services and then forwarded to the Parole Board, which will have the absolute discretion either to approve or not approve the offender's work release application. The Parole Board will also have an absolute discretion to cancel a work release order. In addition, the chief executive officer has absolute authority to suspend a work release order at any time. Although the prisoner has the right to make representations to the Parole Board, the rules of natural justice will not apply to any decision of either the Parole Board or the chief executive officer to approve, cancel, or suspend a work release order. This reflects the status of work release as a privilege and not a right, and maintains the position which applies in the current institution based work release program.

For both fine defaulters, who will be subject to a work and development order, and work releasees the convicted person will be required to devote 14 hours per week to participation in a specified program. The 14 hours will consist of a minimum of eight hours of unpaid community work, normally a full weekend day, and a maximum of six hours, normally during the week, on a personal development or treatment program. A problem drinker, for example, could be required to attend an alcohol education course. In addition to attending and devoting 14 hours to a program, a work releasee will be closely supervised to ensure strict compliance with the condition that the releasee shall be employed either gainfully or charitably or actively seeking work.

Community corrections centres will be the focal point for the organisation of programs, but community involvement in their implementation will be encouraged. It is hoped that volunteers as well as departmental staff will work at the centres and in the community to ensure the efficient operation of their programs.

For the purposes of these Bills, the definition of a fine will include all fines which have been imposed in a nominated Court of Petty Sessions and are payable to the State Treasury under the Fines and Penalties Appropriation Act 1909. At the time of the imposition of the fine or other monetary obligation, the Court of Petty Sessions may direct that a work and development order must not be issued if default is made on payment. This provides the court with a veto power which it can use at its discretion. If, however, the court does not give such a direction and the offender does default on his payment or obligation, the resulting default imprisonment will be automatically converted to a work and development order. The default term of imprisonment, imposed under section 167 of the Justices Act, will be converted at the rate of one week's - that is 14 hours' - community corrections centre attendance for every seven days or part thereof of default imprisonment. Hence, seven days' default equals one week's attendance; eight day's default equals two weeks; 14 day's default equals two weeks; and so on up to a maximum of 12 months on the program. As now, the offender always has the option of paying off the balance of the fine or fines at any time.

The offenders subject to a work and development order will not be eligible for remission under section 29 of the Prisons Act. The offender will have to sign and agree to conditions and obligations. The conditions applying to a work and development order are -

- (1) In the case of an offender who is in prison when the community corrections centre order is made, the offender must report to a community corrections officer within 72 hours after being released from prison.
- (2) The offender must report to the supervisor of a community corrections centre in accordance with the requirements of the community corrections centre order to which the offender is subject.
- (3) The offender must attend at the place or places on the dates and at the times required by the supervisor.
- (4) The offender must devote to the community corrections program an aggregate of 14 hours for each period of one week during which the offender is subject

to the order, including not less than eight hours of community work and not more than six hours of personal development activities as determined in the case of that offender by the supervisor.

- (5) The offender must undertake and perform in a manner satisfactory to the responsible officer the community work and personal development activities required to be undertaken by the offender for the purposes of the order.
- (6) The offender must comply with every reasonable direction of an officer or volunteer.
- (7) The offender must, if so directed by the supervisor, submit to testing for alcohol or drug use.
- (8) The offender must notify an officer if unable to attend when and where required to do so, and obtain an officer's approval for any failure to so attend.
- (9) The offender must not commit any offence while subject to a community corrections centre order.
- (10) The offender must notify an officer within 48 hours if he changes his residential address or place of employment.
- (11) The offender must not leave the State without the prior approval of the supervisor.
- (12) The offender must comply with any prescribed conditions.

Programs of activities will be approved by the chief executive officer. These programs may include, but are not restricted to, any of the following -

- (a) Community, voluntary or charitable work;
- (b) programs for the treatment of alcoholics or drug dependent persons;
- (c) counselling programs;
- (d) social and life skills courses;
- (e) educational, occupational, and personal training courses.

Internal disciplinary procedures will control an offender's behaviour while at a centre or participating in a program. If the offender fails to abide by the conditions of his order, the chief executive officer may cancel the order and issue a warrant of commitment for the balance, if any, of default imprisonment. Once a work and development order has been cancelled, the offender will not be able to reconvert this warrant to a work and development order.

To be eligible to be released from prison under a community based work release order, a prisoner will have to be not less than 17 years of age and have served not less than 12 months' imprisonment. A prisoner cannot be released on a community based work release order until six months prior to his date of release from prison or, where applicable, six months prior to his eligibility for parole.

The prisoner would have had to attain a security rating which indicates that his approval for work release would involve a minimum risk to the security of the public. The chief executive officer may refer the prisoner's application to the Parole Board for consideration as to whether a work release order should be made. A prisoner cannot be released under a work release order unless he makes a declaration in writing that he understands the obligations imposed and undertakes to comply with them.

A work release order must not be made by the Parole Board except with the prior approval of the Governor in respect of a prisoner who is -

- undergoing strict security life imprisonment;
- in strict custody;
- in safe custody;
- undergoing life imprisonment;
- serving a term of imprisonment, or an aggregate of terms of imprisonment - without regard to remission - of more than 15 years;

offenders sentenced pursuant to sections 661 and 662 of the Criminal Code.

In addition to all the conditions applying to a work and development order, a work release order is subject to further conditions:

- (a) The offender must not leave the State;
- (b) the offender must obtain the prior approval of an officer before changing his residential address or place of employment;
- (c) the offender must seek or engage in gainful employment; and
- (d) the offender must comply with any prescribed conditions.

An offender is still under sentence while subject to a work release order. A sentence is deemed served if a work release order is not cancelled during its currency, and the prisoner has completed the performance of his obligations under the order.

If an offender subject to a work release order commits a disciplinary offence while undergoing the program, the centre supervisor may issue a reprimand or order a forfeiture of up to three days' remission. However, if the offender commits any offence or in any way breaches the conditions of the work release order, the chief executive officer may forthwith suspend the work release order for a period of up to one month, and if the suspension is not lifted within the one month period, the matter must be referred to the Parole Board for a decision to cancel the order. If the work release order is cancelled the offender will be credited only for half "clean street time" while he was in the community subject to the order. This is analogous to the provisions of the new parole legislation.

The Community Corrections Centres Bill and the consequential amendments will effect significant improvements in the way in which two distinct groups of offenders are dealt with. The alternative which it provides to the imprisonment of fine defaulters is right in principle and important in practical terms as well.

Again, the alternative of community based work release is a positive measure for the resocialisation and successful reintegration into society of the longer serving prisoner. The work and development order and community based work release order are similar in their program content, the major difference being that the latter will be more intensively supervised in the interests of public security.

The establishment of community corrections centres offers a new and important innovation in the task of dealing with the complex problems of law enforcement and appropriate punishments. It also tackles the excessive rate of imprisonment in this State in respect of less serious offences. It is proposed to phase in the system of community corrections centres with an initial establishment of four centres in the metropolitan area. On the basis of the Victorian experience, it is expected that the achievement of a State-wide system should be possible within about two years thereafter.

I commend the Bill to the House.

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

ACTS AMENDMENT (COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS CENTRES) BILL

Receipt and First Reading

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

Second Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the second reading.

MR PEARCE (Armadale - Leader of the House) [7.19 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

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

Mr PEARCE: The Bill before the House seeks to amend the Offenders Probation and Parole Act and the Justices Act and to complement the Community Corrections Centres Bill, thereby facilitating the proposed legislation for the establishment of community corrections

centres. Specifically, the Acts Amendment Bill amends the Justices Act to enable the diversion of a fine defaulter from prison and amends the Offenders Probation and Parole Act to provide the Parole Board with absolute discretion to approve an offender's being released from prison under supervision for the purposes of employment, participation in a program, and attendance at a centre.

I commend the Bill to the House.

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

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) BILL

Second Reading - Budget Debate

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park) [7.20 pm]: Before the dinner break I was pointing to the benefits that we can gain in Western Australia from close contacts with the State of Sarawak in Malaysia, a State experiencing a rapid rate of growth and infrastructure development. I pointed to the role sport can play in fostering goodwill and encouraging trade relations. I would like to conclude by referring to the impeccable behaviour of the volleyball team members from Western Australia. They were superb ambassadors for their country and for their State. The team included Rick O'Brien, Mark Tucek, Joel Durrant, Andrew Burdin, Paul Smith, Travis Cranley, Denis Webb, Craig McIntyre, Chris Stapff and Kieran Cranley as the captain of the team. The coach was Ken Breen, the assistant doctor was Greg Blight and the international referee from Adelaide was Mr Ray Harris.

The development of volleyball in Western Australia should also be referred to. In the last five years we have seen a quite remarkable expansion in the sport to the point where it is on the verge of a major breakthrough in the sporting scene in Western Australia. We have seen the whole competition base of the association grow from a single league competition to the position where 160 teams now play at 11 venues across the city. In addition to these competitions run directly by the city association, affiliates run another 120 teams in combined competition venues. This gives volleyball an active adult membership of 2 500 players. In addition there are 200-odd teams playing in competitions organised by our 12 country affiliates. This brings the association's Statewide adult membership to over 4 000 registered players.

It is a little known fact that in 1988 the Western Australian Government School Sports Association conducted the champion schools volleyball at both open and under 16 levels. Those championships were held recently. Volleyball has now become one of the largest sports in the Country Schools Sports Week. In 1987, 31 teams competed in three grades in both the boys' and girls' divisions. One of the major priorities for the sport for 1989 will be the launch of the Men's National Volleyball League. In addition the summer of 1988-89 in Perth will see volleyball move from a substantially indoor base onto the beaches with the launch of beach volleyball. Promotions director Byron Shewman has been brought out from the United States specifically to help establish volleyball as a major summer competitive sport as well as a popular recreational pursuit.

Volleyball is one of the most significant sports played throughout the world, particularly in the Asian region. Its importance stems not only from the fact that at its highest level it is a very competitive and a very fine sport, but also that it is possible for the sport to be played by a wide range of age groups and in a wide range of manners; for example, members should compare two person beach volleyball with the other types of volleyball that can be played. It is a fine recreation and sport and I believe we should applaud the efforts of the Volleyball Association in Western Australia in recent years for the job it has done in promoting the State on its visits overseas and also by promoting the sport in Western Australia.

I would like to look at a proposal that has been put forward by the Liberal Opposition in Western Australian politics; that is, the proposal to have citizen initiated referendums. It is ironic that the conservatives in this State should be running on this issue now when not so long ago we heard them talking a great deal, especially through the former Premier, Sir Charles Court, about the fact that there was not enough authority and discipline in our society. But, of course, the experience of Opposition and the desperation that comes with being in Opposition can lead one to follow up all sorts of intellectual fads. This is indeed

one that extreme conservatives in this State and throughout Australia have taken up in recent years.

The main features of the Liberal proposal are contained in the Press release of 20 June 1988, from which I shall read. It indicates, first of all, that citizen initiated referendums initially will be only to repeal legislation - in other words, they intend to give people a veto power on legislation that is passed through the Parliament; secondly, that the proposal should be subject to review after four years; thirdly, that the referendums should extend to cover all Statutes and regulations already enacted except - and this is an interesting point - those relating to constitutional and purely Budget matters; fourthly, that the referendums will be permitted on new legislation only for three years after it is passed; fifthly, that the petition seeking the referendum should be verified by the Electoral Commissioner to ensure voting eligibility of all signatories; and finally, that to successfully procure a referendum on any issue the petition should contain the signatures of at least eight per cent of all eligible voters in Western Australia.

In the time remaining to me I would like to present four arguments against the proposal that has been put forward by the Opposition. The first is that we must look carefully at the precise details of what the Liberal Opposition proposes. It is very interesting that the proposal excludes constitutional and Budget issues. On the issue of a constitutional referendum, which indeed we have experienced recently in Australia, a good deal of intellectual and political science opinion has been put forward over the years that referendums are indeed the appropriate path to take because there is a sense in which the Constitution, which outlines the basic rules that ought to govern the system, is owned by the people and therefore they should have a say in the change of that Constitution. That is a principle that I support. A big problem we have in this State is that our current Constitution Acts are far too unwieldy and legislative in their structure to enable an effective referendum device to be used for the whole of the Constitution Acts. We need to consolidate our two Acts into one simple Constitution. It is significant that the Opposition has excluded these Constitution Acts from its proposal. I sense a fear that if it wanted to prop up and expand a system of malapportionment in this State it would not want to take that to the people by way of a referendum.

It is also significant that the Liberal Opposition excludes Budget matters from its proposal because in many of the arguments it has put forward in the public discussion of this issue it has mentioned Budget-type measures when referring to the matter of a veto; but it has excluded them, so its very own argument cannot be used in connection with its proposal. Therefore my first argument against the proposal is essentially that the precise details of the Liberal case indicate a degree of hypocrisy on what they put forward, especially in respect of the Constitution.

The second argument against the proposal put forward by the Liberal Opposition is that it is based on a complete misunderstanding of the legislative process that we have in Western Australia. That process is not subject to the complete control of the Executive as many commentators would have us believe. Indeed, in Western Australia the upper House historically has always been controlled by the conservative parties through the creation of a system of malapportionment. But in Western Australia we are moving - as they have moved in New South Wales and South Australia and as they moved in the Senate in 1949 - towards a proportional representation system which makes it increasingly difficult for one party to win complete control over the upper House of the Parliament. The Liberals' argument is that our system needs another peg to the legislative process by having a referendum on legislation that now has to get through the lower House, then the upper House - and given the proportional representation system there can be no guarantee that the Government, with a majority in the lower House, will have a majority in the upper House. There can be no valid argument that our Executive controls the legislative process in this State. We should be looking to the system we have and analysing the ways in which that can be improved, rather than imposing another constraint on the existing Legislature.

Thirdly, it could be argued that legislatures, and indeed Governments in our society, are being pressured and influenced by a great many pressure groups active outside Parliament and by a process of public opinion formation, which is now highly developed through the role of media, both State and local. This hampers the ability of legislators to look at the interests of all of society. Outside this process of heavy politics that goes on through

lobbying, pressure groups and public opinion it could be argued that Parliament is being too sidetracked by the processes which have developed in a significant way in our country and in our State over the last 10 years. As legislators we need to look at the interests of minorities, not just a simple numerical majority that may exist at any point in time. Secondly, as legislators we are obliged to look at the interests of future generations and not just the present generation. Sometimes taking the interests of the minority and of future generations into account can make the decision making we have to conduct within this Parliament unpopular. It is the role of the representatives of the people, who are elected to perform these legislative tasks, to take those longer term interests and minority interests into account, or at least to feel as though they are capable of withstanding the shorter term political pressure that comes in the normal processes of politics. I believe there is a sense in which legislators, elected to do a job, are very responsible in the more profound sense of that word.

My fourth objection to the proposal put forward by the Liberal Opposition is that groups opposed to particular measures will mobilise opinion and organise fairly sophisticated, heavily funded campaigns against that legislation. In some cases it may just be that what they object to is a particular clause of the legislation. They may accept the overall purposes of the Act, but when it goes to the people in a referendum they cannot vote on a particular clause of the legislation - they have to give a yes or a no. Mr Deputy Speaker, given your experience of the parliamentary system I am sure you would agree that one of the great strengths of Parliament is that legislation can be debated clause by clause, and not just in terms of its general principles. In other words, if there is an objection to a particular clause it can be raised within the parliamentary forum and the merits or otherwise of that clause will be debated. A dialogue can occur within the parliamentary process over such clauses and there can be give and take in the process of decision making. Indeed, if I may I will repeat a quote from a paper I wrote on this subject some time ago when I was a lecturer in politics at Murdoch University, which came from a well known conservative politician, Enoch Powell. He wrote -

... debates can only take place in some sort of closed or organized environment - debates where people can have their minds changed. This, of course, is the nature of parliamentary procedure, running from amendments, the thousand amendments to a bill, to the great debate on the floor on the general question, where all kinds and shades of implications can be exposed and taken up by others.

When there is a referendum, people can say only yes or no; they have to decide on the total Bill before them and they cannot engage in a detailed assessment of particular clauses. I believe that is a decisive objection to the proposal put forward by the Liberal Opposition. Indeed, it could be argued that as legislators we may become lazy in our task, particularly in the so-called Houses of Review or upper Houses which exist in our Parliaments, because legislators will say, "Well, I don't really want to go into the details of this; let us just allow the people to decide yes or no." Legislators will become slack in looking at the details of Bills.

It has been my experience, Mr Acting Speaker - and I am sure, given your experience in local government, you will agree with me - that many decisions of local government that can be referred to the Minister for Planning are not made in the true spirit of decisions at local government level because they know there can be an appeal to the Minister. Local government then duckshoves the issue; it does not face up to its responsibilities but shovels them over to the Minister for Local Government or the Minister for Planning. I believe if we had this referendum procedure, many of the legislative decision making processes, particularly in the upper House, would be of that sort. For those reasons I believe we ought to reject the proposal put forward by the Liberal Party in respect of referendums. In the first place the Liberal Party has been hypocritical by not including constitutional questions in its proposal; secondly, the Liberal Party has not fully taken into account the degree to which our legislative process has changed over the years through the development of proportional representation for the upper House; thirdly, the Liberal Party has not properly taken into account the nature of politics in our society today, in which the interests of minorities and future generations are already under pressure from numerical majorities that come into existence from time to time; and, finally, it undermines the very nature of the legislative process that requires amendment and discussion of the legislation clause by clause.

I believe that if one looks at the proposal put forward by the Liberal Party, one will find that

it is typical of the lack of real leadership the Liberal Party offers in the politics of this State and its inability to develop a coherent case in respect of where it stands in relation to the overall level of taxation and the required levels of expenditure. On the one hand the Liberal Party speaks of the dangers of big government; but whenever the State Labor Government rationalises a particular Government activity, the Liberal Party screams and opposes it. In other words it refuses to analyse the implications of the fact of scarcity -

Mr Lewis: Name one.

Dr GALLOP: I refer the member to a speech I made earlier this year in this Parliament on the subject of the Liberal Party's inability to see that if one advocates tax cuts on the one hand, one cannot advocate public expenditure increases on the other.

The State Liberal Opposition is unable to offer political leadership. Therefore, it takes up the trendy issue of referendums for legislative issues in an attempt to win over the Democrat vote and to appeal to some of the more extreme right wing populist causes which have developed in our political system in recent years. There must be members of the Opposition who will speak out on behalf of the parliamentary system as it has developed. Indeed, Hon Clive Griffiths has spoken out against the proposed system of referendums. In conclusion, I offer my congratulations to the Government for the Budget presented to the Parliament this year. I am particularly distressed to see that the Opposition parties still have not developed a coherent Budget package, which recognises that if one cuts taxation one cannot increase expenditure at the same time. The Opposition is quite willing to take up trendy, populist causes without any real assessment of what may be the consequences of those causes for the legislative process in this State.

MR COWAN (Merredin - Leader of the National Party) [7.39 pm]: This Budget is quite clearly what one could expect from a Government which is due to face the people within six months. It reflects in many respects the direction the Federal Budget took some three weeks previously, and I do not think it contains anything which comes as a great surprise to any member of the Western Australian public. Like all Budgets, it has some strengths and weaknesses. There is no question the strength of this Budget as a welfare oriented Budget is the volume of funding directed to education, health, welfare, and law and order projects. I do not think anyone would argue with the proposal to spend the funds this Government has appropriated for education. No-one would argue against that particular objective; no-one would argue against the policy to attempt to attract another 500 teachers. The question is: Can the Government guarantee that there are indeed 500 teachers who can be employed in this State within the period the Government has set itself? That question is very important; and if there are enough teachers awaiting employment, are they competent and qualified to do the job?

Dr Lawrence: They are graduates from our tertiary institutions and they are certified as qualified teachers.

Mr COWAN: One would hope they are available. It strikes me as quite strange that we have gone through a process within the Department of Education - now the Ministry of Education - in which the whole department has been turned upside down. There has been a substantial loss of senior educationalists, either by retirement or by resignation. Having lost those senior people while the Education Department was being revamped and the Ministry of Education was being established the Government is now to employ other teachers.

Dr Lawrence: One group was in the bureaucracy and now we are putting them out in the field and into classrooms.

Mr COWAN: I salute that; it is a marvellous idea. Most people to whom I speak and who are involved in education say that the greatest contribution any Government can make in ensuring quality of education is to ensure a reduction in class sizes. One thing that concerns people is that instead of seeing a reduction in class sizes there will be more teachers engaged in duties other than teaching, while class sizes remain relatively high. We also have some problems with the implementation of Unit Curriculum which requires a greater number of teachers. One would hope that the Government ensures that the additional funding to the Ministry of Education will be spent efficiently. As I have said, I regard the additional expenditure on education as being one of the strengths of this Budget and the National Party commends the Government for being prepared to allocate the additional funding. The

National Party is pleased that the Government has increased the level of funding for country students who are required to live away from home. Notwithstanding the improved economic conditions of the country it is a growing problem for normal salaried people or wage earners who are trying to give their children the best education possible but who, because of their geographic location, find themselves not within range of a senior high school. They are faced with sending their children to a high school or college which requires boarding away from home. It is a substantial cost to the parents and it is pleasing to see that the Government has allocated additional funds to this area.

One of the things that concerns me is that the State Government is increasingly being required to step into a field which the Commonwealth Government has vacated; the area to which I have just referred is a classic example. I am sure that if the State of Western Australia wants to retain the autonomy of some of its tertiary institutions the Government will have to assume more responsibility for funding these institutions. It is clear to me that the Federal Education Minister has set himself the task of amalgamating some of the tertiary institutions in this State. If we want to maintain their independence the Western Australian Government will have to step in and offer the option of autonomy to those universities by guaranteeing that it will make up any funds lost to those institutions. It will take a brave Minister in any Cabinet to seek approval for that. If it is any help to the Minister for Education the National Party will fully support her in any argument she puts forward in this regard.

Dr Lawrence: The Commonwealth Government has not yet made its position clear in relation to that.

Mr COWAN: I think it has made its position clear. The Minister has read the white paper.

Dr Lawrence: Its intention is clear, but when it comes to the point the Commonwealth Government will have to provide the funding.

Mr COWAN: I hope the Minister is right and that I am wrong. It is definitely the path down which the Commonwealth Government is going. Once again, we will see the State Government stepping into an area vacated by the Commonwealth Government and that concerns me a great deal.

Another area to which the Government has allocated increased funds is health. I have already made some comments about the commitment given by the Government to the implementation of the Kamien report. The Government's action is commendable and I hope it will ensure that a greater number of doctors are available to country practices. I have been involved with some country shire councils which assume responsibility for finding a doctor to serve the population within their locality. It is very difficult to attract doctors to country areas. Some shire councils have gone to the trouble of finding doctors from overseas, who must go through the process of seeking residential status in Australia, and that can take some time. Those shires are forced to those lengths simply because there are not enough doctors willing to establish or buy a practice in the country. It is not a matter of there being insufficient doctors. Everyone knows there is a greater number of doctors per capita now than there ever was. The unfortunate fact of life is that many of those doctors tend to specialise and will not leave the Perth metropolitan area or the major rural centres. As a consequence, the old fashioned general practitioner to whom families turn when they have a problem which requires attention disappears, particularly in country areas. I hope that the \$2 million which has been allocated does have some effect. I also hope that when the Budget is implemented the allocation to health will reduce the demand for the patients' assisted travel scheme. While the number of doctors in the country areas is still to be addressed, the increase in funds for the patients' assisted travel scheme will be welcomed by most country people in Western Australia.

I cannot let the Budget debate pass without making some comment about the Government's law and order program. All I need to say is that as it was, and still is, National Party policy it was extremely good to see the employment of additional police officers and that the Government is turning its attention to not only the police, but also the community becoming involved in crime prevention. While they are National Party policies they are good policies and just because the Government has implemented them it does not mean that the situation has changed; they are still good policies. The current Minister for Police and Emergency Services is doing a creditable job inasmuch as he has been successful in achieving what has

not been achieved before; that is, he has been able to obtain additional funds for the recruitment of sufficient police officers to ensure that some officers who have recently graduated will find their way to country areas. Believe me, anyone travelling through the bush will discover very quickly that when it comes to manpower the police staffing levels in the country areas, particularly those which reflect a low incidence of crime, tend to be relatively low. The additional 100 officers allocated to the country areas and the capital works program allocation to provide accommodation for those officers will be welcomed.

Mr Taylor: I believe the Merredin Police Station is being upgraded.

Mr COWAN: Yes, the wooden lockup from which any prisoner could quite easily escape has been torn down and replaced by a lockup which will achieve its purpose; that is, it will ensure that the prisoners remain locked up. That is most important because Merredin is a transfer point from Kalgoorlie to Perth, and as a consequence many prisoners are kept overnight at the Merredin lockup.

The point made by the member for Avon is valid and very important: It is essential to address the morale of the Police Force in Western Australia, and it strikes me as a matter of critical importance when the police through their union are conducting votes of no confidence in the Commissioner of Police. Regardless of how that Commissioner was appointed - I would hate to think that any Commissioner was appointed by some popularity poll and obviously he was not - it is a matter of concern at the general level of morale when that type of poll is conducted among union members. It is indicative of low morale in the Police Force and the Minister must address that issue. He has dealt with some of the physical needs of the Police Force, such as additional officers and facilities, but he must now resolve the problem of police morale.

Mr Taylor: I have addressed that problem, I go to lots of police stations and see lots of officers and I believe morale is high.

Mr COWAN: I hope that the Minister is correct; the public impression indicates that he is not.

Mr Taylor: What happened last week was very unfortunate but I might say that the Liberal Party's attitude -

Mr COWAN: I do not want to use this issue to score political points. However, it was a totally unprecedented manoeuvre; it has never occurred before, it should never have occurred, and I hope the Minister will ensure that the future environment will be such that it never occurs again.

At the risk of the National Party being accused of being nothing more than a farmers' party - we are trying to overcome that image and I think we are succeeding - one of the great disappointments in this Budget to me, as a member of the National Party and as a practising farmer, is the allocation for agriculture. Increases have been made of up to 11 per cent for welfare, 10 per cent for education, and 26 per cent for the law and order program, but one of the most wealth creating industries in this State received a seven per cent increase in its Budget allocation. That is indicative of the area in which this Government tends to direct its energies; in other words, towards the redistribution of wealth as opposed to maintenance of those industries and businesses which create the wealth in this State. It is very disappointing that the volume of funding allocated to agriculture has remained stationary in real terms - seven per cent would do nothing more than cover the inflation rate of this nation. There is no question that the individual projects outlined in the agriculture budget are good; the extension of the farm water supply scheme is wholeheartedly supported, and the establishment of a quarantine station in the north is again commendable. However, it is a great disappointment that the level of funding for agriculture has not been substantially increased.

I make specific reference to the Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation and point out to the Minister for Agriculture that he has been taken in by his own propaganda or public relations exercise when he states that the new funding program for RAFCOR will give it additional flexibility. It appears from the RAFCOR program that it will devote more time and energy to farm buildup or farm improvement, rather than merely rescue those farmers who are in serious financial strife. That is a very good direction for RAFCOR to take, but it has no choice; as a result of the improvement in agriculture very few farmers need rescuing

by the corporation. In fact, they are looking for consolidation through farm buildup or redirection into some other agricultural venture which requires a degree of capital input which they hope to obtain from the corporation.

I have dealt with those things which I regard as the strengths of the Budget and with one weakness; that is, the failure of the Government to allocate increased funding to agriculture. Some other weaknesses in the Budget should be addressed. One of the greatest weaknesses is contained in this new expression which the Government, particularly the Minister for Local Government, is very fond of using; that is, focused development. It is another name for pork barrelling and it concerns me a great deal that so many of the State's resources are being directed to regional development authorities. It is reaching the stage where the Government is placing yet another tier of Government between State and local government. For example, at the moment there are the South West Development Authority, the Great Southern Development Authority, and the Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority. Those authorities have funding of their own and have quite substantial resources; from memory, it cost something like \$840 000 to establish the Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority and \$3 million for the South West Development Authority. These funds are augmented by other funds allocated for special purposes, such as the Geraldton foreshore development. One assumes that the Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority will play a major role in that foreshore development. Consequently, what we see in practice is State Government allocating to regional authorities funds which could and should be allocated to local authorities. I would be much more supportive of these development authorities if they were to have a coordinating rather than a funding role.

Mr Carr: Can I clarify a point? With regard to such projects as the foreshore development, the funds are allocated to the agency which actually does the work which, in this case, is the Department of Marine and Harbours. The funds are allocated in the same way. The development authority merely plays a coordinating role between Marine and Harbours, local government and other agencies involved.

Mr COWAN: That is reassuring. There is still \$6.5 million allocated to regional development authorities which, as I say, could easily be allocated to local authorities for development projects or designs. The regional development authority would become nothing more nor less than a coordinating body with appropriations from this Budget only for the cost of the administration of that authority. The Minister cannot tell me that it will cost \$843 000 to administer the new authority at Geraldton, or \$3 million to administer the South West Development Authority.

Mr Carr: No, that funding includes funds for particular projects and programs.

Mr COWAN: That is right, and they are programs and projects which will be undertaken by the local authorities themselves.

Mr Carr: In many cases they are programs which run over a lot of different local governments, and you know as well as I do that local governments are not particularly well coordinated.

Mr COWAN: This is the point I am making. If the development authorities took on coordinating and administrative roles, that is all they need do. They do not need funds; the funds can be left with the local authorities.

That is one important issue, and there are others. I see the expansion of these development authorities as a matter for concern. There is no question that as these development authorities absorb more and more funds from the Government they will encroach upon local authorities. They will put local authorities in a position where they will be considered to be redundant. That may not happen this year, but there is no doubt it will happen five or 10 years down the track. I venture to suggest that if nothing is done about controlling and redirecting regional authorities there will be a constant increase in the appropriation of funds for those authorities at the expense of local government.

There are other matters which clearly concern many people in relation to this Budget. The greatest concern is that of accountability. There have been two issues of significant importance to people in Western Australia over the past six or eight months, or even longer. I have searched through the Budget and can find no reference to either of them. I refer specifically to the Government's acceptance of the losses which will be incurred by the Teachers Credit Society through the R & I Bank. I cannot find in the Budget any

appropriation of funds to the R & I Bank which will assist that bank to offset those losses. There was a substantial allocation last year but this year very little is allocated to the R & I Bank. How is the R & I Bank expected to absorb the losses which have been incurred and which are estimated at approximately \$120 million? I would not expect the bank to absorb that amount in any one year, but there is no appropriation of funds from the Consolidated Revenue Fund to the R & I Bank to offset those loans. I hope the Treasurer hears this, and gives an indication of how the Government expects the R & I Bank to absorb the losses which will undoubtedly be incurred by its responsibility for the Teachers Credit Society.

Mr MacKinnon: It was \$35 million last year.

Mr COWAN: That is last year's figure. This year's allocation is quite insignificant, and that is a matter of great concern.

The other matter of some importance is the Government's announcement some time ago that it would participate in the proposed petrochemical plant. Again, one would have thought it would be prudent for the Government to appropriate some funds to cater for that involvement. I note that one of the features of the Capital Works Program is that any school, hospital or other facility which will be the subject of a repair, renovation or rebuilding program is allocated a certain amount of funds for the planning of that development in the first year, and one assumes the development takes place the following year. That is commendable. Too often, when we visit schools or hospitals we see ad hoc planning which future generations have to suffer. The idea of allocating funds one year for proper planning is a good one; the development of those plans the following year is a good system and a prudent way of ensuring the most efficient use of the taxpayers' resources. I would have thought that, as the Government has announced it will participate in the petrochemical plant, there would be an appropriation of funds for that purpose. I have looked through the Budget, but perhaps I did not look hard enough. If anyone has seen an appropriation of such funds perhaps they could indicate the page number. I have not seen it, and that concerns me a great deal. The feeling around the traps is that there will be an equity participation of something like \$150 million. I assume that does not include any infrastructure to be provided by the Government for this plant; I assume that will be a separate cost. It would be appropriate for the Treasurer, when he is speaking in reply to this Budget debate, to indicate how the Government intends to fund its equity participation in this plant. I can assume only that what the Government is likely to do is have a tie up with the State Government Insurance Commission, whereby it asks the SGIC to dispose of some of its assets - I suggest the convertible Bell bonds would be an appropriate asset - and sink that money into the petrochemical plant.

It would be about the only way I could see the Government doing it, because it has not appropriated any funds out of this Budget. Once again we are talking about a substantial volume of funds. The taxpayer has to provide those funds and he has some right for information to be made public as to where those funds will come from and how they will be expended.

Another criticism relates to some of those other special accounts where revenue is gained by the Government and is then appropriated for different purposes which are difficult to find in the Budget papers as they are prepared and presented to this Parliament. I refer specifically to the State fuel franchise levy where, for some reason or another, funds, revenue or income from that levy are not listed under any specific heading. It is quite in order for the Government to show revenue it receives from land tax, stamp duty, or financial institutions duty, but for some reason or other the State fuel franchise levy does not have to be listed as any form of income. The only way we can discover what revenue comes from that source is by searching through the Budget papers to see where that money is appropriated. Even when it is appropriated, it is appropriated under different headings.

For example, in the transport section of the Budget papers it is appropriated under the total contribution from the transport trust fund, where something like \$34 million is transferred across to the MTT. For the administration of the Department of Transport itself, it is again entitled to a contribution from the transport trust fund. When we go to the allocation of funds for main roads, it suddenly becomes the fuel franchise fees. Of course, \$51 million is allocated to main roads.

I am quite sure there are enough brains within the Treasury, if it had the will, to make it much simpler for people wanting to know how much revenue was gained from the State fuel franchise levy by giving it an appropriate heading in revenue under special Acts, and quite clearly it would save a lot of searching through the Budget papers to discover just how much money was collected from the motorists of Western Australia. The Government is now including in the Budget papers its interest on short term borrowings and also the business undertakings conducted by Treasury. That in itself is a good move, and there is no reason at all why the State fuel franchise levy could not be given some special place in the revenue side of the Budget papers to make it easier to find.

In the Commonwealth Parliament the Budget these days has very little significance, because much of what is given there is detailed in the May Economic Statement. This Government in Western Australia seems to be following a similar path. In April we had the release of the Government's economic strategy for this State which gave some outline of areas of Government spending and those areas upon which the Government would focus its attention. Prior to the Budget we saw the "beating crime" package, which clearly outlined the direction Government would take in law and order. We saw the social welfare package which was introduced. I think that had a twofold purpose; the first was to outline the Government's direction in welfare, and the second was to take some heat off the SGIC and its dealings and profit making, and try to lend some legitimacy to that kind of undertaking by appropriating the funds to a family trust.

This Budget was eminently predictable. It had been forecast by the Government itself through its various economic strategies, or welfare packages or law and order packages, and in the main it sets out to do precisely what one would expect a Government to do in a year prior to an election; that is, to do as much as it possibly can through focused development - I prefer to call it pork barrelling - to ensure it is re-elected. While I commend the Government for some of those packages which I have said are its strengths, there are also some weaknesses in the Budget and the Government will have to answer those, particularly accountability in relation to its dealing with business. The Government should have indicated in the Budget papers precisely where the funds were to come from for its equity participation in the petrochemical plant. It should have indicated precisely how the R & I Bank will be assisted in absorbing the losses which have been incurred by the Teachers Credit Society; and it has neglected completely the wealth creating industries in this State. We intend to make sure that people know precisely the weaknesses of this Budget, and I look forward to the contest over the next few months, whether the election be held in late November, mid February or mid March.

MR BLAIKIE (Vasse) [8.18 pm]: I want to traverse a number of areas in the Budget debate tonight, and they will include Aboriginal affairs and the Water Authority. I hope the Minister will be available when I get to those areas.

The Vasse district is a rapidly growing area in Western Australia, and the electoral figures prove that point. Both the Augusta and the Margaret River Shires show a growth rate of something like 40 per cent. I am very pleased to see that the Government has allocated \$2.2 million in this Budget to phase one of the Margaret River Hospital. Although it has taken six Budgets for the Government to acknowledge the importance of the growth of the district, I want to indicate my very positive support.

Another matter of great concern is the education crisis. It is now emerging in the Vasse electorate as a result of the lack of spending priorities in the area. The Budget indicated that two schools would have a building program - both the Vasse and the West Busselton schools. Both these schools are looking at a works program of \$600 000. That is to be phased in over a two year period, so at best one would expect the completed works to be ready for the 1990 school year. It has been indicated to the Government over a period of years that it was necessary for work to be done on a series of other schools. Building programs needed to be undertaken, yet they have not occurred, and it will cause an education accommodation crisis.

In particular Cowaramup School, which has 100 students, raised the point that in a region which receives 40-plus inches of rain a year it does not have a wet weather area. It has a staff room which is totally inadequate and storage space is virtually non-existent; the foyer of the school is used as a sickroom, computer room and storage room and as an area for

teaching and maths equipment. It is also used to cater for visitors waiting for an interview with the principal. In addition, the library, although in a Bristle building, is inadequate and inappropriate to today's educational needs. That is part of the problem which that particular school has, and yet it was assumed there would be a major upgrade on that school some years ago. The President of the P & C Association at Dunsborough, Mrs Chromow, wrote to the Minister for Education some months ago, following a visit to the school by the Minister. Mrs Chromow wrote -

As you could see, we are desperately in need of a substantial covered wet area.

As a group we have established a building fund to achieve this aim. We have made application to minor works for a \$10 000 grant . . .

This application has been waiting for approval. The letter went on -

The covered area is not the only concern of the parents and the community, we are in desperate need of 2 new classrooms, sickroom, administration block and a resource centre.

The students of that school are currently being taught in a resource centre because of gross overcrowding at the Dunsborough school. That is a matter of grave concern. I refer now to the Margaret River High School, where a similar problem exists. Again, the parents of children at this school have been waiting since 1983 for an upgrading -

Mr D.L. Smith: Are you sure it was not 1977?

Mr BLAIKIE: No, 1983. The Secretary of the P & C Association, Mrs Basford, in a letter dated 8 April 1988, wrote to the Minister for Education, Dr Carmen Lawrence, as follows -

I write on behalf of the Margaret River High School P & C Association. We wish to bring to your attention, the fact that our school, despite the repeated promises of the Education Department, still has not been allocated funding for the proposed upgrading of our school. We urge you to please allocate funds for our school in the 1988/9 buildings budget.

The letter went on to say -

In fact, accommodation needs at this school have been documented as being inadequate since as early as 1983. Since 1984, requests for minor works have been rejected because the capital works project was said to be coming up. Hence nothing has been done to improve this school for many years.

In April 1987 that school sent a deputation to the then Minister for Education, who sent a letter to the school saying that every effort was being made to include the high school in the 1988-89 Capital Works Program. The library of that high school is inadequate; although the school has computers, it does not have a computer room; and the main clerical office is so cramped that any increase in office staff would necessitate their working in the front foyer or in the corridor of the school. If one goes into the front foyer of that school, it is also crammed with the school's trophy cases. The letter continues -

The guidance and teachers offices. Guidance for some time has been carried out in a tiny, unventilated room totally lacking in privacy, situated in the front foyer of the school. Teachers share tiny areas, or a corner of the staffroom. There is little privacy for teacher/parent/student conference.

Sickroom. One only, not one per sex as there should be.

Counselling and interview rooms. Nil.

Physical education. Showers, 3 only, inadequate for the numbers that need to use them in a short space of time.

This school has 300 students. Probably the worst features of the entire school are the science, home economics and arts rooms. All of these need more space because they have had requests for minor works turned down time and time again because of the impending Capital Works Program. The letter continues -

In addition to these areas, there is no area in our school where more than 40 students or people can be seated together. In our high rainfall area, it is impractical to rely solely on an outdoor area for these people to assemble.

The school was advised by the former Minister - and I attended the meeting - that the Government was looking to upgrading the Margaret High School to take in years 11 and 12, starting with year 11 in 1990. It needs to be understood that this matter is of grave concern to parents, students and teachers. For the last six years there has been an implied promise of an upgrading program to bring the school up to a reasonable standard, but despite the patience of the parent and student body, this has not happened. It was expected that the 1988-89 Budget would be the year a program would commence. This has been of concern for some time. Added to that is the fact that the Government indicated - and I certainly strongly supported the move - the school would start taking year 11s in 1990; that would only happen provided the school had adequate facilities for the students, but the facilities there are simply not adequate at all.

The member for Bunbury taught at that school probably 25 years ago, and the library facilities of the school in those days have remained unchanged; the science block is still the same science block and the home economics block is still the same. It must be understood that in the last 10 years there has been a substantial growth in the population of the district. At one stage there was some doubt as to whether the school would have sufficient numbers to retain year 10 students. That was in the mid 1970s and is now behind us; in 1983, as Mrs Basford said, the school needed an upgrade in its facilities. That has not happened and it is causing great concern. If one adds to that the potential of the school of going to year 11, there is no way in the world that parents would send their children to a school which has facilities that are so grossly inadequate now and which would be hopelessly outmoded and a great disadvantage to students and teachers alike in 1990. I take the Government to task for not providing what was expected and anticipated by the student and parent bodies. However, it goes further than that because while the Margaret River High School was expected to be upgraded, there was also an anticipated extension of phase two of the building program already commenced at the Busselton High School. That school has a student population of 900 and it was expected that with the advent of year 11 at Margaret River in 1990, the burden of student numbers would be eased at the Busselton High School.

At the same time, it was part of an expected program in order to ease the existing overcrowding problems at Busselton Senior High School and an announcement was expected in this Budget to that effect. Both communities are now faced with an accommodation and poor facility crisis. The facilities at Margaret River are outmoded and the facilities at Busselton are overcrowded. In a letter dated 19 May 1988 and sent to Mr B.M. Hemsley, the honorary secretary of the Busselton High School Parents and Citizens Association, the Minister said in response to letters by the association -

With regard to Stage 2 of the building programme, I wish to advise that Mr J Ley, Consultant-Science, will visit the school and make a detailed analysis of the need for additional, or improved science facilities. Future establishment of upper school facilities at Margaret River and the effect on enrolments at Busselton will be taken into account. Priorities set by the Parents and Citizens' Association such as photography, sport shed, oval development, administration facilities and additional parking will be taken into consideration.

When stage 2 of the building project can be implemented is yet to be determined.

In June, the Minister visited the area and met with the parent body and teachers. The Minister gave an indication that the building program would begin. An article appeared in the *Busselton-Margaret River Times* on Thursday, 9 September 1988 which stated -

Mr Haak said of the improvements programme which was initiated in 1986: "It was decided to split the programme into two financial years because the Government didn't have the money to pay for it in one financial year. The second bit has never been done. Our biggest concern is our kids who are being used as players in a political game".

Mr Haak is the President of the P & C Association. That was said in response to the fact that no money was allocated in the Budget to carry out this very important upgrading of the Busselton High School. In addition, I received a copy of a letter sent to the Minister by Mr R.J. Toia, president of the staff association of the Busselton Senior High School. The letter was dated 8 September, and stated -

As the Staff of the Busselton Senior High School, we are shocked at the recent

Budget decision which makes no allocation of funds for the next stage of extensions and renovations at this school.

Our reaction to this admission stems from the meeting you had with parents and staff of this school on June 20 this year, where you stated that "providing that there are no severe budgetary constraints then Stage 2 (of the building programme) would go ahead".

I attended that meeting and there was a belief by those present that the building program would go ahead. Hence the disappointment expressed by the teachers and the parents' group. Mr Toia continued -

This statement gave substance to the hopes of the school community and encouraged an expectation of funding along the lines that had been originally presented to us.

The Staff is extremely disappointed, greatly deflated, and somewhat bewildered at this apparent oversight in the allocation of funds. Our reaction is based on the following:

1. Discussions held within the school and between the staff and the Buildings Branch of the Ministry of Education for the past two years have always treated the building programme as a multi-stage event. The rooming situation in this school has been critical for at least the last three years, and Stage 1 did not solve all of the critical issues.
2. Stage 1 addressed some urgent needs within the school in the areas of Art, Business Education, Computing, Home Economics, and to a limited extent, Physical Education and Manual Arts. However, the money was not sufficient to alleviate severe staff and student stress in the areas of Administration, English, Manual Arts (photography and Technical Drawing), Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

An article in the *Busselton-Margaret River Times* of 8 September stated that one of the teachers at the school was on sick leave as a result of his working in the photography room.

Mr D.L. Smith: It was due to a lack of proper ventilation.

Mr BLAIKIE: It was due not only to a lack of proper ventilation, but also to overcrowding, and is an absolute disgrace. In the last couple of years, that school has carried the burden of the substantially increased number of students that has resulted from the growth of the district from Nannup to Augusta and the school is busting at the seams. Under the heading "Danger fears over school's darkroom" the article stated -

Busselton Senior High School Parents and Citizens Association is concerned about the possible health risk to students and teachers using the school's photography darkroom.

It claims the laboratory is poorly ventilated and subject to overcrowding - factors which have forced photography teacher Trevor Stranger from his job for the past six months because of stress-related illnesses.

And the problem doesn't look likely to be solved following the handing down of last week's State Budget.

The article continues -

Mr Stranger . . . has been off work since March 4 this year with stress-related ailments including severe headaches, loss of hair and fits of depression.

He used to work only five hours a week in the photography darkrooms in the early 1980s but built it up to about 24 hours a week from 1985 until his sickness.

While the P&C blames Education Minister Carmen Lawrence for not solving the problem in this year's Budget, Mr Stranger blames Busselton Senior High School administration.

Mr Stranger claims the new photography laboratory was included in original plans for improvements at the school.

However, the photographic laboratory was not built; the Government ran out of money. It still has not been built and students still occupy that photography room because there is

nowhere else to put them in the next 12 months and in the next 12 months there will be more students in the school, at which time there will be even greater concern for the students, the teachers and the parents. The staff association's letter continues -

3. Due to this shortage of adequate facilities at this school, we were unable to accept a number of the resources offered by the Ministry of Education during the Class Size Panel discussions.
4. Your statement, quoted above, led our staff to believe there was a very good chance (indeed almost certainty) of Stage 2 proceeding in the current financial year. In the light of your comments at that time, such anticipation did not seem unreasonable.

As I said, I attended that meeting and I believe there was more than an inferred belief by all who attended the meeting - teachers, parents and local members - that the building program would go ahead. We believed it would go ahead for two reasons: Not only did it make good sense, but also it was absolutely necessary because the school was bulging at the seams. In addition, Margaret River, which was supposed to come on stream, did not come on stream and so, not only was there a problem with Margaret River, but also the problem increased in Busselton. The letter continues -

5. The current Budget features a record spending on Education and there can therefore be no grounds for claiming 'severe Budgetary restraint'.

I raise this matter to express my gravest concern about the priorities the Government has displayed in its Budget. It has not been appropriately concerned for education and the provision of educational facilities. The Government's priorities lay in bailing out the Teachers Credit Society for \$119 million; in its involvement with the Midland abattoirs site and the Perth Technical College site; in its involvement with the State Superannuation Board and its purchase of the Swan Brewery site; in its guarantees with respect to Rothwells; and in its foisting onto the taxpayers the costs of its indecision on the silicon smelting project. First, the smelting project was to go to Wundowie; then it was shifted to Pinjarra; then to Picton. Every time the shift was made the taxpayers funded it and at the end of the day it must be understood that the kids in my electorate will be crowded into that darkroom because the Government has fiddled about in business enterprises and lost the money of taxpayers instead of doing what Governments should do; that is, build new schools and hospitals.

The role of Government is not to be in business. Governments ought to be involved in building hospitals, schools and roads. The bottom line is that many of the projects that can be undertaken only by the Government have not been undertaken. I assure the House that many people in Busselton are frustrated by this education hotchpotch. A number of concerned parents in Margaret River want to know why their projects have not been considered when they have been on the drawing board for years. They have been told that owing to budgetary constraints, certain works will not be undertaken. I want to put the record straight; proper funding of projects for schools is not being undertaken because the Government is losing millions of dollars because of its involvement in business. I invite any Government member to refute that statement and explain to parents what has gone on.

Mr D.L. Smith: It has nothing to do with the rescue of the Teachers Credit Society. The Budget is providing the funds for an additional 300 police and 500 teachers.

Mr BLAIE: Other members can make their speeches on this subject if they wish.

The silicon smelter site was changed four times at the expense of taxpayers. The \$17 million cost involved would have built new schools not only at Busselton and Margaret River, but also at Augusta, Karridale, Dunsborough, West Busselton, Vasse and a couple of other centres and there would still have been change. I do not agree with the Government's Budget priorities. The Government ought to spend its money on something as basic and important as education rather than become involved in assisting multinationals to shift silicon plants because the Government could not make the right decisions. I could give a host of other examples to show where taxpayers' money is being spent wrongly.

I move now to two other areas to which I referred earlier. They are areas in which the Government has lost touch. I refer, first, to Aboriginal affairs. It is becoming almost par for the course that every time the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Gerry Hand, turns up in Western Australia he becomes a ringmaster and our State Minister simply dances to whatever tune the Federal Minister wishes to play.

Mr Wilson: That is one thing you couldn't do, dance.

Mr BLAIKIE: The Minister would have had a lot of experience with those Federal people. Our Federal colleagues, be they conservative or socialist, must have a proper regard for the States. The Commonwealth should not call the tune to the States and should be stopped from doing it. We have seen the Federal Minister come to Western Australia and the State Minister gallop out and blindly support him on land rights and the like.

Mr Bridge: Give us an example of my galloping out and supporting him on that.

Mr BLAIKIE: The Minister also supported him on the compact. The Minister is the only State Minister in Australia who has turned around and supported the compact.

Mr Bridge: You say that I have galloped around the country and supported the Federal Minister, give us an example.

Mr BLAIKIE: It is certainly causing a great deal of concern. Aboriginal people tell me of the concern they have about what is not going on in Western Australia. There is a growing division between Aboriginal people and the Minister. If the Minister wants to say he has the total support of Aboriginal people, I will give him the opportunity to get out there and say just that. We have seen the riots at Halls Creek; we have seen the reports of violence at Geraldton. It is tragic that a division is being created between people, black and white. It is our endeavour to try to minimise that division as far as possible. We have done everything we can as an Opposition. We have indicated that alcoholism and its effect on the total community concerns us.

Mr Carr: It concerns us too.

Mr BLAIKIE: We have recommended time and again that a bipartisan approach is needed on these matters. Government Ministers may laugh all they wish, but the Government does not have the answers and is failing in its endeavours.

After the disturbance at Halls Creek we made a commitment to establish a police station at Balgo. The Minister rejected the Liberal Party's proposal as naive and outdated. I assure the Minister that Balgo is one of the more recognised trouble spots in Western Australia. Decent people there deserve the security of a police station. If the Minister does not want to protect decent people, let him say so now.

Mr Bridge: I am listening intently to the member because I would like to hear a word of substance from him. I am concerned to look after not just what he terms decent people, but all people. In the course of the work we are putting in place we are looking at their wellbeing and protecting them. It is all happening. I cannot understand why the member does not see it happening around the State. It is as big as a beacon.

Mr BLAIKIE: -We have made the commitment that when in Government we will develop a police station at Balgo to ensure that there is some degree of security and protection for people in those areas. It was only in recent months that security at Balgo was so bad that people working there were flown in and out daily. We believe that situation was quite wrong.

Mr Bridge: Twenty years ago there was an incident 60 miles away from Halls Creek at the Negri races identical to the situation that happened at Halls Creek and nobody attributed the blame to nearby communities, so why should you attribute blame to Balgo or other places? Circumstances occurred in Halls Creek on the night of that incident that you have to address, so don't talk of Balgo or other communities.

Mr BLAIKIE: Not only are we looking at addressing it but also we have put forward a three part plan, two parts of which seek to adopt this proposal in a bipartisan way. The second was the establishment of a police station at Balgo. We see the system of welfare payments as destroying Aboriginal people and believe that there is a need for a fair go and, importantly, a need for the media to give Aboriginal people a fair go and for people generally to do the same. There are three other areas: A need to ensure that parents develop responsibility for their families; a need for community elders to develop responsibility for the people within their communities; and a need for Aboriginal people to accept a degree of accountability. However, at the end of the day let us, for goodness' sake, treat people with a degree of equality. I have been saying these things for some time. We have issued Press releases. In recent weeks the Golden West Network asked if I were prepared to meet with them on a face

to face basis to explain the Liberal Party's direction on Aboriginal affairs. I said yes. They then told me they intended to ask the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs to debate with me and asked whether I was still prepared to do it. I again said yes. They told me subsequently that the Minister refused to front.

Mr Bridge: I am truly a scared bloke, aren't I?

Mr BLAIKIE: I said earlier that the opportunity for debate still exists. The challenge is out to the Minister - I am challenging him. Let us go out into the wider arena, give our policies, and the community can make its judgment on whether it prefers the direction of the Labor Party or the direction of the Liberal Party. Let us do that on a fair and open basis. The challenge I issue to the Minister is that he cannot run his department by simply issuing Press releases; he must present himself to the wider community. I challenge him now to arrange for an interview with GWN where he can explain his policies and where I will explain the direction that the Liberal Party is taking. Then, let the community at large make its decision about what it wants to do. Surely that is a fair opportunity.

Mr Bridge: The runs are on the board; I don't have to explain our policy because the runs explain themselves. We have done more for Aboriginal affairs in this State in the past several years than has been done in the past 50 years under other administrations. That is the reality.

Mr BLAIKIE: Irrespective of what the Minister says about the runs being on the board, I am telling him that there are divisions in the community - divisions between Aboriginal people and the Minister, and divisions between Aboriginal and white people in the community. Is the Minister prepared to agree to an open and public debate?

Mr Bridge: How will we fix up a division by having a public debate on GWN?

Mr BLAIKIE: The Minister is running away. I am asking the Minister to have an open and public debate where the community at large can judge the team that has the runs on the board and the pretenders to the throne who do not have any runs on the board but who will offer a new direction. The Minister is running away.

Mr Bridge: I am not running away.

Mr BLAIKIE: It is interesting to see what the Government has to hide. I assure the House that there will be other debates in relation to Aboriginal affairs and on this Budget and its items. I give the Minister fair warning, as I gave him tonight that there were comments I wanted to make in relation to two areas of his portfolio. I am not the sort of person who talks behind the Minister's back. I wanted him to be here. This will occur in relation to those other areas, so I am disappointed that the Minister will not front. The fact that he will not front is typical of what this Minister does in relation to his portfolio.

I turn now to the Lee drainage report, which was commissioned by the Minister, and for which I claim a fair degree of credit for its happening in the first place. It was caused by the Government dropping all drainage charges in Bunbury in 1986 and bringing new areas into the Busselton and Capel drainage district, when land 500 or 600 feet above sea level was to be rated for the first time.

Mr D.L. Smith: The party that abolished the drainage rate in Bunbury was a Liberal Government in 1977 as a pre-election promise.

Mr BLAIKIE: What happened after that?

Mr D.L. Smith: It was reintroduced because a Liberal Government blocked the estuary and flooded the shopping area in Bunbury and made the ratepayers pay for the salt water damage to that area.

Mr BLAIKIE: The drainage rates were imposed and were reduced at the final stage by the member's Government. The member for Mitchell does not really count in these debates as he is a stranger to the truth in the Parliament and an extreme stranger to the truth in the electorate. In 1986 it was finally agreed that this inquiry would get under way. In November 1987 it was received by the Government. In April 1988 the report was finally brought to Busselton by the Minister and released behind closed doors. However, I was fortunate enough to be one of those behind the closed doors of the Busselton Shire, as were members of the Busselton drainage ratepayers' group.

Mr Bridge: And the shire.

Mr BLAIKIE: And the shire. However, the media were not invited. There are a number of inconsistencies in the Lee report. It made a series of propositions, one being that the rating system had changed the level of benefits. It indicated that there was justification for complaints relating to Bunbury. It also indicated that the mining and tourism industries were paying virtually nothing although they were receiving substantial benefits. A series of recommendations were made, the principal one being to abolish all country and metropolitan drainage districts. There were a host of other recommendations, but time does not permit me to go into all of them. The Minister issued a Press release in response to the report. That really took the cake because in that release he gave the Government's reasons for accepting the report and said that the member for South West Province, Doug Wenn, had been instrumental in conveying community advice on drainage matters to the Government. He did not have a clue, and he still has not. When they ask him about drainage down there he goes to water, and that has not changed. The recommendations put forward by the Government were not acceptable to the drainage community nor to the total community. It was interesting that when the heat was turned up on this issue the member for Mitchell disappeared and could not be found because he did not want to know what was going on; by that time his electoral boundaries had changed and he was out of danger and did not have to worry at all.

In the period since 1986, during which there was great confusion, several hundred ratepayers, through anger and frustration, not contrivance by me - we should ask the member for Mitchell where he stands on this issue - refused, and still refuse to pay drainage rates. There are now tens of thousands of dollars due in outstanding rates. The Minister was asked to come to public meetings to explain his actions but he would not turn up. That is similar to what he has been doing on Aboriginal affairs tonight. If one wants to know what is going on in the Minister's office, one should not ask him but ask Philip Vincent.

The Liberal Party had an in-depth look at the whole of the Lee inquiry. We looked at bringing in a series of charges over the entire State. We looked at abolishing charges for the entire State. What we finally agreed on was to abolish the charges related to country drainage districts; that will cost the State \$1.25 million in 1989. We also reviewed the other districts. We will attempt to review and address the other anomalies raised by the Lee report. The Minister is still invited to come to the area and state publicly his Government's policy. It does not matter where he goes. He should go to Serpentine. The ratepayers there would be delighted to hear from him, and hear what the Government policy is; they do not want to read what it is in Press releases. The Minister does not get paid \$100 000-plus a year to -

Mr Pearce: He does not get paid that at all.

Mr BLAIKIE: With his electorate allowance he does. People want to see the Minister in the flesh. The Minister has lost touch. However, he does not have the capacity to front when he ought to, to explain the Government's policy. These matters in the Budget are of some concern, but I am more concerned for the direction of Government, its lack of performance and the inability of its Ministers to address the real issues relating to its policies in person, instead of through Press releases.

[The member's time expired.]

Mr Pearce: Is this the last speech in this House or the first speech in the upper House?

MR CASH (Mt Lawley) [9.03 pm]: Whether it be the last speech that I make in this House or the first that I make in the upper House, I promise the Leader of the House that I will not talk about his failure to remember to take a key with him when he goes into his office in this building.

Mr Pearce: That is an unfair thing to say, because I suspected you of that rumour mongering. It is no compliment to you. When I was first approached by the Press about that particular rumour I suspected you of being the spreader of that. I was disappointed to discover it was the member for Murchison-Eyre.

Mr CASH: I am sure the Leader of the House has since made investigations. I remind members that this is the Budget speech. If the Leader of the House wants me to talk on this subject I am happy to do so, but I am pleased that on investigation he found that I was not the person who allegedly spread that rumour.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Dr Alexander): The member for Mt Lawley will resume his seat. This has no relevance to the Budget debate and, while Standing Orders allow other matters to be raised during this debate, I remind the member for Mt Lawley that he initiated this line of argument. My ruling is that he should address himself to the substance of his remarks relating to the Budget and Government policy thereon.

Mr CASH: Mr Acting Speaker, you will recognise that I was responding to an interjection by the Leader of the House. I am prepared to spend another 44 minutes talking about that subject if that is what the Leader of the House wants me to do. The point I make is that on investigation the Leader of the House found out that I was not the person who spread the rumour; what he did not find out was that I was one of the people who tried to quash it. If the Leader of the House checks with a few of his friends he will find that the comments I made were protective of him, and I would have thought that he would have expected that of me. I was the person who tried to make him the Deputy Premier in this House, and if he had followed our lead he might have got there.

Mr Pearce: Some of your colleagues tried to make me Premier, so I am grateful for your reduced level of support.

Mr CASH: Having resolved this matter, I hope, to the satisfaction of the Leader of the House - I know in my own mind what part I played in it - I turn to another important matter. This concerns a gentleman resident in our State, and involves an incident which occurred in 1986 at the time of the America's Cup. Recently I was approached by Brian G. Tennant who, members will be aware, is a social and law reform campaigner in our community, who takes up many people's cases and fights for justice. Mr Tennant approached me at Parliament House and raised the case of Trooper David Woodman. The newspapers, in recent days, have carried stories about this incident and the Attorney General's decision not to assist Trooper Woodman in the payment of costs which he was obliged to pay in defending his case. I bring this case to the attention of the House tonight and earnestly hope that the Attorney General will reconsider his decision, and recommend to Cabinet that an ex gratia payment be made to this person.

The facts are that on 7 November 1986, a Friday night, Trooper David Woodman, who is 27 years of age and has been a member of the armed forces in Australia for 10 years, was working in a part time job as a bouncer at the Sail and Anchor Hotel in Fremantle. At about 8.30 that night he was standing at the door and witnessed two men attacking two young girls on the other side of the street, opposite the Sail and Anchor Hotel. Woodman decided that the girls needed assistance and called to his offsider, another person working in a part time capacity as a bouncer, to go with him to offer assistance to the two young ladies who were the subject of an assault.

As he sprinted across the road the two assailants ran off down Essex Street. Woodman and his offsider looked at the girl who had been attacked who, by this time, was lying on the ground, and was later found to have suffered a broken jaw. Woodman observed that she had suffered facial cuts and general abrasions and asked bystanders to call for an ambulance and the police. He pursued the two attackers down Essex Street in the company of the other bouncer. Woodman caught up with them first, and realised that he would have to deal with both of them until his offsider caught up.

As he ran past the first person he pushed him to the side to knock him off balance so that his offsider, who was following, could detain him. Woodman moved on and grabbed the other attacker. At this stage an off duty sergeant of police who is now retired, a Sergeant Woodcock, was walking up Essex Street with his wife and heard the commotion. He turned around to see Woodman and the other bouncer chasing the two assailants down Essex Street. In his evidence Woodcock claimed that at that stage he heard a rather loud bang or noise and it appeared when he turned around that one of the people who turned out to be an attacker of the girl had kicked a metal restaurant sign as he was going past. Sergeant Woodcock then observed that Woodman and his offsider had detained the two attackers and Woodcock, not understanding that two girls had been beaten up further up the road, called out to Woodman that he should not be carrying on like that and that he should let go of the people who turned out to be the attackers.

Woodman said to Woodcock, "You do not know what has happened. These two people have beaten up a young lady up the road and I intend to take them back so that they can be dealt

with." So the five of them, including Sergeant Woodcock, walked back to where the alleged attack had occurred and by the time they got back the police and the ambulance had arrived. Woodcock, the off duty police officer, walked across to the sergeant who was handling the investigations and started talking to him about what he had seen occurring further down Essex Street.

Obviously Woodman, the SAS trooper and part time bouncer, was somewhat concerned that Sergeant Woodcock had not understood all the ramifications of the incident and he waited patiently for the sergeant who was taking down the particulars to come across to talk to him. This person, a Sergeant Willis, listened to him and it seemed at the time that he understood the difficulty that Woodcock would have had in understanding the whole of the incident. Sergeant Willis said to Woodman he would ask him to make a statement later on during the night. Woodman confirmed he would continue to work at the Sail and Anchor Hotel and would be available to make a statement when required.

Later on during the night a Detective Skeffington arrived at the Sail and Anchor Hotel and took a statement from Trooper Woodman. He generally understood the situation and when Woodman made some inquiries as to what might happen Skeffington said - and I just use the general comments that he is alleged to have made - "Look, don't worry about things. The police understand the duty you have performed as a citizen, that you have tried to assist the two young ladies who were attacked." Skeffington believed the only people to be charged would be the two attackers. One was a person by the name of Andrew Nutter and the other was a Philip Alan Spencer. Later on Nutter was in fact charged with the offence of assault and received a 12 month gaol term for his part in the night's incident. Charges against Spencer were subsequently dropped and the reasons for the police dropping those charges came out during the evidence given in court. Woodman believed he had done his duty as a citizen and that the police would take care of things, and certainly there was no talk at all about his being charged by the police for his part in the incident.

Some six months later Woodman received a call at his home about 10 o'clock one night. He answered the door to find Sergeant Woodcock there, who presented him with a summons. Woodman said that he was somewhat confused that he should be issued with a summons and asked Woodcock what it was all about. Woodcock said words to this effect: "It is about the assault that occurred in Essex Street, Fremantle, some six months ago. You are not going to get away with it. Even if the CIB won't charge you I am the person who has the authority in these matters and you are going to be charged with assault."

It just so happened that the case went to court on 5 October 1987 and was dismissed on a technicality because it was something like two days out of time and had thus lost status. Woodman left the court believing that while obviously it had been a bad experience he had done the right thing by the two young ladies who had been attacked. He hoped that would be the end of the situation. It is interesting to note that about that time Woodman received some commendations from people who had learnt about the part he played on that night in November 1986. One of them was from the Commissioner of Police and I think it is important that I read the contents of that letter to the House so that members understand the view of the Commissioner in respect of this matter. The copy of the letter I have is addressed to Brigadier A.H. Hodges, Commanding Officer, 5th Military District, Swan Barracks, Francis Street, Perth and reads -

Dear Sir,

RE: TROOPER DAVID WOODMAN - 2 SAS SQUADRON

During the evening of Friday, November 7, 1986, Trooper Woodman, of 2 SAS Squadron, witnessed a serious assault on two females in South Terrace, Fremantle. One of the women was left unconscious. Trooper Woodman chased the two male offenders into an unlit back street and detained both of them until another bystander was able to assist. But for the intervention of Trooper Woodman it is probable that the offenders would have escaped apprehension.

Both offenders have now been dealt with according to law.

Please let it be known to Trooper Woodman that the Police Force appreciates and commends his decisive and community minded action which was taken without regard to his own safety.

The letter is signed "Yours faithfully, Max Marshall, Assistant Commissioner (Crime)" for

and on behalf of the Commissioner of Police. Quite clearly the Commissioner of Police and his senior officers believed that Trooper Woodman had done the right thing, not only by the community but also by the two young ladies who had been attacked. They believed he should be commended for his actions.

In response to that letter the Commanding Officer of the 5th Military District, Swan Barracks in Perth, Brigadier A.H. Hodges, wrote to Woodman in the following terms. The letter is addressed to Trooper D.A. Woodman, 2 Squadron, Special Air Service Regiment, Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne, and reads -

Dear Trooper Woodman

I was very pleased to read in the attached letter of your exemplary conduct on the evening of 7 November 1986 at Fremantle.

You are to be commended for your initiative, courage and community spirit. Your actions bring considerable credit to the Regiment and the Army in general. Well done.

Yours sincerely,

A.H. Hodges.

So Brigadier Hodges, the Commanding Officer of the 5th Military District, was certainly impressed with the way in which Woodman had conducted himself.

The interesting point is that that is not the end of the case. In fact Sergeant Woodcock, the police officer who has now retired, decided that he should pursue the matter further. It was alleged during the court case that he, Woodcock, had it in for bouncers generally - that he did not believe the bouncers in Fremantle had enough respect for the police. He believed he had to make an example of someone and it seems Woodman was the person of whom he would make the example. Some months later Trooper Woodman again answered his door and found Sergeant Woodcock on the doorstep with another summons for a different offence. I understand that the summons was for the offence of assault causing grievous bodily harm, a somewhat more serious offence than the original charge. Trooper Woodman could not believe that this was happening. He had letters of commendation; the original case had been dismissed, yet here was Sergeant Woodcock back on his doorstep.

The matter proceeded to court again and Trooper Woodman's counsel asked the CIB officers whether they believed the charges against Woodman should have been proceeded with. The answer was no, they did not believe there was sufficient evidence but they recognised that as a police officer, Sergeant Woodcock had the authority, if he believed there was a case to answer, to issue the summonses. The charges were not supported by the CIB and I understand that some discussion took place between Sergeant Woodcock and his regional superintendent in Fremantle, with the aim of discouraging Sergeant Woodcock from proceeding with the charges. During the court case, counsel for Trooper Woodman suggested that in fact Woodcock was engaged in a vendetta against Trooper Woodman and that until he succeeded he would not rest. The comments I make are clearly supported by the transcript of the trial; I certainly bear no malice towards Sergeant Woodcock in the comments I make because they are statements of fact that occurred at the time.

The second court case was held on 8 August 1988, about four weeks ago. The jury heard the evidence on how Woodman had been frustrated in his attempts to assist these two ladies. The court heard how Woodcock had mounted the vendetta against him, even against the advice of various police officers. It is interesting that when all the evidence was heard, Woodman was again acquitted; there was insufficient evidence to show that he should be convicted of the charge of which Woodcock had accused him. Obviously Trooper Woodman was happy once again, hoping it was all over for the second time. But regrettably it is not all over for Trooper Woodman because even though the first case was dismissed, and in the second case he was acquitted of the charge, he now finds that for assisting those girls back in November 1986, for running to their aid, for chasing the assailants down the street and detaining them, for handing them over to the police - as we expect any good citizen to do - Trooper Woodman is faced with legal costs of \$1 500 - yet he was acquitted. The Attorney General has been addressed on these matters. The suggestion made to him in the first instance was that Trooper Woodman was acquitted in August this year and that in fact this was an important case; that the Attorney General needed to regard this as an important case

because if Woodman was not to be recommended for an ex gratia payment, why should any other citizen bother to defend some other person who was under attack, for fear of being charged with an assault; and even if acquitted, then facing the problem of having to pay hundreds, or perhaps thousands, or dollars in legal costs? I understand the Attorney General considered the matter but recently replied to Brian Tennant, who represented Trooper Woodman in trying to get an ex gratia payment, in the following terms -

Thank you for your letter received in my office on 16 August 1988.

I have had the matter fully investigated and it appears that the newspaper report is misleading in several respects. Mr. Woodman was charged with assault occasioning bodily harm. Crown Law officers considered that there was sufficient evidence to put Mr. Woodman on trial and it should be noted that the person he allegedly assaulted had not, in fact, taken part in the assault of the young woman a short time before.

In all the circumstances, I am not prepared to recommend that an ex gratia payment be made.

Mr Acting Speaker, I do not believe this is the end of the matter. I believe the Attorney General needs to reconsider his position. He has to reconsider the advice given to him because, first, the Attorney General suggests that the person that Woodman was accused of assaulting was not even part of the original assault. I do not think it makes any difference whether he was part of the original assault. Woodman detained a person, was accused of the assault on that person, was acquitted of the assault and then found himself up for \$1 500 worth of legal costs. The advice given to the Attorney General really leaves a lot to be desired. Woodman acted in good faith, and in a responsible way. He tried to protect two young ladies and, given the overall situation, he did the right thing. Most members would be of the view that that is the sort of thing they expect good citizens to do. It is something members would do themselves if they were in that position. The point is that Trooper Woodman saw two girls being attacked. Later, one of the attackers was sentenced to 12 months' gaol. Trooper Woodman moved in with his friend, apprehended the assailants and handed them over to the police. Why is it that the Attorney General wishes to dwell on possible technicalities to prevent this man receiving an ex gratia payment? The Premier and the Commissioner of Police have recently appeared in advertisements inviting the public to assist the Police Force in the execution of their duty, and inviting the public to generally assist the Police Force in trying to reduce the level of crime in our society. But how can we genuinely ask the public to go along with these propositions if they will end up in debt as a result? If this Government does not recommend an ex gratia payment to Trooper Woodman, surely the public are entitled to be very cynical of the requests being made by both the Premier and the Commissioner of Police in respect of preventing crime and assisting police in our community. I ask the Attorney General to reconsider his position. The community in general would expect that Trooper Woodman not find himself out of pocket as a result of helping these two young ladies because if we extend the logic of Trooper Woodman doing nothing, it could have been that he stood by, that one of the girls who suffered a broken jaw could have been murdered on that night, and Trooper Woodman could have said to himself, "I will go to court as an innocent bystander and give evidence in due course on the attack which I saw" - the attack which could have caused the death of a girl. Obviously I hope that situation never occurs. However I invite members to reflect on that possibility if we are not prepared as a community to recognise the good service of this young man - a young man who is about to be married, who does not have considerable funds at his disposal, and who would have used part of the \$1 500 which he paid in legal fees as a deposit on his house.

I also want to acknowledge the very good work done by Brian Tennant on behalf of Trooper Woodman. Obviously members are aware of Brian Tennant's work on behalf of many disadvantaged people in our community. I hope he continues to represent the people that he believes are in need of general support in his social law reform campaign.

The other matter that I want to raise tonight relates to the coastguard and the continued incursion by foreign fishing boats into our north west waters. Some members might have read in the newspaper that the Navy has decided to increase its surveillance by increasing the number of boats stationed there, and that the coastwatch will be working particularly hard to try to identify these foreign fishermen who enter our waters. The existing coastwatch system which relies on light aircraft with some military assistance is not the only way to go. I

believe that we also need a seaborne operation to protect our north west coast. The present coastwatch operation costs in the order of \$12 million a year, and another \$20 million is drawn from the defence budget to pay for the military surveillance in the area. The Orion aircraft fly over the desolate areas spotting foreign fishing boats and offer a military presence in the area. However, the important thing to recognise is that it is very difficult to spot the small Indonesian boats from those aircraft. Having spoken to a number of people in the fishing industry, I discovered that it is far easier to identify these vessels from a seaborne operation using a particular type of radar. I understand that the radar has a 35 mile or 75 mile radius. As a lay person I would have thought it would be easier to track the foreign vessels from an aircraft, but the professionals tell me that a seaborne operation would be more successful. Also, it would be easier to go out and meet the vessels as they enter our waters. I was interested to read in tonight's paper that the Premier said that up to 15 Indonesian fishing boats may not have been caught in the last week. If that is correct, I believe we have a massive problem which needs to be addressed immediately. I understand the Minister for Transport is going to Canberra on Friday to discuss with his Federal colleague the general surveillance requirements of the north west of this State. I offer my suggestions in good faith and hope that the Minister will raise these matters with him. As far as I am concerned, the protection of our north west coast and the fishing resources within our 200 mile zone must be approached on a bipartisan basis.

I do not intend to introduce politics into the issue. However, we should protect that area from incursion by foreign fishing boats because of the risk of the introduction of infectious diseases which are harmful to human life, and exotic diseases which are detrimental to our animal and plant life. Two other important factors to be considered are the illegal immigrants question and the risk of foreign vessels entering our northern waters to ferry narcotics into Australia. In the past substantial quantities of drugs have been found in the north west of our State. We also need to protect the Department of Transport's meteorological equipment scattered up and down the coast. Finally, there is the risk of damage to the marine ecology, reefs and bird life and to some of the islands that support the nesting colonies.

I think all members will agree that we have a duty to protect our natural resources. It is wrong to think that the protection of our north west coast is a Federal matter. I accept that defence is a Federal matter, but as far as I am concerned, if we waited for Canberra to serve the good wishes of Western Australia, we would all be dead and buried before it happened. It is up to this State to take the initiative. The Minister for Transport has the support of the Opposition in his discussions on the operation of a seaborne patrols with his Federal counterpart. I mentioned earlier that at the moment approximately \$32 million is spent patrolling that coastline. It has been clearly shown that foreign boats are entering the area and are escaping unhindered. Some newspaper reports have stated that at least one foreign crewman has been caught in Australian waters for the third time. It is a joke to say that it is a deterrent to put them on a Qantas jet with a first-class fare to Indonesia after a few days' break in Broome. If that is the only deterrent we can offer, these illegal fishermen will continue to enter our waters.

I believe the suggestion has been made that a seaborne operation could operate from Port Hedland or Broome. If the vessels were of the P150 type and operated out of Port Hedland and Broome, the coast between those towns could be covered on a 24 hour basis. A P150 was built in Western Australia some years ago. It was sold to the Solomon Islands where it has more than paid for itself in detaining illegal fishing boats. The P150 can do about 20 knots which gives it a range of approximately 480 miles a day. That is approximately the area between Port Hedland and Broome.

The important factor that must be recognised is that once the aircraft makes a sighting the next job is for a boat to follow up the sighting to ascertain what the boat is doing in the area. At the moment this is a problem because by the time the naval vessels or other vessels reach the location of the sighting the illegal fishing boat has disappeared. The P150 boats would be able to reach a sighting in fast time. It is estimated that the capital cost of two boats would be \$3.5 million and that the operating costs would be \$2.3 million per annum. At the moment about \$32 million is being spent on patrolling the coastline. I am suggesting that with a capital cost of approximately \$3.5 million and an operating cost of approximately \$2.3 million per annum we could have a seaborne surveillance scheme operating in that area.

If this were to occur it would be very much akin to having a policeman on the boat and on the beat and the illegal fishermen coming from Indonesia would very quickly understand that they were not welcome and that if they were caught they would be detained. I put it to the Minister for Transport that it is a worthwhile proposition and something he should consider. In general economic terms it is far cheaper and far more effective and efficient than the current airborne operations. I am not detracting from the airborne operations, because I believe that the aircraft and the seacraft go hand in hand. They can work together and complement each other.

A similar proposition was considered some years ago but, at the time, it was suggested that huge capital expenditure would be required to build bases for the boats in the north west. Quite clearly, there is no need for any additional facilities to be built in that area. The existing facilities at Port Hedland and Broome are more than adequate to service these boats. All we need is the boats and a crew of about five people per boat and we will be in business and will be able to patrol a huge area of our coastline.

The proposition of a seaborne operation could be extended to cover the top of Australia to Cairns. It is estimated that we would need 15 boats to service that area and I am not proposing that tonight. What I am suggesting is that the general area between Port Hedland and Broome that requires to be serviced can be done with two boats, with minimum crew and at minimum cost. If the Government is unable to come up with the \$3.5 million capital cost there are private organisations in Western Australia that would be prepared to build the boats and man them. The only requirement of Government would be to enter into a contract with these organisations to guarantee that it would be available for a minimum period which obviously would be subject to negotiation. It is quite feasible to have private crews on the boats because the authority they would need would be derived, first, from the Australian flag which the boat would carry and, secondly, from an officer of the Department of Fisheries who would be required to be on board. He, with the powers vested in him, would have sufficient authority to apprehend boats as required. It is an operation that can be run efficiently, economically and very effectively.

I ask the Minister to take on board the suggestion I am making when he visits the Eastern States on Friday. I know there are groups of people in Perth who would be more than happy to talk with him. In fact, some years ago, a consortium was organised in Western Australia comprising three companies. Those companies were Agnew Clough Ltd, the M.G. Kailis group of companies and Wigmore's Tractors Limited. That consortium was the original builder of the P150 and it would be more than happy to talk with the Minister for Transport at any time about a proposal which it believes can work. Having spoken to a number of people I am absolutely convinced that the surface surveillance of these types of boats in the north west would be sufficient to turn back the illegal fishermen who come into Australian waters to fish for the trochus shell and seafoods. It will be a responsible way to deal with the intruders. Perhaps a way to handle the situation is to introduce a three year pilot program. We could experiment with the first two boats, but it really is a small cost to bear if the north west coastline is protected from intruders.

MR FRED TUBBY (Dale) [9.47 pm]: This Budget is definitely a pre-election or giveaway Budget - it has been called other things. The Government is intent on trying to mend fences and curry favour in two areas which have been ravaged over the last six years - law enforcement and education. I compliment the Government on its belated rescue mission in education and the adoption of the Opposition's policy for law and order. A tremendous effort was put into that policy and it is great that the Government has picked it up and is running with it now - it shows that we are leading and the Government is following.

I am extremely disappointed with the continuation of WA Inc, particularly its non accountability and the Government's failure to explain where funds are coming from for the proposed petrochemical plant. I am also concerned about the Government's continued neglect of roads and public buildings, especially in the school arena, and about the cutbacks to local government. I was hoping that the change of Treasurer would take the Government out of its wheeling and dealing in the private enterprise arena. However, since the change the situation has become worse. The Teachers Credit Society's loss has blown out to \$119 million and yet there are moves for the Government to become involved in bigger deals such as the petrochemical plant.

The Opposition has been explaining for many months that the Government cannot be the rulemaker, the umpire and the player in the same game. Governments are elected to set the climate and not to become directly involved in large deals, because they are not playing with their money, but with taxpayers' money. Governments are entrusted by the people to run the affairs of Government and the operation of public services and not to wheel and deal in the private sector. Governments must set the rules which are fair to all in order that everyone has an equal chance to participate. They also have to be the umpire to ensure that all parties abide by the rules; they have to make decisions to solve disputes. These tasks become impossible when the Government is a major player and stakeholder. When that occurs the way is open for there to occur, at the very least, patronage and, at the very worst, corruption.

To say that Government involvement in private enterprise will return benefits to the citizens of our State may placate the socialist idealists within the Government ranks, but it flies in the face of reality. The dead hand of Government involvement escalates costs, inhibits private initiative and slowly clogs up the wheels of commerce with bureaucratic red tape. Additionally, as I mentioned previously, the Government is playing the game with taxpayers' money. This Government is in no way accountable to the taxpayers. One has only to look at the Budget papers to see this fact. The taxpayers are not presented with details on WA Incorporated activities, details such as they would be entitled to receive at a shareholders' meeting in any public company. If there is ever some return of profits to the taxpayer, it is only after there has been an enormous outlay in the first place.

An example of this came to light a few months ago. A very small paragraph in *The West Australian* reported that the Government had handed over to the R & I Bank a cheque for \$35 million for some purpose or other; I cannot remember its purpose. A few weeks later, accompanied by a large photograph and headlines in *The West Australian*, the R & I Bank was seen to be handing back to the Premier a cheque for \$32 million in profits claimed to have been made through the bank's wheeling and dealing enterprises. I am no great economist and I have never claimed to be one, but in my opinion if \$35 million is given and \$32 million is received in return, there seems to be a shortfall of \$3 million.

These sorts of things are occurring time and time again. Our speakers in these debates have pointed it out to a significant degree. I have referred only to one small example of which I took note. Instances such as this have occurred over and over again in this Government's entrepreneurial frenzy over the last five years. Sadly, it is getting in deeper and the deals are getting bigger, with the latest being a \$350 million involvement in the petrochemical plant. Very few details are ever given and nothing appears in the Budget papers where such details should appear. It is only during discussions on the Budget papers that the taxpayers and the Parliament can come to grips with where the Government is spending taxpayers' money, but the details do not appear in the Budget papers.

I repeat my earlier statement: Governments should set the rules, do the umpiring, and encourage participation; they should not become one of the players. If the first two things are done, private enterprise will take the risk. It will expand and create employment. At the end of the day the Government will still reap the benefits through increased taxation receipts. The windfall will be for the Government to reap and there will be no great outlay of taxpayers' monies. There will be no patronage and there will be no hints of corruption. In the meantime, taxpayers' funds are not being tied up in high risk ventures; they are paying for the services which Governments were elected to provide and which people have come to expect Governments to provide. I refer to services such as better roads, properly maintained buildings and adequate law enforcement.

I was appalled to see in the Budget that the level of funding for road construction and maintenance has been seriously eroded over the last five years. In 1974-75, some \$174 million was allocated to road construction and maintenance. That fluctuated over the next five years. In the 1988-89 Budget, \$168 million has been allocated for road construction and maintenance. Not only is this an erosion in numerical terms, it is also an erosion in purchasing terms because it will only buy approximately one half to two thirds of what it could five years ago. Is it any wonder that our State's roads are in such an appalling condition? Could this also be a factor, quite apart from alcohol and all the other reasons which have been put forward, for our appalling and quite unnecessary yet escalating road fatality rate?

I have mentioned before in this place the South Western Highway. There have been road fatalities on the South Western Highway between Armadale and Byford. I did not find anything in the Budget papers to indicate that this dangerous stretch of road will be attended to, although there is a lot of traffic on that major highway. The Minister for Transport indicated to me earlier this session that he would not put money into that area because he did not believe in pork barrelling, and that road falls within part of his new electorate. In this instance, I wish that he would do some pork barrelling. I would not complain about it and I am sure the people living in the area would not complain about it either.

I have also mentioned Mills Road, which goes from Roleystone to the Tonkin Highway. Many of the residents from Roleystone, some 3 000 or 4 000 people, use that road as a short cut to the city. I have written to the Minister appealing to him to have the Main Roads Department take over responsibility for that road as a main road and to maintain it because the people who use it, the Roleystone residents, live within the City of Armadale and pay rates to the City of Armadale. However, the road itself is in the City of Gosnells. It is quite understandable that the ratepayers in Gosnells and the City of Gosnells itself are not too keen to do any major upgrading of that road. It is a matter of patching and making do. I do not think that is good enough. A major road which serves some 4 000 people who use it to go to town for work and shopping should be taken over by the Main Roads Department.

On Sunday I travelled up Hardinge Road at the end of Maddington Road, as did the Minister for Lands. This road goes up to the Bickley Reserve, to the Bickley Brook reservoir and the youth camp that is near the top of the hill. On Sunday the Mason Bird heritage trail was opened. It was interesting that the Mayor of Gosnells, Lyall Richardson, during his speech apologised to the people assembled there for the appalling condition of the stretch of road leading up to the Bickley Reserve. He hoped that nobody had had an accident on the way up and also hoped, most sincerely, that they would find their way down the hill again without having an accident. He explained that the Gosnells City Council could not maintain the road because not enough funds were made available to it by the Government. He said quite blatantly that he made no apology to the Government or the Minister for making that statement. I can understand why, because it is an appalling road. The fact that it is a metropolitan road used by tourists gives some indication of the state of roads in the country areas.

A couple of weeks ago I went back to my home town of Morawa. The Minister for Education would know the East Gutha road because it goes from the siding of Gutha, where she was raised, towards one of the farms previously owned by her father. The East Gutha road was bituminised 20 years ago when income tax receipts were lower than they are today. Today, it is in such an appalling state that the council is giving serious consideration to ripping up the bitumen and making it a gravel road once more. This is because it does not have the funds to maintain the bitumen road that was built 20 years ago. This is an appalling situation which is also happening in other shires throughout the length and breadth of our State. The Government has neglected roads over the last five years. The reduction in funds from \$170 million five years ago to \$168 million today is a sad indictment of the commitment of the Government to maintain roads, a function it was elected to perform and for which taxpayers pay.

There have also been severe cutbacks in local government grants. I refer to an article which appeared in the *Comment News*, the local newspaper in the Armadale area, on 2 August under the headline "Govt slashes grants to councils". The following are extracts from that article -

Local councils have been stunned by drastic reductions in State Government grants for this financial year.

Gosnells, Armadale and Serpentine-Jarrahdale have had their annual funding reduced by thousands of dollars, . . .

Armadale Town Clerk Jeff Flatow said: "We actually receive \$93,740 less than we got last year."

The article also states that the Gosnells City Council received a \$112 844 reduction.

Mr Carr: Although that Press article states that they are State funds, they are Commonwealth funds for local government which are made available to the State and are then allocated by the State Local Government Grants Commission.

Mr FRED TUBBY: So it is a Commonwealth cutback?

Mr Carr: The cutback was for particular councils arising from the distribution of those funds. The Commonwealth did cut back in the sense that the overall increase for Western Australia was 1.7 or 1.8 per cent, but that gave a total of \$59-60 million which was distributed around the State. Some councils got increases and some got decreases.

Mr FRED TUBBY: Unfortunately three councils in my electorate received decreases and they are complaining. I received a copy of the following letter sent by the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale to the executive officer of the WA Local Government Grants Commission -

Council would like to express, in the strongest possible terms, its disapproval at the Notional Grant amount for this Council.

Council's Grant has been decreased by 11.4% from its 1987/88 Grant allocation and this figure represents the highest percentage drop of any Metropolitan Authority.

Although Council supports the endeavours of the Commission to mathematically quantify the distribution of the General Purpose Grants, Council is very concerned at the declining Grant distribution to this Shire, particularly in comparison to neighbouring Shires.

This Council can be best compared with the Shire of Murray and a study of the Notional Grant Schedule shows that the Shire of Murray's Grant totals \$455,607, which represents an increase of 13.56% for 1988/89.

The two Councils are very similar in a lot of aspects ie population, size etc and it is bewildering to Council how the Shire of Murray can receive \$222,055 more in grant monies compared to this Council.

Council is aware of how the Commission determines Grants and factors taken into consideration when determining the Grant for this Council. However, Council believes that the Commission has not taken into consideration its submission forwarded on 4 May 1988 or its representation made at the Special Hearing held on 12 April 1988.

Council has been advised that the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale has been marked for "special attention" -

I am not sure what "special attention" means. The letter continues -

- by the Commission and to this end would appreciate if the Commission would give this matter its early attention, as Council believes that its Grant allocation should be increased.

That is a significant cutback for a rather small shire council. The Government is neglecting these areas to put money into other wheeling and dealing enterprises.

Mr Carr: That is not fair.

Mr FRED TUBBY: The Minister for Local Government should cop some of the criticism.

Mr Carr: The Government may cop the criticism, but the funds allocated to local government under that scheme all go to local government. You may well criticise the fact that the Grants Commission has granted more to some councils than to others, but you cannot say the money has gone to other wheelings and dealings from local government.

Mr FRED TUBBY: I accept that. In relation to building maintenance, many school buildings are in an appalling state of repair. Major upgrades have not been carried out. In previous years they were carried out on a seven to 10 year cycle, but during the last six years that cycle has been well and truly broken. Schools are now waiting 10 to 15 years for maintenance and even then they are not getting major upgrades. I was pleased to note the significant capital works increase to the education building program and I congratulate the Government on that action. However, on closer inspection it can be seen that the vast majority of this expenditure is allocated to new schools and school expansion. No significant amount will be spent on upgrading or doing what is commonly called R and R on the older schools.

Mr Troy: Even closer examination will indicate that that is not true. There is an increase of \$10 million over the last program.

Mr FRED TUBBY: If that is correct, I accept it and I congratulate the Government. However, it does not deny the fact that this area has been sadly neglected in the last five years. An examination of almost any of the older schools will indicate what I am talking about. I am sure there are such schools in the Minister's electorate; I have many in my electorate and I shall refer to a couple in a moment. I fully realise that areas such as these use huge resources; they do not hit the headlines and they are a mundane responsibility of Government. However, as I have said before, they are part of the reason that people pay taxes and they expect funds to be expended in these areas.

In this connection, I refer specifically to the Armadale Senior High School. Bits and pieces of money have been spent on the school over the last few years, but nothing of any significance. I ask any Minister of this Government to visit the Armadale Senior High School and see the appalling conditions that not only the staff, but also the students, have to put up with. I do not know how long it has been since the school has been completely repainted, because there are cracks all over the place. Some of the staff offices are absolutely appalling, even though they have been patched up and maintained. A couple of weeks ago day labour from the BMA made a tremendous effort to repair the roof of one of the office blocks. After the next shower of rain the people at that school were out placing buckets to catch the drips - after that maintenance work had been carried out.

The former Minister for Education, who also is the local member for Armadale, inspected the school early last year, and the staff at the school with a great deal of effort documented all the problems with regard to the buildings in that school. After the inspection the Minister was given a document highlighting everything wrong with the school buildings. Having received no response after a few months, the staff wrote to the Minister and asked what had happened. The Minister replied that he could not locate the document presented to him at the school, and a further document was sent to him. In the meantime a new Minister for Education was appointed. The new Minister went to the school in May or June of this year and she was appalled at the conditions. However, still nothing has been done. Although the Minister said that the dangerous conditions in the home economics block would be fixed as a matter of urgency, no money has been allocated in the Budget.

Mr Troy: How would you know that no money has been allocated under maintenance programs?

Mr FRED TUBBY: They are all listed.

Mr Troy: How could we list every maintenance program in the Budget? Be fair.

Mr FRED TUBBY: The home economics room is not a maintenance item, it will cost \$40 000 or \$50 000.

Mr Troy: You should go and have another look at the Budget, because projects costing up to \$100 000 may not necessarily be individually listed.

Mr FRED TUBBY: But others are.

Mr Troy: You have been in the teaching scene and you know about these projects.

Mr FRED TUBBY: Others are listed when they are costing only \$20 000.

Mr Troy: Some are but it depends on the category into which they fall.

Mr FRED TUBBY: Once again, I hope the Minister for Works and Services is correct and that the Armadale Senior High School will receive money to repair the home economics centre. It is in a dangerous condition and very shortly there will be a bad accident in that area. Somebody will be held responsible and liable, and at the end of the day it will be the Minister for Education. I hope that hidden somewhere in the Budget is an allocation to upgrade that dangerous situation. No major expenditure has been allocated to the school as a result of petitions to both the former and the present Minister for Education.

I compliment the Government on its intention to expend in the order of \$807 000 on the Kelmscott Senior High School. Once again, that is not before time. I do not know how many transportable buildings are on that site, but it is the largest senior high school in the State, population wise, and the conditions are appalling. It is gratifying to note that the Government has allocated money to this school. I also compliment the Government on its allocation of \$20 000 for planning for an additional high school in that area, in an effort to take the overload from Kelmscott Senior High School.

The third school I mention is the much neglected Oakford Primary School. It was great to see \$100 000 allocated in the Budget for something to be done at that school. I suggest that it would cost a lot more than \$100 000 to do what has to be done on that site. However, I hope that will be taken into account and that more money will be spent as required.

Finally, I will address the subject of law and order. After five years of persistent Opposition criticism the Government has finally decided to give attention to this area and I compliment it for having the initiative to take our policy for this on board. A lot of work went into that law and order policy, so I hope that the Minister appreciates how easily he got it.

Mr Taylor: I did not even look at it.

Mr FRED TUBBY: Go on. It was picked up holus bolus. Because of significant increases in crime the community has been crying out for years for improved law enforcement. However, it is not sufficient to merely increase the size of the Police Force because the whole judicial system needs a complete review. We must look at the penalties being imposed, the operations of the parole system and the situation that has developed whereby criminals appear to have all the rights and the victims receive scant regard or recompense for their suffering or loss.

Mr Taylor: Could I just make a point here? If you read our crime prevention strategy you will recognise that one of the five aspects of that strategy deals with that very matter, the rights of victims of a crime. We have had a working party working on this for over a year and it has reported to the Attorney General on that matter. It travelled throughout the State looking at that matter. We are setting up a charter of victims' rights to specially and directly address rights and responsibilities and access to counselling, and the rights that victims have. It is an important issue and one that cannot be ignored. I believe that, for too long, those who have committed offences have received more attention than those on the receiving end and we will address that matter.

Mr FRED TUBBY: That is great. Does the Minister mind if I now carry on with my speech? I accept that and think that it is tremendous because this has gone on for far too long. People must be given the right to protect themselves and their families without fear of being prosecuted. The member for Albany presented a petition to this House which was signed by in excess of 8 000 people and the member for Katanning-Roe has spoken at length on the same case. I refer, of course, to the injustices meted out to the Collard family of Albany in their endeavours to protect their property and to ensure the apprehension of criminals. I believe that most members have a copy of this letter, but with your indulgence, Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to put it on record, as follows -

On Saturday, 25 July 1987 three men broke into the Collard's garage, ransacked their car, a pot plant was thrown through the lounge room sliding door and the home entered while a fourth man waited outside in a car keeping watch.

Ray Collard was away from home, working on a contract and his wife Gwen was home with their five year old son. She awoke to the sound of breaking glass and crept downstairs to find the kitchen light on and two men standing there. The burglars did not see her and she quietly went upstairs again to her son's room hoping to phone the police on the bedroom phone - but realised if she did the downstairs set would also ring.

While she was considering what to do next, a man came upstairs with a lit torch and shone it on young Clint Collard, then into Gwen's bedroom while she hid out of sight. Statements later made to the Albany police were that this man told his companions that the house was occupied, which they would surely have known from the car they had just looted and from the light in young Clint's bedroom.

This did not deter them and, for about 20 minutes, they proceeded to plunder the downstairs area of the Collard's home. Then all three men came upstairs to Gwen's bedroom. She could hear them laughing and there was a strong smell of alcohol. She snatched up her son and fled over a neighbour's fence through bushland about 250 metres to raise the alarm.

When she returned much later, Gwen Collard estimated that about \$5 000 of goods had been stolen and the home had been trashed. Her underwear was strewn from the bedroom upstairs down to the patio and garage.

MONDAY 27 JULY, 1987

Evidence from car tracks and empty beer cans and footprints proved that more petrol had been stolen.

FURTHER EVIDENCE similar to the above was found again in the next six days.

FRIDAY 8TH AUGUST 1987

Three men returned and parked their car just outside the property to walk onto the property, to once again 'milk' the fuel store. Gwen Collard heard them and alerted her husband. Ray took his rabbit gun and told his wife to call the police the moment she heard three quick shots, an old bushmen's warning sign. This was a prudent course of action, Gwen might have been mistaken as - after the burglary of Saturday 25 July - she was suffering from severe anxiety.

Gwen heard the warning shots and immediately called the police in Albany. She heard the car rev up and make a fast getaway. A little later Ray returned to the house with one of the intruders and they waited until the police arrived.

THE OUTCOME OF THESE EVENTS

*McGUINNESS, David Brian, the 21 year old man caught stealing petrol went before the local magistrate and was fined \$400.

*RAMAGE, James Edward: GREEN Darren Michael: KANSE Noel: HIGHLY Vincent Paul: aged 21 to 25 years, were jointly charged with breaking and entering, stealing and attempted stealing.

RAMAGE and GREEN pleaded guilty and went before a judge to be placed on two and three years probation with some hours community service. They were also ordered to repay \$1 800 restitution but no date was set and the Department of Probations and Parole are unable to enforce repayment until the end of probation. December 1987.

It should be kept in mind that each of the accused men has an extensive police record which includes breaking and entry.

KANSE and HIGHLY pleaded not guilty and elected to go before judge and jury. The breaking and entry charge was dropped against Highly even though he drove the getaway car and kept watch while the others entered the Collards' home. He was charged with stealing and attempted stealing instead and received two years probation, 150 hours community service and a \$300 fine, on 3/3/88.

KANSE faced a charge of breaking and entry with intent, but the jury could not prove that he entered with intent but, as the judge said at the time, there was no doubt that Kanse was in the house at the time in question and contributed to the damage and terror caused to Gwen Collard and her son. On 3/3/88 Kanse was found guilty of stealing and received two years probation, 120 hours community service.

THE VICTIMS DO NOT GET A CHANCE TO TELL IN COURT HOW THIS TRAUMA HAS AFFECTED THEM.

But what happened to the man whose family and livelihood had been put at risk several times by this gang of thieves?

Ray Collard was charged with unlawful wounding of Ramage after a single pellet had been taken from Ramage's buttock 5mm. deep some three days after shots were fired on Ray's 9 acre property.

At no time, then or later, was it proven that the pellet taken from Ramage's backside ever came from Ray's rabbit gun or even if the calibres matched.

Confident of the justice of his case, Ray Collard elected to go for trial before a judge and jury. Then, five days before he was due to appear, his solicitor rang to say that the Crown would drop the unlawful wounding charge if Ray would plead guilty to assault

Uncertain of the legalities involved, Ray asked his solicitor's opinion. At first he was unwilling to advise anything. When pressed he said that he felt sure that Ray's

charge would be dropped under section 669 of the Criminal Code as Ray was a first offender. Ray's subsequent behaviour was based upon this opinion.

At no time was he advised that he could have changed his plea from guilty even though, over the weekend preceding the trial, he realised that he was wrong to take such a course of action.

As proof of Ray's good character, 6 well respected community members came to court to give evidence on his behalf, including 4 Justices of the Peace.

A hard working, loyal man was found guilty of defending his family and home after repeated provocations. Ray Collard was placed on a good behaviour bond of \$1 000 for 12 months and his previously clean 'record' taken away. Meanwhile, men with anything but clean records had their wrists slapped - as it were - and left the courtroom grinning at their mates outside.

There can be no question that a grave injustice was done in the name of legality.

The Ramage gang is still on the loose, more confident than ever that they can work the system to their advantage if they are caught again. We are in a society that neglects their victims whilst bending over backwards for those people who commit crimes.

And Gwen Collard still cannot sleep in her own house, a year after that half an hour of terror. Her post traumatic shock has meant that she and her husband are being forced to sell their business so that he can stay with her during the hours of darkness. Despite the \$15 000 worth of security screens and burglar alarms which have been installed on their house, she no longer feels safe where - surely? - she has every right to feel secure. The family home is to be sold with incalculable consequences to the youngster in the family.

The overall cost financially to the Collards, includes screens, alarms, loss of income, legal fees, stolen goods, is in excess of \$50 000.

The Ramage gang walked away grinning; the Collards the losers.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: To help the member, I have allowed this to go on, but it says in the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly precedents and rulings that reading from documents should be limited to a few lines; documents should be paraphrased. I know the document because I also received it, and I support what you are saying, but in fairness to Standing Orders it may be easier for the Hansard reporters if you incorporate that in your speech and it is all there so that we know what is in it and they will know what is in it, and we will then be keeping in line with the Standing Orders. How much further do you have to go with those quotes you are making?

Mr FRED TUBBY: It is too late; it is finished.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not asking you to joke, and I gave you more than a fair go, so I do not ask you to be smart with me and say it is too late; it is finished. You could have just said nicely, "That is the end of it. I thank you."

Mr FRED TUBBY: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The four young thugs involved in the case received nothing more than the feather duster treatment, whereas the Collard family was left with expenses in the order of \$50 000, a good behaviour bond of \$1 000 for 12 months, and a criminal record. Cases such as this are not uncommon these days, but this is of particular significance to me because Mrs Collard is my sister-in-law.

Our system seems to be geared heavily in favour of criminals. They are treated with kid gloves all the way down the line. How dare a victim try to protect himself or his property? Police officers have to be extremely careful in their handling of the accused to ensure that the case is not thrown out of court on some technicality or other. Courts are handing down ridiculously light sentences, and early parole is making a mockery out of any harsh sentences which are imposed. We must have an inquiry into the question of law and order, and the community must have a significant input. We must not allow ourselves to pay too much credence to experts in this area. We need a little commonsense, and the views of the community must be given full consideration. Our system of law and order is there to protect the community, and the community must have an input into the level of protection it requires and the level of retribution which should be meted out to those who seek to violate the

property and/or personal rights of its citizens. Not only must we have an inquiry into our system of law and order, but also we need to look at some of the reasons behind the rapid increase in crime. It is unfortunate that much of the blame must be sheeted home to the breakdown in the family unit, unemployment, and the general disrespect for all forms of authority. I compliment the Government for picking up many of these areas, through either our party's family policy or our law and order policies. These measures are a step in the right direction; but we need to go a great deal further to try to restore acceptable standards of behaviour. Unless we as a community are prepared to discuss these issues with a degree of commonsense and make decisions as to what is acceptable behaviour, and then decide the level of punishment that should meted out to any people who step over that line of acceptability, we are going to be in big trouble.

I reiterate that this Budget has some excellent points in that it tries to address two major areas that have taken such a beating over the last five years, namely education and law enforcement. However, I am disappointed to see the continuation of WA Inc and its lack of accountability. The Government, due to its huge commitment in this area, has been unable to perform the hard work of government in the areas of road works and public building maintenance.

MR TRENORDEN (Avon) [10.25 pm]: The first issue I wish to raise concerns law and order, which has been a very hot issue in the community. The current debate on law and order is a potpourri of different attitudes and stances, with no one particular attitude or stance being taken. A lot of pressures for change are coming from reformists and people who believe there is no place in our community for gaols. There are corresponding arguments from people who believe there are too many people in gaol being penalised for minor offences like not being able to pay fines, traffic offences, and so forth. There is a general belief that the system is not working. Plenty of reformists have a quest for an open, benevolent, accepting community, but in the real world in 1988 and the modern industrial society, that sort of compassion is simply absent. The most unchangeable and rock solid structure of the current correctional policies is that they are creatures of the State; they are sponsored, financed, rationalised, staffed, and evaluated by State employed personnel. The notion that the very same interests and forces which destroyed the traditional community - that is, bureaucracy, professionalism, centralisation and rationalisation - can now be used to reverse the same process is just bizarre. In 1988 we need to decide whether gaols and the system are here to remove people from the community, to penalise them or reform them. To me there is little proof that the reform argument holds any water. I have done a lot of reading during the last few months, and later on in my address I will say that I have also been looking around a few institutions in our State. Gaols should be primarily for penal purposes, to provide facilities for people to improve themselves if they wish to do so. Penalties should be the first function of a gaol.

I was interested to come across in my reading a quote from an eminent person, saying that good intentions have a habit of going badly wrong. For example, in New Zealand in 1986 they decided there were too many people in gaol, particularly for offences at the bottom end of the scale, so they introduced community based sentences to reduce the number of persons in gaol. At the end of the year, they found that the figures had gone up by 16 per cent. Obviously their reforms produced a whole series of effects that had unattended consequences, and some of those were that if the options for magistrates are increased, it does not necessarily mean the magistrates will take the lower option - the community based order; they may gaol people anyhow, where under the old system they may have ended up imposing a fine. They also found that the number of people gaoled for offences of violence had risen from 13.37 per cent of the gaoled community to 13.77 per cent. If the system were working and they were removing people who were on the bottom end of the offending scale, those percentages should have moved very markedly apart, but they did not. So there is no panacea for the problem of crime and punishment. We need to decide what are the parameters, and work on those. It was interesting that in the reams of paper I have read I could not find any comments about the victims of crime, who do not seem to be -

Mr Taylor: You obviously did not read the Government's crime prevention strategy.

Mr TRENORDEN: I did not say they were Western Australian publications. They were mainly English, American, French and New Zealand publications.

Mr Taylor: There is a whole section about them in the Western Australian Government section.

Mr TRENORDEN: I accept that, but one should not look only at this community; one should look at what is happening elsewhere. I did a lot of reading on what is happening in Europe, North America and New Zealand. I am not criticising what is happening here.

To get down to a more local issue, in 1987 the Victorian Commissioner of Police, Mr Miller, stated that his Police Force was losing the battle against crime and that one in four Victorians were likely to become victims of serious crimes before the end of the decade. He said there was a general perception that organised society had lost control. From 1974 to 1984 major crime rates in Australia doubled. In 1982 the Australian burglary rate passed the United States burglary rate. Crime had become the single greatest civil liberty violation in Australia.

When we look at the causes, the rising levels of crime cannot be associated with natural population increases. During the 1950s Australia was affluent. It was a socially cohesive society with low rates of crime, divorce, family breakdown, juvenile delinquency, drug abuse and unemployment. The traditional family unit was supported by Governments, and authority included parental authority, which was respected. The education system reinforced those values. All these factors which contributed to the stability of the 1950s have been lost in the 1980s. It is obvious that the control mechanisms which have been lost are those of deterrents such as the criminal law and the Police Force. Other mechanisms were equally important in controlling anti social behaviour. Some of the more important control mechanisms included a widely accepted cohesive code of values - something that has been lost in the current system. The education system is not coping at all. Support of individuals by private persons, families and neighbours is breaking down, and there is, of course, the unemployment problem.

When we look at those people who offend, apart from a few mentally abnormal people, most criminals are capable of judging whether they are about to break the law, so deterrents have an important part to play in the scheme of things. The first deterrent needed is that those engaged in criminal behaviour must face a high risk of detention and apprehension. Secondly, those who commit crimes should be brought before the courts as speedily as possible - something that is not happening in Western Australia right now. When they get there they should be faced with the prospect of conviction. Finally, conviction should ensure that for a serious crime an offender is faced with the prospect of a severe punishment.

The question is, what can be done? An important crime strategy should not involve sectional interests such as lawyers, academics, civil libertarians and policemen. The main thrust for change should come from the public themselves, because it is the public right now who have decided that the current system does not work. It is interesting to look at countries as different as communist China and the USA: both have implemented very similar strategies, though they are about 10 years apart. Some years ago the Chinese decided to concentrate on the education system, teaching traditional values to their young school children, and that was successful. After a decade of research Americans are doing a very similar thing, introducing a coordinated plan throughout America to improve community self respect and national awareness programs to preprimary school children and up.

The demise of the strong family unit and the rising juvenile crime rates occurring at the same time are obviously no accident. Emphasis must be given to the support of families and also to education. It is estimated that approximately a third of the children entering primary school have some sort of emotional or other problem and are not able to cope with the system.

Formal working for unemployment benefits must be a high priority in battling against law and order. The police need to become more community orientated, and they must be seen to be walking the beat. Officers must stay in the community long enough to get to know the community and be involved in community related activities. In looking at this question of law and order I decided to visit Riverbank, Longmore, Canning Vale medium security prison, Canning Vale remand centre, East Perth Children's Court and Northam Children's Court.

Mr Hodge: A trip down memory lane!

Mr TRENORDEN: I saw the Minister's name on the wall somewhere; I cannot recall where.

They do paint them over from time to time. It was quite an interesting exercise, and I wish to bring to the notice of this Parliament the most disgraceful of them all, the East Perth Children's Court. It is an absolute disgrace. It was an old school, and it has been revamped as a court. The children standing before the court look straight over the top of the magistrate at a blackboard still on the wall. How can a building operate as a court when it is obviously a school? The system has not even bothered to remove many of the structures which make it obviously a school classroom operating as a children's court.

Mr Greig: It makes you want to take out a feather duster.

Mr TRENORDEN: I appreciate the remarks of the honourable member, but I was absolutely appalled at this court. I saw two magistrates working like Solomon; I could not believe that they were able to bring down such good sentences from the chaos in which they were operating.

Offenders arrive at the East Perth children's court about 9 am, and they are locked in a room until called to the court, which could be at any time up to late afternoon. They are brought from Longmore, where they are looked after by officers of the Department of Corrective Services. They are placed into the East Perth court straight into the arms of the police. That is a very serious mistake. It must be remembered that the kids were caught by the police and placed in the detention centre. The corrective services people look after them. To bring them back into the hands of the police in the court is wrong, and it should not happen. There is obviously a conflict. The walls of the cell have been kicked in by violent kids. The metal has collapsed. The condition of the cell is deplorable, to say the least. The tension is incredible. The corrective services officers should have control of those kids from the time they go into the court, not the police. I am not in any way denigrating the activities of the police there; they were doing their level best. However, it is a confrontationist attitude to bring these kids into the arms of the police just before they go to court.

When the offenders go to the court they are marched through the waiting room. When I was there it was absolutely chock-a-bloc with people. People were standing because all the seats were taken. The police marched the kids through the waiting room to the court with a firm grip on their belts lifting the kids onto their toes so that they could not bolt through the door. I was appalled to see that as well. The system should be able to work better than that.

The legal aid and community services lawyers, the people operating the system, have to meet with the offenders, so I am told - I will have a little more to say about that in a moment - just before the case starts. Some of these kids have been in Longmore for several weeks. I do not count myself as a lawyer in any way, but it was obvious to me that some of this interaction between defence counsel and the offenders could have taken place at Longmore; it did not have to be done minutes before the court hearing in the detention or remand area of the court. I saw one defence counsel battle away before the magistrate. The prosecuting sergeant had a list of charges, and the defence lawyer had a list of charges, but those two lists did not agree. When the child was asked what he had been doing he could not remember the dates on which he committed the offences, and the offences covered some period of time; there were probably a dozen of them. There was great confusion between the prosecuting sergeant, the defence lawyer and the magistrate. As I have already said, the magistrate was doing a magnificent job sorting out the chaos from the bench, and this child offender was sitting bemused watching this whole process of chaos unfold before him.

One defence lawyer sat beside me after the case and said, "How can I be expected to represent these kids without the basic information?" He made the point, and I agreed with him, that he could not understand why he could not be given a folder with all the information on the offending child before the case. If that child was picked up overnight it would have to be done in the morning, but the system should be able to give him the information so that he understood what the child was up for and could defend the child in a reasonable manner. Of course, that information should correspond with what the prosecuting sergeant has. This mishmash caused an absolutely unbelievable confusion in the court.

A week or so later I went to the Northam Children's Court to watch that court in action, and it was like comparing chalk and cheese. Of course, far fewer children were going through the system. The numbers at the East Perth court were dramatic. I was there for three or four hours and I am not sure how many cases I saw but children were just wheeled through all day. There was a lot of pressure on the system. The difference between the courts at East

Perth and Northam is that Northam does not have that pressure of numbers. I was impressed with the Children's Court at Northam and the way in which the police, the Department for Community Services, the defence lawyer, and the magistrates interacted. I was absolutely amazed at the efforts of the magistrate. Her ability to create order out of chaos was remarkable.

Some of these kids have been in Longmore for some weeks and I cannot understand why they cannot be seen by the defence lawyer at Longmore. That must happen in some cases but in all the cases I saw the defence counsel was speaking to the kids at the time their case was heard. I saw one case where a child was already in the care of the Department for Community Services. That child sat and watched while the magistrate tried to sort out with the department and the defence counsel what the future of that child would be. It was absolutely amazing for me to see the magistrate urging the system to say what it would do with the child while the child was watching this farce go on. How can children have any respect for the system? That was the most compelling thing I saw while I was there - the cold, mechanical system with a total lack of respect for the court by the children. Most of the kids I saw go through the court had been there many times before.

I spoke to the member for Mt Lawley earlier today. He told me he looked at the system last week and I hope he has something to say about this issue a little later on. I would be interested to hear his perceptions, and I would be very surprised if they were very different from my own. I hope the member for Mt Lawley makes a comment on this issue because I would like to compare notes with him.

One thing that did impress me was the attitude of the police sergeant working in the court. He tried to maintain the order and the presence of the court. The only two people trying to do that were the magistrate and the police sergeant; the rest of it was really a production line - something like a Ford Motor Company production line that one sees in the films, which rolls out products all day and every day. The waiting room was full of people whose attitude gave me quite a shock.

I would have liked to say a number of other things about this issue but a few people have asked me not to mention certain things because it would affect their jobs and activities, so I will not say any more. However, I urge all members of this House to spend some time at the East Perth Children's Court. This has nothing to do with party politics; all members should make the effort to go and see it. I would be very surprised if members did not have the same opinion as my own. It is wrong that we have allowed such an important function in our community to fall into such an unbelievably bad state of repair in terms of the court itself, its operation, and the facilities available to it. I intend to go back there and talk to the people involved. I repeat that I was very impressed by the magistrates and their ability to create order out of chaos.

My impressions of Longmore and Riverbank are similar - both places are similar in their activities. I found the staff to be very dedicated but I received quite a shock at Longmore when I was shown the remand centre. It is a tiny cell of concrete and steel. That is the first place to which many kids go when they are caught and delivered to Longmore. They are locked up in that cell until they are processed by the system, and many of those kids never get into Longmore itself because they are bailed out shortly after being processed. That cell is an unbelievable structure. I am not sure that I am totally opposed to it. My first impressions of it were rather hard but perhaps it does have the benefit of showing those kids who never reoffend the hard face of being in prison as soon as they are caught. All they see is blue concrete and steel.

The facilities at Longmore are not adequate. The work facilities and especially the recreation facilities are abysmal. Young boys between the ages of 13 and 17 should have far more access to physical activity. The gyms are Spartan, to say the least. There is just enough room for a basketball court but no room for anyone to stand there and watch the basketball games. There is very little gym equipment. If we are to lock up boys of that age it is essential that they be allowed to burn off their energy in physical activities. There is virtually no grassed area at either Riverbank or Longmore in which kids can exercise. I am told by people who work in the system that we, the members in this Chamber, are so concerned about kids escaping that they do not have access to ovals or more spacious areas. At least Canning Vale Prison has a full football field within the walls of the prison.

Riverbank and Longmore do not have that sort of facility; yet it is important because these children are placed in this gaol and remain there under constant scrutiny, 24 hours a day. It does not matter who one is, one does need some space for oneself. At Canning Vale medium security prison the prisoners are allowed to go onto the oval and spend some time by themselves. They are within the confines of the gaol - within the walls of the system. The kids do not have that facility. They are watched and are under pressure all the time.

Another thing that struck me about Longmore and Riverbank was the very high percentage of country kids within their walls. Something like 50 per cent of the kids in those institutions are from the country.

Dr Watson: Aboriginal kids.

Mr TRENORDEN: Not all of them are Aboriginal kids. Many of them are, but many of them are country kids. The member is a country girl and should understand that. The reason is that in country communities kids just do not get away with offences. If a kid offends in the city his record is not public knowledge, but in the country the whole community knows a kid has committed a crime. If a car is stolen or a house is broken into, people know about it.

Mr Lewis: Put them in the stocks.

Mr TRENORDEN: The member should not laugh at that - a town in the south of England actually put kids in the stocks. I was there; it was on the front page of the local paper.

Mr Pearce: Did you throw rotten fruit at them?

Mr TRENORDEN: I did not see whether they had fruit thrown at them but they were put into the stocks. This happened in England in July 1987. I saw photos of it in the newspaper.

Mr Pearce: Do you approve of that?

Mr TRENORDEN: No. However I approve of dramatically opening the options available under the system.

Mr Pearce: Do you want the stocks to be introduced to Western Australia?

Dr Watson: No, he is speaking like a good Labor man.

Mr TRENORDEN: The member for Canning can come and sit over here and I will go and sit in her place. I am not in favour of the stocks being introduced, but I am in favour of offenders - not necessarily children - doing their penance in full view of the public. That is what the use of the stocks was about.

Mr Pearce: What about tattooing the name of the offence across their foreheads?

Mr TRENORDEN: The Minister wanted to put ID numbers across people's foreheads a year ago, so we will not discuss that.

Mr Pearce: You tell us about the stocks but you are not in favour of them. You want people to be able to identify them but you don't want their offences to be tattooed across their foreheads.

Mr TRENORDEN: I want people to be seen to be doing their penance, particularly at the bottom end of the scale. That is what the community wants. If the Minister does not think that, he is way off beam.

Mr Pearce: Just tell me what you want.

Mr TRENORDEN: What I want does not matter; it is what the community wants.

Mr Pearce interjected.

Mr TRENORDEN: If the Minister had listened earlier, he would have heard what I am in favour of. I am in favour of emphasising the family, more education and the community being involved in the lower order of offences - community work orders and that sort of situation.

Mr Pearce: We are doing those sorts of things.

Mr TRENORDEN: No, the Government is not doing those sorts of things; the Government has been talking about them.

Mr Pearce: We are doing them.

Mr TRENORDEN: That is a load of rubbish. I support what the Government said it was going to do and I will be interested to see what happens. The facts are that the Government will not have a chance to do those things, because the coalition will be in Government and it will do them.

Such a large number of country children - around 50 per cent - are there because they are so visible in the community. When they reoffend they go before the same magistrate; their actions are much more visible to the system than those of city children. If a city child keeps reoffending, he may be in different jurisdictions in respect of courts. He may reoffend four or five times and never see the same magistrate twice. However, in the country children come before the same magistrate. The system is much harder on country children than it is on city children. That is not a damnation; it is an observation of the situation, which I think is very important. Members should look at the system closely. I found it a real eye opener. It was not my intention to have a go at the Government tonight but we have not paid enough attention to that end of the scale. I am not talking about being easy on these kids but on having a system which works, and which is credible and for which the kids have some respect. At the moment those things are lacking. We need to get to these children earlier before the 13 per cent of which the Minister spoke reoffend. In my community a committee, which I am happy to say I am a member of, has been formed; it is composed of some very responsible people who are looking at ways to get to those children while they are at risk, and before they get to the offending stage. I congratulate the Government and the Minister for the money allocated to that area for the Northam Outreach. I am absolutely in favour of that; it is one area where the Government has acted and it has my full support.

Mr Pearce: What about the stocks?

Mr TRENORDEN: It is the Minister who is talking about stocks. If the Minister wants to put children in stocks, he can do so. However, more is required because we need to get to the children who are starting to offend; when they do offend, we cannot let them get back into their old environments. I kept hearing that same old story, even in Canning Vale where they are talking about the adults. The problem is that once they are in the system, even though they may be slightly changed, once they go back out to their old haunts and hunting grounds, they revert to what they did before. We need to exercise more imagination in dealing with the children who are at risk - they should occupy their time, perhaps work for the dole. We also need to look at getting them into a decent type of situation. The Northern Territory, New South Wales and other States are sending them out onto farms and getting them involved in physical activity, to give them leadership, self development and those sorts of qualities. That is very expensive because it involves groups of six to eight children; it has high capital costs and high supervisory costs, but it is nowhere near as expensive to the community as the cost of crime.

Mr Pearce: Stocks would be cheaper.

Mr TRENORDEN: The Minister can introduce them if he wishes. That is fair enough.

I wish to refer now to the Quin report and the racing industry. It is absolutely essential that the full conditions of the Quin report are met immediately. In particular, the racing industry development association should be established, but it should also have steward control. The Western Australian Turf Club has failed abysmally to provide direction, leadership and development of the Western Australian racing industry. The club should not continue with that part of its charter. The club runs two race tracks in this State, having sovereign control of the industry; I do not object to that, but I do object to allowing it to have control of the development and planning of the industry, which it has never successfully done although it has been there for many years. The main point of the Quin report is that even though the Government has reduced the one per cent turnover tax - which I applaud - it is still the most overtaxed racing industry in Australia. That rate must come down by half a per cent. The full implementation of the Quin report would bring it down by that percentage. The provincial racing clubs are in the most trouble; they earn 36 per cent of the State's part of the TAB turnover and in return they receive only 14 per cent. There is an argument in the community about the ratio between racing and trotting - 60:40, 70:30 - and I am amazed that the same argument is not applied to racing in metropolitan and TAB provincial racing, because the argument is just the same. They are not receiving anywhere near the percentage of reward for the effort they have put into the system. That should be guaranteed. I can tell

the Government, without any question in my mind or heart, that if the Turf Club is given the ability to continue, it will never receive it. It is not in the interests of the Turf Club to do that.

Mr Pearce: Perhaps you could put the committee in the stocks.

Mr TRENORDEN: The Minister is very keen on the stocks. In fact, with his narrow neck and big head, he would look good in the stocks. With his glasses stained by rotten tomatoes, he would be a really good candidate for the stocks.

Mr Donovan: That was unkind.

Mr TRENORDEN: Yes, it was a bit unkind, but when one looks at the situation the Minister probably would be a good target in the stocks. It could be interesting - perhaps the Minister and I could go to the Royal Show side by side to see who has the most fruit thrown at him.

The percentage break up between trotting and racing should be the province of the racing industry development association. It should not be argued by politicians trying to score points. In Tasmania the percentage that goes to racing, trotting and dogs is decided by a RIDA-type committee and each year that committee makes its decision; the industry itself works out that percentage. That is the way it ought to be here too. We should not have the situation that because there is an election coming up in the next few months, all members are under pressure from different groups saying there should be different percentages for their own interests. If we had RIDA in this situation, it would make the decision, and the decision would be there just as it is in Tasmania. The system works in that State; trotting, racing and greyhounds argue their cases before an industry group and come to a reasonable conclusion. The racing public is absolutely convinced that the industry is corrupt, both in racing and trotting, and there will not be any change in that perception.

Mr Cunningham interjected.

Mr TRENORDEN: Of course they do. I have just said they do; I support it too.

Mr Cunningham: Why is it corrupt?

Mr TRENORDEN: The Quin report?

Mr Cunningham: No, the racing industry.

Mr TRENORDEN: There is a perception that the racing industry is corrupt. The greyhound industry has the same reputation. I listened to a couple of people a few days ago talking about the greyhound industry, and their perception was that it was corrupt. They were just a couple of people at a football match, discussing the issue over a beer.

Mr Cunningham: You would ban them all.

Mr TRENORDEN: Which school did the member come from? The member is absolutely amazing. The point is that the public is convinced that the system is not working and is corrupt. Anyone who argues against that has his head in the sand. For the public to come back to the TAB they need to feel that they have a fair chance of the horse, dog or trotter running fairly. No matter how clean the system is, if people believe it is corrupt they will not back the system. The Quin report should be implemented in full to gain the confidence of the public. The racing industry does not belong to the big horse owners, the trotter owners, or the jockeys; it belongs to the public of Western Australia.

Mr Troy: What is your opinion? Is the industry corrupt?

Mr TRENORDEN: The perception is that it is corrupt.

Mr Troy: But what is your opinion?

Mr TRENORDEN: The absolute perception is that it is corrupt.

Mr Pearce: What is the truth behind the perception?

Mr TRENORDEN: If a person believes one brand of margarine is better than another, he will buy the better brand. The public will not buy because it believes that the system is not clean.

Mr Pearce: If it is actually corrupt, the answer is to clean up the corruption. If the perception is that it is corrupt, we should alter the perception.

Mr TRENORDEN: That is what I say. By implementing the Quin report we will alter the perception and allow change.

Mr Pearce: We have implemented the Quin report; what is your complaint?

Mr TRENORDEN: You have not. A large part of the Quin report is still sitting waiting for a committee to consider whether to implement it.

Mr Pearce: We have addressed the hard issues in this area.

Mr TRENORDEN: That is a joke. The Government has talked about soft and hard issues and then dropped it like a hot potato.

Mr Pearce: Nonsense.

Mr TRENORDEN: It is true; the Minister can accept it or not.

Mr Pearce: A fair perception around this House is that you are talking nonsense.

Mr TRENORDEN: I am sure that is the perception on that side of the House because the Government has its head in the sand. Racing belongs to the public and the people have the right to believe that if they become involved in the racing industry they should have a fair chance of a return, that the trots are not rigged, and that horses are not drugged. How many drug scandals have we had in the last 12 months?

Mr Pearce: Are you blaming that on the Government?

Mr TRENORDEN: Why blame it on the Government? I say that the Quin report should be implemented in full.

Another issue of concern to my electorate is the sodium cyanide moving through it, much to the dislike of the residents. The prime reason for the sodium cyanide moving through the area is because we are outnumbered 400 to one in population between the city and the country.

Mr Pearce: That has nothing to do with it.

Mr TRENORDEN: The Environmental Protection Authority told us.

Mr Pearce: If it is moving through that area, it is by rail which is the safest way.

Mr TRENORDEN: It can go to Pinjarra by rail without problems; up through Dwellingup to Boddington - a route three times shorter than that proposed. We have been told by the EPA that the reason for that route not being taken is that we are outnumbered 400 to one.

Mr Taylor: What about going through Kalgoorlie?

Mr TRENORDEN: I am not talking about Kalgoorlie, I am talking about Boddington. It could go through Northam to Kalgoorlie without any argument from the Northam people because they understand why this has to happen. People do not understand why it travels three times as far to Boddington, through Northam and Narrogin, rather than going straight through Dwellingup.

I am prepared to give the EPA time. We have met with Barry Carbon; 11 councils have met with him and he has agreed to not make a decision on this issue until February or March. I am prepared to allow time for consultation between the EPA, CSBP & Farmers Ltd and the councils.

Mr Pearce: That is very generous.

Mr TRENORDEN: What I am about to say is not so generous. The Government has allowed the cyanide plant to be built in the middle of Cockburn with a wall around it so that it cannot be moved. If cyanide is such a terrible product that it has to be moved away from the metropolitan area to Cockburn, whichever way it goes it will travel through substantially populated areas. It is absolutely ludicrous to keep putting these sorts of plants - the petrochemical plant is another - in the heart of Cockburn. The residents of that area are up in arms, and it is absolute stupidity to have a dangerous plant such as this in the heart of Cockburn.

Mr Pearce: Would you like to put the EPA in the stocks.

Mr TRENORDEN: I am at odds with the EPA without question but I will not talk about that at the moment. I am prepared to give the EPA a few months to consult with councils and to

come up with an answer. Plants such as this, and the wonderful technology park being placed in Cockburn, represent the deplorable planning for the future by this Government. Two people have looked into putting a small industry in my electorate but are now looking at Cockburn because of the location of the technology park. The people of the area are up in arms about that also.

I am amazed that the unions have so much pull with the Government that it ignores commonsense in its approach to these industries. Noxious industries should not be placed in the heart of the metropolitan area. Sodium cyanide plants should not be placed in the heart of the metropolitan area. The proposed petrochemical plant should be placed in Karratha. The Minister has stated that excellent reasons exist for the plant being located in the metropolitan area. I am not aware of those reasons and until I am aware I will argue that as salt and gas come from the Pilbara, why cannot this plant also be placed in the Pilbara. This would be a great boost to Karratha or any area up there. Indeed, it would probably be welcomed; it is certainly not welcomed by the residents of Fremantle, Cockburn or Kwinana.

I will allow the Minister time to talk about his stocks. I have been very impressed by his comments on the stocks.

Mr Pearce: Perhaps you could introduce jesters into the National Party; you have a very Elizabethan sense of what is right and wrong.

Mr TRENORDEN: The Minister is the one who is talking about stocks. He knows all about them; I will see him later about the details so that I can go back to my electorate a full bottle on stocks.

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

House adjourned at 11.09 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS - AGRICULTURAL SHOWS

Departmental Policy

967. Mr CRANE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is she aware that her decision to refuse to grant a school holiday to coincide with the holding of the local agricultural shows will severely affect the attendance at these shows?
- (2) Is she aware this decision is contrary to that of her colleague the Minister for Agriculture who in a letter to the Moora Shire Council stated he believed the local agricultural shows were an important interaction between townspeople and farming people?
- (3) Is she further aware that the local agricultural show is one of the most important events on the calendar of the rural community, and needs the support of country schools?
- (4) In view of the above will she urgently reverse the departmental policy, and so allow school holidays in rural areas where requested, to enable family participation?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1) Under the Education Act regulations, permission to grant a school holiday is vested in the Chief Executive Officer. He has advised me that permission has been given to schools to take organised groups to shows or to release children to their parents to attend shows. This arrangement is likely to increase attendance rather than decrease it since children whose parents are not able to go will have the opportunity to attend.
- (2) In view of the above there is no contradiction.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) No, in view of (1) above.

COMMUNITY SERVICES, DEPARTMENT FOR - ALTERNATIVES TO
MOTHERCRAFT NURSE TRAINING*Report*

1015. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Services:

- (1) What is the current status of the report on Alternatives to Mothercraft Nurse Training?
- (2) What decisions, if any, have been made by the Government as a consequence of that report?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) Responses sought from organisations which may be affected by the report are currently being considered.
- (2) The matter is still under consideration.

LAND ACQUISITION

Metropolitan Area - Canning Vale

1024. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) How many of the 40 000 to 50 000 potential new housing lots in the metropolitan area, referred to by him in his statement of 9 June, have been brought onto the market since that date?
- (2) When does he expect the land referred to in that statement, situated in Canning Vale, to be available for public purchase?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) The figure quoted in my statement of 9 June this year represents the views of a joint Urban Development Institute of Australia (WA Division) and State

Planning Commission working group in relation to residential land availability in the Perth metropolitan region over a two to four year time frame.

The State Planning Commission has advised that the preliminary subdivision statistics for July and August in the Perth metropolitan region indicate that approximately 2 300 residential lots have been created in the two month period, reflecting a projected annual rate of 14 000 - which is a 50 per cent increase over the 1987-88 figure of 9 226.

- (2) Subject to the necessary statutory approvals, it is expected that land in the Canning Vale locality will be available for purchase within the next two years.

SHEEP EXPORTS - FREMANTLE PORT

Live Sheep Trade - Government Policy

1053. Mr MACKINNON to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What action has been taken to deal with the problems putting at risk the export of live sheep from Fremantle Port?
- (2) Is it correct that charges at Fremantle Port were deliberately set high to encourage use of other ports in the live sheep trade?
- (3) Is it Government policy that live sheep should not be exported from Fremantle?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Recent discussions have been held with the major live sheep exporters in relation to operations and costs at Fremantle and the discussions will be continued.
- (2) The charges at the Fremantle Port have been calculated on a commercial basis and the cost differential between the Fremantle Port and the regional ports for the live sheep trade could encourage decentralisation. It should be noted that the charges have not changed in real terms for several years.
- (3) No.

STATE PRINTING DIVISION - TENDERS

New Equipment

1087. Mr HASSELL to the Minister for Works and Services:

- (1) Have tenders been called for the acquisition of new equipment by the State Government printer?
- (2) If so, when do such tenders close?
- (3) What equipment is being sought?
- (4) What work -
 - (a) will the equipment have capacity to do; and
 - (b) has the State printer a present commitment or obligation to do?
- (5) What is the approximate total cost of the equipment - having regard to outcome of tendering?
- (6) Do these proposed purchases increase the overall capacity of the State printer works?
- (7) What equipment, with what capacity, is being discontinued?
- (8) Is that equipment -
 - (a) sold;
 - (b) to be sold, if so, how; or
 - (c) still in use?

- (9) What have been the operating profits/losses of the printer in recent years - five years?
- (10) What action has been taken on the plan for the works put forward by the Government's Functional Review Committee?
- (11) What is the commercial basis of the decision to acquire new equipment at this time?
- (12) Has the Government made an assessment of overall printing capacity in the State?
- (13) If so, what assessment, and what conclusion was reached?
- (14) Has objection or protest been made by the private sector printers?
- (15) What response has the Government given to any such protest?
- (16) Does the State Government print works pay -
 - (a) sales tax;
 - (b) payroll tax;
 - (c) income tax;
 - (d) a levy in lieu of income tax to the State Government;
 - (e) stamp duties;
 - (f) FID tax;
 - (g) BAD tax; or
 - (h) fringe benefits tax?
- (17) Does the Government regard the printer as a commercial operation?
- (18) What plans does the Government have to commercialise the State Government printing operation?

Mr TROY replied:

(1) Yes.

(2)-(3)

The equipment being purchased and the closing date of each tender is as follows -

Desk top publishing system - 1 September
 Graphics terminal - 18 August
 Laser printer 600 DPI - 1 September
 Laser typesetter - 8 September
 ICR scanner - 18 August
 Text typesetting system - 18 August
 Small press - 18 August
 A1 perfecter - 18 August
 Stacker/Bundler for Solna Web - 18 August
 Forms collect machine - 18 August
 Hopper feed small offset press - 1 September
 A3 small offset press - 18 August.

- (4) (a) Printing and related activities; and
 (b) The State Printing Division has the responsibility to meet the printing requirements of Parliament and Government agencies.
- (5) \$4.482 million has been allocated in the capital works program for State Print for 1988-89.
- (6) No.
- (7)-(8) The following equipment has been disposed of -

Strapping machine
 Web offset press
 Stacker/bundler
 Ink pump
 Reel handling system
 Automatic ink level controls
 Refrigerated water circulating device
 Web severing device
 Strapping machines (2)
 Spare parts - Uniman
 Harris binding machine
 Harris gatherer
 Stretch wrapper, pallet - sidewinder 2
 Harris 3 - knife trimmer and conveyor
 Harris stacker
 Shrink wrapper
 Harris glue pot, premelt
 Wohlenberg 3 - knife trimmer and conveyor
 Bulk adhesive melter applicator

Other surplus items with an estimated value of approximately \$300 000 will be disposed of shortly through the State Tender Board.

(9)	Expenditure	Revenue	Surplus (Deficiency)
1983-84	\$19 219 437	\$20 005 621	\$786 184
1984-85	\$20 384 012	\$20 541 647	\$157 635
1985-86	\$23 577 094	\$23 166 288	(\$410 806)
1986-87	\$19 098 132	\$19 826 419	\$728 287
1987-88	\$19 582 719	\$20 030 950	\$448 231

The figures provided reflect actual cash payments and receipts extracted from the Consolidated Revenue Fund printed estimates for the respective years 1983-84 to 1987-88.

Prior to 1988-89, the accounting system was only geared towards cash basis accounting. From 1988-89, the operations of the State Printing Division will be reporting on an accrual basis incorporating all commercial costs.

- (10) The Functional Review Committee is part of the internal process of advice to Government and information concerning specific reviews and actions thereon remains confidential.
- (11) The decision to acquire new equipment is in accordance with a broad strategy plan for the division designed to provide a more competitive, effective and efficient service oriented facility to Government.
- (12) No. The changes in the division are designed to maintain its traditional role in the industry and not affect the overall printing capacity in this State.
- (13) Answered by (12).
- (14) Yes.
- (15) I have met a deputation and undertaken to check that the volume of work flowing to the private sector has not reduced. This has now been confirmed.
- (16) (a) No;
 (b) yes;
 (c) no;
 (d) no, but further consideration is to be given when a break even point is exceeded;

(e) no; and

(f)-(h)

yes.

(17)-(18)

Answered by (11).

MAIN ROADS DEPARTMENT - GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

Tenders - Competitive Prices

1101. Mr GREIG to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Further to question 965 of 1988 and the answer provided on 24 August, is he aware that -
 - (a) this large roadworks contract will almost certainly be awarded to the company Spraypave as the only complying tenderer; and
 - (b) that because the contract called for a large number of bitumen spreaders, in excess of 10, and a large quantity of work over a short period, only one company in Western Australia could comply with those requirements?
- (2) What steps has the Department of Main Roads undertaken to ensure a competitive tender price?
- (3) Why did the department not consider breaking the project up into smaller segments to enable the other bitumen companies in Western Australia - Boral and Belfix - to tender, and thereby create a competitive tender for the project?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) (a) When tenders closed on 30 August three tenders had been received and these are currently being assessed. A preliminary examination of these tenders indicates that they conform to the stipulated conditions of tendering;
- (b) the contract specification does not nominate the use of any particular number of bitumen sprayers or aggregate spreaders. I understand it is likely that most experienced contractors would choose to use two bitumen sprayers and approximately six trucks for spreading the aggregate. There are several companies in Western Australia which could comply with these requirements.
- (2) The calling of tenders was advertised in *The West Australian* on 6 and 10 August 1988 and the *Government Gazette* on 12 August 1988. The submitted tender prices will be compared with departmental estimates and unit costs achieved on previous day labour and contract works.
- (3) A contract involving spraying approximately 3.5m litres of bitumen to be completed in a period of 14 weeks is not considered to be so large as to create a non competitive situation. Boral Road Surfaces and Bell Basic Industries Ltd have both submitted tenders as has Spraypave Pty Ltd.

WATER CHARGES

Non-Residential Sector - Committee Investigations

1117. Mr COURT to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) When has his working party which is investigating water rates and charges in the non residential sector met since August 1984?
- (2) What recommendations of this committee have been accepted by him during this period?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) Since August 1984 several meetings of the working party have been convened.

- (2) As the member would appreciate, this is a difficult matter and discussions on the findings of the working party are not yet complete.

WATER SUPPLY

Gibson

1118. Mr COURT to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) When will the Government be providing a proper water service to the farmlets at Gibson, near Esperance?
- (2) Have adequate underground supplies been proved in the area for the provision of a proper water supply?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) An extension of the existing Gibson town water supply scheme to serve neighbouring farmlets is not being considered at this stage as the best information available to the Water Authority indicates that the potable groundwater source in the area is very limited. Extension of supply to service farmlets may well prejudice the long term quality and safe yield of the source.
- (2) The authority has been unable to locate additional sources in the area that would allow an extension of supply to the farmlet group. In addition to a detailed exploratory drilling program which was carried out in 1984, the authority has consulted extensively with the Esperance Shire in an attempt to locate suitable alternative sources. None has been identified.

WATER CHARGES

User Pays System - Non-Residential Sector

1123. Mr COURT to the Minister for Water Resources:

What progress has the Government made towards phasing in a user pays system for the non residential sector in relation to water rates and charges?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

The Water Authority has investigated a range of options for phasing in a pay-for-service charge to progressively displace rates based solely on GRVs. There is also close consultation with major urban water authorities interstate which are addressing similar issues and objectives.

PYRTON CENTRE

Residents - Employment Level

1136. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does he intend to close Pyrton?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) Where will the residents be placed?
- (4) Are staff levels currently up to the required numbers?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.
- (4) The number of social trainers deployed at Pyrton has always been influenced by staff training programs, transfers to other units and many other factors. While the official establishment is satisfactory, the number of staff available for rosters at present is lower than it has been for some months. While peaks and troughs of available staff are unfortunately inevitable, efforts are being made to improve stability particularly by increased recruitment of pretrained staff.

HOSPITALS

Government Budgets - Federal Medicare

1137. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How much money will be allocated in the 1988-89 Budget to hospitals?
- (2) How much was allocated and actually spent in 1987-88?
- (3) What was the Commonwealth Medicare component for hospitals in 1987-88?
- (4) How much is included in 1988-89 Estimates for hospitals from the Commonwealth under the Medicare arrangement?

Mr WILSON replied:

- (1) \$669 423.
- (2) \$613 138.
- (3) \$91 726.
- (4) \$269 687.

POLICE - ASSAULTS ON POLICE

1141. Mr COWAN to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

How many police officers have been assaulted while on duty in each of the last three years?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

1985-86 378;
1986-87 545;
1987-88 595.

POLICE

Injured on Duty - Conditions of Employment

1142. Mr COWAN to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

In each of the last three years, how many police officers who have been injured while on duty have been -

- (a) given "light duties" only on either a short term or long term basis; or
- (b) placed on leave without full pay; or
- (c) required to leave the Police Force altogether?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

(a)-(b)

Nil;

(c) One - 1985; three - 1986; nil - 1987.

PROSTITUTION - CONTAINMENT POLICY

Health Checks

1145. Mr COWAN to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) Has any estimate been made of the number of prostitutes operating outside the containment policy?
- (2) Do the police have any involvement in ensuring that all prostitutes operating within the containment policy have regular health checks for venereal disease and AIDS?
- (3) If no, whose responsibility is it to ensure that the checks are carried out?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

- (1) It is estimated that there are about 200 women working as prostitutes outside the containment policy, most of whom are single operators and are not operating in breach of the Criminal Code or the Police Act.

- (2) No.
- (3) The Department of Health.

PROSTITUTION - AIDS
Western Australia

1146. Mr COWAN to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

Is there any evidence of the AIDS virus being transmitted by prostitutes in Western Australia?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

Since 1983, the Health Department has been notified of four cases of infection by HIV - the AIDS virus - in Western Australia, which have occurred in persons formerly engaged in female prostitution. Three of these had also been exposed to the use of illicit intravenous drugs. These patients have been appropriately counselled and managed, so as to prevent the transmission of the virus to other persons. From a total of 308 female prostitutes screened for HIV antibodies from January to July 1988, no positive test result was found.

VIDEO TAPES CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROL ACT
X Rated Videotapes

1147. Mr COWAN to the Minister for The Arts:

- (1) Are X rated videotapes still recognised as unclassified in Western Australia?
- (2) Since proclamation of the Video Tapes Classification and Control Act, how many persons or companies in Western Australia have been -
 - (a) charged; and
 - (b) convicted
 of selling, advertising or possessing X rated videotapes?

Mrs HENDERSON replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) This part of the question should be directed to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.

RAMPTON HOLDINGS PTY LTD - GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS
Bunbury Shopping Centre - Subcontractors' Fees

1149. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for The South West:

- (1) Is he aware that the company Rampton Holdings Pty Ltd, which was given a clean bill of health last October by the Government and the Minister when awarding Rampton Holdings Pty Ltd the contract to develop the new Bunbury shopping centre, now owes subcontractors hundreds of thousands of dollars?
- (2) Is he also aware that the Building Industry Specialist Contractors' Organisation Limited has expressed concern about the predicament that the subcontractors now find themselves in?
- (3) If so, what action has the Government taken in an endeavour to overcome this problem?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1) I am not aware of the amount owed by Rampton Holdings Pty Ltd to subcontractors.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The Government was not and is not in a position to take any action in regard to contractual arrangements between the developer and individual subcontractors. Nevertheless, assurances were sought and received that outstanding progress payment claims by subcontractors would be paid by the developer soon after certification by a quantity surveyor of work done.

BUS STATIONS - PLANNING
Bus-Rail Transfer Station - Cannington

1150. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Has a decision yet been made with respect to the location of the proposed bus-rail transfer station at Cannington?
- (2) If so, what will be the location?
- (3) When will work commence on this project?
- (4) Which community groups, or organisations, were consulted prior to this decision being made?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The transfer station was proposed to be located in Sevenoaks Street near the corner of Cecil Avenue, opposite the eastern end of the Carousel shopping centre. However, this is being reviewed following a public meeting in Cannington last night.
- (3) Construction work is expected to commence late October 1988.
- (4) The Cannington Senior High School, the affected Government organisations and City of Canning - representing the residents of the area - were consulted and kept informed by their attendance at planning meetings. A public meeting was also held on 12 September to explain all the ramifications of the transfer, and to hear the opinions of local people.

LAND USE - NORTH WILLETTON HIGH SCHOOL
Disposal

1151. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Government still considering disposing of the land which is designated for the North Willetton High School?
- (2) If so, when will this property be sold?
- (3) On what basis has the decision been made to dispose of this property?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1)-(2) The land which was previously designated for the proposed North Willetton High School site has been disposed to LandCorp.
- (3) No requirement for an additional high school in the Willetton area.

LIVESTOCK - LOADING AND UNLOADING
Resolution Pty Ltd Study - Volumetric Loading Principle of Optimum Density

1153. Mr CASH to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware of a study recently completed by the transport economics consultancy firm Resolution Pty Ltd on behalf of the Australian Meat and Livestock Research and Development Corporation in which it is suggested the Australian livestock industry could reap net savings of \$69 million a year by extending, on a national basis, the Queensland livestock loading system which has been operating in Queensland since 1983 and which is based on the volumetric loading principle of optimum density rather than the maximum axle loading system used by other States?
- (2) Does he support the volumetric loading principle of optimum density?
- (3) What action does he propose to ensure this method of livestock loading is made legal in Western Australia?

Mr PEARCE replied:

(1)-(3)

I am aware that a study has been recently completed but have not had the opportunity to examine the study's findings. Volumetric loading for WA was examined by the Department of Transport two years ago and a number of difficulties with the concept were identified. One of the key problems was that, in a large number of cases, volumetric loading would result in gross vehicle weights well in excess of the legal maximum, resulting in accelerated road and bridge damage. This problem would need to be addressed before consideration could be given to introduction of the concept.

I have recently requested that a working group comprising industry and Government representatives be convened to look at the whole question of livestock crate design and welfare loading practices. The issue of volumetric loading will be central to the group's work.

RAILWAY CROSSINGS - PEDESTRIAN AREAS

Pier Street

1154. Mr CASH to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Pier Street, Perth railway crossing been closed to pedestrians?
- (2) If yes, when did this occur and for what reasons?
- (3) When will the Pier Street crossing be reopened to pedestrians, and what provision has been made for alternative pedestrian traffic at or near this location?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The crossing was closed at 6.00 pm on 12 August 1988 for safety reasons associated with the changes to rail tracks for the rail electrification project.
- (3) The Pier Street pedestrian crossing will not reopen. Alternative pedestrian access has been provided at the Moore Street railway crossing.

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

Volunteers

1155. Mr GREIG to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

Is he aware of -

- (a) a significant drop in morale in the volunteer ranks of the State Emergency Services occasioned by inadequate accident insurance leaving the volunteers at a financial disadvantage where an accident on SES work causes them to lose time off their normal employment;
- (b) the decision to reduce training programs from Friday to Monday inclusive to weekdays only to save on overtime payments for full time staff, thus forcing the volunteers to contribute their own paid time off their normal employment;
- (c) increased demands for volunteer time to substitute usual police officer duties such as patrols for the Police Fun Run, the Bike Rodeo, and Police Week?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

- (a) No evidence to support the statement that there has been a drop in morale due to inadequate accident insurance has been obtained. SES volunteers are not financially disadvantaged through injuries on SES work unless their weekly salary is in excess of \$762, which is the weekly benefit available. To date no claims of this nature have been received;
- (b) during the last two years the majority of training courses have been conducted from Mondays to Fridays. Recently, for a trial period, courses were held so as

to include the weekend, in an attempt to increase student numbers. However, the trial was unsuccessful as numbers did not increase. It was then decided to conduct all future courses during weekdays; and

- (c) SES members involved in the activities listed do not carry out police officer duties. The SES personnel provide assistance to the organisers and freely give their time. Their main employment is as administrative or communications staff in support of the particular activity.

PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT - ENGLISH IN THE WORKPLACE

1156. Mr GREIG to the Minister for Labour:

In respect of the 17 August decision to provide State public sector employees with 100 hours per annum English in the Workplace lessons -

- (a) how much will this program cost the State Government and its instrumentalities each year;
- (b) is this entitlement to 100 hours per annum language classes conditional upon it being incorporated in the relevant industrial awards;
- (c) did the Government consult with and have the endorsement of private sector employer organisations before the decision was announced; and
- (d) what safeguards has the Government established to prevent the provision's flowing on to private sector awards?

Mr TROY replied:

- (a) Costs will be minimal. The Adult Migrant Education Service is delivering the teaching service and has gained specific funding from the Commonwealth for the project. Selection of individual course attendees will take cognisance of minimal disruption to normal work;
- (b) no;
- (c) the Confederation of Western Australian Industry was informed of progress in this matter;
- (d) the agreement does not apply to private sector awards and variation of these is a matter for the respondent parties and the industrial tribunals.

MILK - DAIRY INDUSTRY AUTHORITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA *Milk Marketing and Vending Report*

1157. Mr GREIG to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is he considering a report on milk marketing and vending by the Dairy Industry Authority?
- (2) When will he make the report and recommendation public?
- (3) When was the report submitted to him?
- (4) Is one of the recommendations of the report to deregulate the wholesale milk vendors operations?
- (5) Is he considering deregulating the wholesale milk vending system as it currently operates?

Mr GRILL replied:

(1)-(5)

The committee, which I established following industry representations to review regulations of the dairy industry, reported on 26 May 1988. Whilst supporting long established and orderly arrangements for milk marketing in Western Australia, the committee has proposed a number of changes to current regulations, including those controlling household and wholesale milk vendors. I am presently considering the report's implications and industry sectors have been advised that their comments will be sought before any action is taken. I expect to do this shortly.

ESTIMATES

*Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure 1987-88; 1988-89 - Part 15,
Division 76, Item 1*

1158. Mr GREIG to the Minister for Employment and Training:

In the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, Part 15, Division 76, Item 1 there appears: "Less Rebates - Contingencies ... \$3 221 000".

- (1) Will he advise and detail the components which make up the total of \$3 221 000?
- (2) Will he explain why this figure has risen from the 1987-88 year expenditure of \$434 258 to the 1988-89 estimate of \$3 221 000?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

- (1) The components that make up "Less Rebates - Contingencies ... \$3 221 000" are salaries funded from "Other Services" -

Item -

6 - Community Employment Program - Administration	\$448 000
7 - Employment Strategy Fund - Contribution to Trust Fund	<u>\$2 773 000</u>

Subtotal: Less Rebates - Contingencies \$3 221 000

- (2) This figure has arisen from \$434 258 for 1987-88 to \$3 221 000 for 1988-89 due to a change in reporting required under the Financial Administration and Audit Act. Salaries funded from item 7, Employment Strategy Fund, are now included in the total for the department's "Item 1 - Salaries" and are deducted as "Rebates" for the purposes of determining the department's Consolidated Revenue Fund salary expenditure estimates. In 1987-88, "Rebates" consisted only of salary payments made from Community Employment Program administration.

LAND ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF - AGRICULTURAL
LAND

Release - Beaumont Area

1168. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Has the Department of Land Administration any plans to release further land for "conditional purchase" for farming in the Beaumont area, north east of Esperance?
- (2) If yes to (1), when will the land be opened up for application for selection, and how many lots would be available for lease?

Mrs HENDERSON replied:

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

ROAD MAINTENANCE WORKS

Parmango Road Link - Government Checkpoint

1169. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) With work proceeding to upgrade the Parmango Road link from Esperance to Balladonia, are there plans to move the Government checkpoint, including the agricultural inspectorate, from Norseman to Balladonia or further east?
- (2) If yes, when is the move to take place and where will the checkpoint be established?

Mr GRILL replied:

(1)-(2)

No. However, I am advised that moving the Norseman Checkpoint to Balladonia or further east would not reduce the overall risk of importing unwanted weeds or diseases into Western Australia very much, if at all. The priority of the Department of Agriculture and the Agriculture Protection Board has been to establish a permanent, 24 hour checkpoint east of Kununurra, for which funds have been provided in the current Budget. Once that is in place, further attention can be given to the south of the State.

LAND ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF - AGRICULTURAL LAND

Release - Beaumont Area

1170. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Has the Department of Land Administration any plans to release further land for "conditional purchase" for farming in the Beaumont area, north east of Esperance?
- (2) If yes, when will the land be opened up for application for selection, and how many lots would be available for lease?

Mrs HENDERSON replied:

(1)-(2)

See answer to question 1168.

EMERGENCY SERVICES - RURAL AREAS

Chemical Spills - Facilities

1171. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

What facilities do emergency service groups have in country areas to handle chemical spills?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

The WA Fire Brigades Board has the role as combat authority in these emergencies. Its operational facilities are the Light Tanker Hazchem/Rescue Trailers which are situated at 24 stations throughout the State, with 40 additional trailers to be issued in the near future.

All permanent stations have breathing apparatus, gas and splash suits. Volunteer stations have splash suits only. In addition, the brigade's breathing apparatus centre at Belmont has backup facilities in the form of a fly-away kit that includes breathing apparatus, gas suits and ancillary equipment.

The primary communication facility available to permanent brigades in country centres is the telephone and radio access (TARA) system. Volunteer brigades have the country communication system.

Both systems allow for the officer in charge to contact the brigade's operation centre at Perth for information that is obtained from the board's toxichem computer system in the combating and disposal of hazardous goods. There are 30 000-plus chemicals logged within the system. All permanent brigades are fitted with the TARA system, while seven volunteer brigades are fitted with a country communication system. Brigades without a country communication system can contact the Western Australian Fire Brigade operations centre through local police communications or telephone.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - RECRUITMENT

Teachers - New Zealand

1172. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Education Department this year advertised at any time for the recruitment of teachers in New Zealand?
- (2) If so, when was the recruitment drive made?

- (3) In which countries were the advertisements placed?
- (4) From which countries have staff now been recruited and in what numbers?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1) The Education Ministry has not advertised for teachers in New Zealand this year.
- (2) Refer (1) above.
- (3) Advertisements have not been placed in overseas countries.
- (4) Refer (3) above.

LAND USE - AIRPORTS

Working Group

1173. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Has the Government completed its consideration of the establishment of a working group to determine the most appropriate land uses adjacent to airports, as referred to in his letter to me of 2 June 1988?
- (2) If so, who are the members of that group?
- (3) When was the group appointed?
- (4) What are its terms of reference?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Yes, the State Planning Commission is currently establishing a working group to investigate land use planning adjacent to airports.
- (2) Representation is being invited from affected local government authorities, the Perth Airport municipalities group, Department of Transport, Environmental Protection Authority, Federal Airports Corporation and Civil Aviation Authority.
- (3) The group is currently being appointed.
- (4) Draft terms of reference are currently being prepared.

TONKIN, MR A. - WATER AUTHORITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Involvement

1176. Mr COURT to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Is the former Minister for Water Resources, Mr Arthur Tonkin, currently involved on any committees related to the operations of the Western Australian Water Authority?
- (2) If yes, what are these committees?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

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

DAIRY INDUSTRY

Deregulation Report

1178. Mr COURT to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) When will the Government report examining the deregulation of the dairy industry be completed?
- (2) Will the Government be making the findings of this report public?
- (3) Will the Government be making changes to the milk distribution system throughout the State?

Mr GRILL replied:

- (1)-(3)
See reply to question 1157.

**LOGGING - CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT,
DEPARTMENT OF**

Environmental Protection Authority - Directors' Recommendations

1179. Mr CASH to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) Is it fact that he has received conflicting recommendations from the Executive Director of Conservation and Land Management and the Director of the Environmental Protection Authority on the extent of logging which can be allowed to continue in Western Australian forests, that will sustain the yield of these forests?
- (2) If yes or no, what were the recommendations from the -
 - (a) Executive Director of CALM; and
 - (b) Director of the EPA?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) (a) The Executive Director's recommendations are as set out in the department's published timber strategy; and
 - (b) the EPA recognised the level of supply set out in the timber strategy in its report on the WA Chip and Pulp Company ERMP.

WYNDHAM PORT - WATERSIDE WORKERS

Government Policy - Employment Level

1180. Mr CASH to the Minister for Transport:

In view of previous Government policy to review the shoreside labour numbers at the Port of Wyndham, what action is being taken to reduce the number of shoreside workers to ensure that the port of Wyndham operates at a more economically efficient level?

Mr PEARCE replied:

The Department of Marine and Harbours in conjunction with the Association of Employers of Waterside Labour and Waterside Workers Federation is engaged in an ongoing review of work practices and manning requirements at the port.

The registered strength of waterside workers which serve both shipboard and shore requirements has been reduced progressively from 33 in 1985 to 28 in December 1986, 27 in December 1987, and 24 at the end of August 1988.

Agreement has been reached for the port quota of waterside workers to be further reduced to 20 and action is proceeding to achieve this reduction through retirements from the industry and transfers to other ports where vacancies exist.

SEX SHOPS - STIRLING, CITY OF

State Planning Commission - District Planning Scheme Amendment No 41

1181. Mr CASH to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Did the City of Stirling make a submission to the State Planning Commission in early March 1988 by way of district planning scheme amendment No 42 to amend the district planning scheme to enable the council to control the location of sex shops within the City of Stirling?
- (2) If yes, has the department or Minister considered the amendment and, if so, when was it considered?
- (3) Is it intended to grant approval to district planning scheme amendment No 41?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) Formal consideration is yet to be given.
- (3) This will be determined upon formal consideration.
- (4) Not applicable.

STATESHIPS - STATE GOVERNMENT BUDGETS

Administration Expenses - Miscellaneous Expenses

1182. Mr CASH to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will he provide details of the increase in administration expenses for the Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission during the current financial year, as shown in the 1988-89 Budget papers?
- (2) With reference to the Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission, as set out in the 1988-89 Budget papers, will he provide details of the contingency item "Miscellaneous Expenses" for the following periods -
 - (a) 1984-85 \$648 234;
 - (b) 1985-86 \$478 234;
 - (c) 1986-87 \$423 442;
 - (d) 1987-88 \$385 386; and
 - (e) 1988-89 \$246 000 (estimate)?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) General administration - \$91 000 including \$40 000 Treasury escalation; payroll tax - \$119 000 including \$32 000 Treasury escalation; worker's compensation insurance - \$22 000; and superannuation - \$941 000 due to introduction new scheme.
- (2) The values shown represent the amortisation of preliminary, modification and commissioning expenses incurred in past years on the introduction of ships into service. A full explanation is given in the notes to the accounts published in the commission's annual reports.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT - LICENSED PREMISES

Cabaret Licensed Premises

1183. Mr CASH to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

Can persons under the age of 18 years be employed on premises -

- (a) granted a cabaret licence; or
- (b) on licensed premises?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

Yes, other than as a barman, barmaid, steward or stewardess.

STATESHIPS - JON SANDERS

Ports of Call - Ketapang, Pontianak, Surabaya

1184. Mr CASH to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Further to his answer to question 900 of 24 August 1988, on what dates did the *Jon Sanders* call at the ports of Ketapang and Pontianak, and what quantity and type of cargo was loaded?
- (2) When did the *Jon Sanders* call at the port of Surabaya during 1988 and what quantity and type of cargo was loaded?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Ketapang - 3 April 1988: Sawn timber and plywood, 745 tonnes; and Pontianak - 29 June 1988: Sawn timber, 672 tonnes.
- (2) Vessel has not called at Surabaya due to being fully booked.

ROAD FINANCE - NEWSPAPER ARTICLES
Federal Government Cuts - Death and Economic Loss Claims

1186. Mr CASH to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is he aware of a newspaper report in the news on Monday 30 May 1988 in which it is claimed that 7 000 people will die needlessly because of Federal Government cuts in road funding according to the Australian Road Transport Federation?
- (2) Is there any basis for this claim and further is there any basis for another claim in the article which suggests that the economy will lose \$7 billion by the end of the century because of extra costs imposed on transport by poor roads?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.

GEOGRAPHE BAY - COMMERCIAL FISHING
Government Policy

1188. Mr CASH to the Minister for Fisheries:

What is the current Government policy in respect of commercial fishing operations in Geographe Bay?

Mr GRILL replied:

The Government has always endeavoured to achieve a fair sharing of the available resource between different groups in the community for the benefit of the recreational fishermen, commercial fishermen and consumers. To this end, I have initiated the development of more fisheries management programs in the years since I have been Minister than in any previous Government. This planned approach, together with the creation of marine parks and the announcement of a Statewide recreational fishing strategy, will ensure fish stocks are sustained and shared fairly. This approach has also impacted upon fisheries within the Geographe Bay region. You would also note that I have established a community based fishing liaison committee for Geographe Bay and have encouraged the establishment of an artificial reef for recreational fishermen in the region.

Management plans impacting upon shark fishermen have been recently implemented and I expect shortly to be able to announce management arrangements for the south west trawl fishery which will include measures to protect the inshore macrophytes which are important in the maintenance of the fish stocks. It is Government policy to take into account the interests of recreational fishermen and the local community as factors in decisions taken to contain commercial fisheries exploitation.

MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY - STEERING WHEEL LOCKS
Legislation

1189. Mr CASH to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) When will the Government be introducing its much heralded legislation to require motorists to fit steering wheel locks to their motor vehicles?
- (2) What period of grace will be granted to enable owners of cars to fit the new compulsory devices?
- (3) Will the motorist be required to bear the total cost of the device and fitting charges or is it intended that the Government should offer some subsidy?
- (4) Which vehicles are to be covered by the legislation?
- (5) Does he believe there will be any difficulty in policing the new requirement?
- (6) What penalties will be applied to those motorists who fail to comply with the requirement to fit steering wheel locks?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

- (1) No such date has been set for legislation as described, nor has such legislation been drafted.
- (2)-(6) Not applicable.

ESPERANCE BUSHLAND CARAVAN PARK - ESPERANCE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
Land Acquisition

1190. Mr CASH to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) Has the Esperance Aboriginal Corporation purchased the Esperance Bushland Caravan Park?
- (2) If yes, when was it purchased and settled and what was the purchase price?
- (3) Did the State Government, through any of its departments or agencies, contribute any funds to the purchase of this property, and if so how much?
- (4) How many persons will be employed in the management and operation of this caravan park?
- (5) (a) Was independent advice sought prior to purchase on the value of the caravan park, and if so did the valuation correspond with the purchase price; and
(b) if not, why not?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1)-(5) I understand that the Esperance Aboriginal Corporation has purchased the Esperance Bushland Caravan Park through finance provided by the Aboriginal Development Commission. The State Government had no involvement in the purchase. Any questions should therefore be directed to the Aboriginal organisation concerned, or to the Commonwealth Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

BUSSELTON DRAINAGE DISTRICT
Rates Application - Legal Opinions

1191. Mr COWAN to the Minister for Water Resources:

What steps has he taken to ascertain which of the two legal opinions relating to the application of rates in the Busselton drainage district is correct?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

No action has been taken. I have accepted the advice provided by Crown Law.

TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION - EMPLOYMENT
Advertising - Public Service

1195. Mr CASH to the Minister assisting the Minister for Education with TAFE:

- (1) Has the department appointed any persons to positions with salaries in excess of \$25 000 per annum in the past 12 months without formally advertising such positions within the Public Service?
- (2) If yes, on what authority were these appointments made?
- (3) What were the names, positions and salaries applicable to these appointments?
- (4) Which of the persons referred to in (3) have since successfully applied for the same or a similar position on the permanent staff?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

- (1) No. However, a number of officers have been placed on temporary special allowances, higher duties allowances and contract appointments pending

completion of the restructuring of the Office of TAFE. When this matter is finalised with the Public Service Commission, all new and reclassified positions will be advertised and filled by competitive selection.

(2)-(4)

Not applicable.

PARKER, MS LIZ - TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION
Employment

1196. Mr CASH to the Minister assisting the Minister for Education with TAFE :

- (1) Is Ms Liz Parker employed in the TAFE staffing office?
- (2) Was the position advertised throughout the Public Service and other Government agencies and authorities?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) When was the appointment made and when did she commence work?
- (5) What is the salary for this position?
- (6) Is it a temporary or permanent position and, if temporary, what is the period of the employment agreement?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) Ms Parker is on secondment from the Office of Industrial Relations.
- (4) Ms Parker's secondment was effective from 4 August 1988.
- (5) \$60 797.
- (6) Ms Parker is acting in the position of Director, Human Resource Management and her secondment is for a period of six months or until such time as the position is advertised.

PARLIAMENT - WORD PROCESSORS
Updated Acts of Parliament - "On Screen"

1197. Mr CASH to the Speaker:

- (1) With the Parliament's move into word processing is it intended that updated Acts of Parliament will be available "on screen" for members?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) When is this important facility likely to be available "on screen"?

The SPEAKER (Mr Barnett) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) See (1).
- (3) It is anticipated that a consolidated set of Western Australian Statutes and regulations will be available in electronic format in about 18 months' time. This essential first step has been made possible by a joint funding agreement between the Government and the Law Society of Western Australia.

Use of this electronic database within the parliamentary computer system will be dependent upon the availability of funds for the Parliamentary Library's proposal for data retrieval referred to in the answer to question 1198.

JOINT LIBRARY COMMITTEE - ESTIMATES
Information Retrieval System

1198. Mr CASH to the Speaker:

- (1) Did the Joint House Library Committee request funds to provide an information text retrieval system for the benefit of members and other users of the parliamentary library?

- (2) Has this request been supported and will the necessary funds be provided in the 1988-89 Budget and, if not, why not?
- (3) What is the cost of this information text retrieval system?

The SPEAKER (Mr Barnett) replied:

- (1)-(3)
Yes, the matter is still being pursued.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT

Principal Participants

182. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

With which principal participants in the proposed petrochemical plant at Kwinana are the Government and the Deputy Premier currently negotiating in Tokyo and Hong Kong?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

I made it quite clear that questions about the petrochemical plant should be directed to the Deputy Premier for the very good reason that he is involved in the day to day management of the group that is doing the necessary work, but I appreciate that he is not here today. I understand that there has been no change to the position that we have identified before; that is, the interest to be taken by the State Government has not yet been clearly identified and so the number and names of all the participants - if there are participants other than those already identified - have not yet been decided.

Mr MacKinnon: What does all that mean? With whom is the Deputy Premier discussing it in Tokyo?

Mr PETER DOWDING: Whatever is happening on a day to day basis is a matter for the Deputy Premier. In any event, as I made quite clear, there has been a full statement of the Government's intention to get into discussions and when the direction to be taken is clear a full and clear public statement will be made.

Mr MacKinnon: When will that be?

Mr PETER DOWDING: It was my understanding that the Deputy Premier had hoped that we would be in a position to make such a statement before the end of the month, but I have not had a recent report from him about whether that time frame is possible.

STONE, SENATOR JOHN

Standing

183. Mr THOMAS to the Premier:

- (1) Does the Premier have any information on the standing of the Federal Opposition spokesman on finance?
- (2) Is the Federal Liberal Party experiencing similar problems to those of the Western Australian Liberal Party?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1)-(2)
Now that we have heard the news that the Opposition spokesman on finance in the Federal arena has been given the roll, it is worth pointing out the similarity between the Opposition federally and the Opposition in this State. Already this week, the Leader of the Opposition has made it clear that he cannot control one of his backbenchers.

Mr Lewis: Are you whingeing again?

Mr PETER DOWDING: I am not whingeing at all.

Mr Hodge: You are not whingeing, you are gloating.

Mr PETER DOWDING: That is very true. It is very interesting to reflect on the conduct of this Parliament on the day on which we resume. It is not the Leader of the Opposition who has made the running, but the man whom he stabbed in the back. I have it on very good authority that the man he stabbed in the back still lusts after the Leader's chair. I can only say that Opposition leaders get rid of people who displease them or who try to usurp their positions. It may be interesting to see whether the State Leader of the Opposition lasts out this parliamentary session.

The SPEAKER: Order! I take the opportunity to suggest to members that when addressing their questions to Ministers they try to fit them to their portfolios.

EDWARDS, MR KEVIN

Employment

184. Mr COURT to the Premier:

Is Mr Kevin Edwards still on the board of the State Government Insurance Commission or has he resigned from all of his Government positions apart from his involvement in the petrochemical project?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

As I understand it, Mr Edwards has formally left the Public Service position that he had and taken up a position as coordinator of the petrochemical project. I understand that he has resigned, or is about to resign, from the Government Employees Superannuation Board because of his lack of time to devote to those jobs. I received a request from the Chairman of the SGIC asking whether Mr Edwards could remain on the board until the end of his term some time this year, if not next month, the beginning of November. That request has been conveyed to Mr Edwards. The Chairman of the SGIC asked on behalf of the board whether Mr Edwards would be prepared to continue as a member of the board. Mr Edwards has said that it would not be possible for him to carry out his function as deputy chairman of the board, but that he would be willing to do the extra work involved in continuing as a member of the board until his normal term expires. As I understand it, that will be the arrangement.

STATE PRINTING DIVISION

Howard Sattler Program

185. Mr DONOVAN to the Minister for Works and Services:

Is the Minister aware of the comments made on the Howard Sattler program this morning criticising the Government's decision to modernise the State Printing Division?

Mr TROY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. I also notice that the deposed Leader of the Opposition is squirming in his seat. One cannot be fooled for too long. We know who is making the bullets for the Printing & Allied Trades Employers Association of WA to fire, but as usual most of the bullets that come from the Opposition's pistols are loaded with water and not much more. Members should be aware that the future Deputy Leader of the Opposition or the Leader or the past Leader of the Opposition, depending on what day it is - it thoroughly confuses me -

Mr Cash: That's not surprising; you are easily confused.

Mr TROY: Many people in the Liberal Party are also fairly confused. The member for Cottesloe came to see me with a delegation from the Printing & Allied Trades Employers Association of WA on Wednesday morning of last week. Their objections basically related to their perception that the private sector was not getting its fair share of Government work with respect to printing contracts. At that time I indicated that the recapitalisation of the State

Printing Division was being funded from the proceeds of the sale of surplus printing equipment. Further to this, it was explained to the delegation and re-emphasised to the member for Cottesloe that the State Printing Division had undergone a major review so its objectives could be set to reach necessary productivity levels. The staff level at the State Printing Division has fallen by some 100 employees, giving a more cost effective and viable operation. The losses sustained by the State Printing Division in previous years are now being turned around and it is hoped that the division will break even by June of next year.

The Government's expenditure on printing work this year will be approximately \$30 million and of that amount some \$12 million will go directly to the private sector, and \$18 million to the State Printing Division of which 25 per cent is subcontracted away to the private sector. I think members would recognise by using simple arithmetic that well over half of the Government's printing is carried out by the private sector. This is a clear commitment by this Government to continue to allow the private sector to maintain its current share; in fact, it may even be increased. The private sector has already picked up the contract for printing telephone books once held by State Printing Division and the profits from the sale of that equipment are now being used to gear up the State Printing Division with the purchase of modern equipment. It is totally wrong to label this move to greater efficiency as a threat to the viability of the private sector. The State Printing Division currently employs about 300 staff and both management and employees need to be congratulated on the hard work they have done and the professionalism they have displayed during the current review. I am sure that the member for Cottesloe would accept an invitation to join with me - and it is interesting to note that he has chosen to leave the Chamber rather than hear the truth - in a walk around the State Printing Division and perhaps throw some of his criticisms at the work force and, in particular, at the 28 apprentices who are receiving valuable training in their chosen field. I believe the member for Cottesloe would not accept that offer as he is too keen on bashing the public sector from afar. Let me stress to the House that the work force of the State Printing Division is proud of its achievements so far and realises that its efforts are helping Government as a whole.

Mr Court: That is what you said about the State Engineering Works.

Mr TROY: And we were right about that, were we not?

PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT *Construction Contracts*

186. Mr COURT to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Deputy Premier been instructed by the Premier to renegotiate the construction contracts for the petrochemical project with the Japanese companies selected?
- (2) If yes, will these contracts now provide for a greater Western Australian content, bearing in mind that the initial contracts had the minimum possible Australian content?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES - GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS *"Where the Jobs Are"*

187. Mr CUNNINGHAM to the Minister for Employment and Training:

What sort of reaction has there been to the "Where the Jobs Are" guide published by the Government in *The West Australian* on Saturday, 9 July 1988?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

This publication represented a first in Australia in that it was designed to provide important information on labour market demands for occupations and industries into the 1990s and on what education and training is required or available for entry to these occupations and industries. This information is critical to student decisions about careers and further education and training. It was provided at just the time when year 10, 11 and 12 students were being asked to make choices about course enrolment for 1989. It followed closely upon a very successful Careers Expo Week, which attracted 34 000 participants this year. A major strategy in providing this assistance during this crucial decision making period for students was to involve parents. By utilising the Saturday edition of the *The West Australian* newspaper - which, incidentally, has a circulation of some 300 000 - it was possible to achieve an immediate full coverage of all families in the State with students in years 10, 11 and 12. The exercise cost the Department of Employment and Training only \$33 731 and with 60 600 students in years 10, 11 and 12 the unit cost of the supplement amounted to about 54c per student. If parents are taken into account the unit cost falls below 30c. In addition the demand from the community, schools and parents has required a further approximately 4 500 copies to be sent out by the department. The interesting fact is that in the three weeks following its release, "Where the Jobs Are" resulted in a 250 per cent increase in telephone inquiries to the youth employment scheme hotline about job prospects and the education and training requirements of particular jobs. TAFE also reported an increase in inquiries about TAFE courses and the demand for CareerMate computer assisted career search and counselling is such that the service is now fully booked. An important consequence of the jobs guide has been the increase in inquiries from mature age adults, some seeking retraining, and other unemployed, about career information in the guide and the education and training requirements of different jobs. It is the Government's intention through the Yes Scheme and publications such as "Where the Jobs Are" to ensure that young people and their parents have access to the best available information so that correct career choices are made. Instead of hearing the sort of bleating I heard from the Leader of the Opposition a short time ago when I got up to answer this question it would be nice if the Opposition were to recognise the value of this scheme and showed some generosity by applauding it.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Personnel Candidates - School Facilities

188. Mr COWAN to the Minister for Education:

In those cases where an employee of the Education Department has won preselection as an endorsed candidate for a political party, has the Minister given approval for those persons to use facilities or services situated at the schools for election campaign purposes, or to give the school's telephone number as a contact point for electors?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

I am not aware of the circumstances to which the Leader of the National Party is obviously referring. Perhaps he would agree to provide me with the name of that person at some stage. In no case should Education Department facilities be used for political purposes. That does not include only telephone numbers, stationery, and so on, but relates also to members in this House. I take this opportunity to suggest that when people visit schools they should do so in a manner which clearly relates to their role as local member and not in order to solicit suggestions about political policies. I give a clear indication today that in this case, or in any other case drawn to my attention - whether it be in relation to a member of my own party or any other party - I will adopt the same line. I will discuss the matter later with the Leader of the National Party.

RANDOM BREATH TESTS
Implementation

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

- (1) In view of his comments during the debate in this House on the urgency of implementing random breath testing, what action has been taken by the Police Force to implement random breath testing in Western Australia since the passage of the Bill through the Parliament?
- (2) If no action has been taken, can he explain the reasons for the delay in such implementation?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

(1)-(2)

I am delighted to see that at long last the member for Mt Lawley is perhaps indicating a change of attitude on the part of the Opposition and is now apparently getting behind the random breath testing proposal. I know, of course, that the member for Mt Lawley got rolled by his own party on this issue when he raised it in the party room when the Bill was put up for the second time.

Mr Peter Dowding: Did he?

Mr TAYLOR: Yes. He wanted to support it, to give credit where credit is due, but could not get the numbers in his party room.

Mr Peter Dowding: Why didn't he say that?

Mr TAYLOR: He would not. He has been silent on the matter. One has to understand that he was feeling a bit battered and bruised at the time because he could not get the numbers for preselection for a seat in the Legislative Assembly; I gather he could have got the numbers for Dianella, but the present member frightened him off a bit. In relation to random breath testing I had discussions last week with the Assistant Commissioner, Traffic, and the Chief Superintendent, Traffic. We agreed to push ahead and implement random breath testing procedures.

Mr Cowan: After Christmas?

Mr TAYLOR: No, before Christmas; we will push ahead quickly in relation to implementing random breath testing procedures and that will be done in conjunction with a campaign that I hope the Government will agree to run to inform Western Australians that drinking and driving, and certainly people being prepared to drive after they have had too much to drink, is socially unacceptable behaviour from the point of view of the majority of Western Australian. The police have agreed to push ahead and implement random breath testing procedures.

Mr Thompson: When?

Mr TAYLOR: As soon as possible.

Mr Thompson: Next week?

Mr TAYLOR: Just a moment; I am answering the question. If the member wants to answer it he should get his colleague to ask him the question. I am hoping that the legislation will be implemented before the end of this month and, if not then, early in October and that all Western Australians will be well aware of the fact that random breath testing is here on an experimental basis and, I must say, on a basis I believe will work and will save lives and injuries on our roads. It is no thanks to the Liberal Party or the National Party that this has come to pass. I believe that all Western Australians will be very thankful.

Mr Cash interjected.

Mr TAYLOR: I am trying to answer the question. If the member did not want me to answer the question, he should not have asked it. This is the first question the

member has asked me since I have been Minister for Police and Emergency Services, and he should give me a go. This legislation will be implemented as soon as possible, and I believe that should be the case because it will save lives and prevent injuries on our roads.

STATE PRINTING DIVISION
Functional Review Committee's Report

190. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for Works and Services:

In view of the newspaper report in today's *The West Australian* headed "Employers hit printing move", and the Minister's claim that the statement that the WA Government was spending \$4.5 million in gearing up the State Printing Division was rubbish, will the Minister table the Functional Review Committee's report, which stated that all the division's work could be carried out by private printers?

Mr TROY replied:

I want to make it very clear that the report of the Functional Review Committee is an internal report, and the policy of the Government is to not table such reports. I can indicate to the member that almost all of the recommendations in the report have been implemented. I am not sure to which recommendation the member is referring.

Mr Peter Dowding: Perhaps we ought to ask the Opposition whether its policy is to close the State Printing Division; and if so, perhaps the member could tell those 300 or 400 people who is going to get those jobs.

Mr TROY: I am sure the employees would be interested to know that if a Liberal Government comes in - and that is highly unlikely, so they can have some comfort from that - with a coalition - and God help the National Party if that ever occurs - there would be 300 jobs at risk in the State Printing Division to start with. Many employees in this State have observed what has happened in New South Wales since Greiner came into Government, following his promises, so the record is fairly clear that State Government employees in operations as successful as the State Printing Division will be under threat because of a basic political philosophy on the part of the Liberal Party.

PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS
Hotline Response

191. Mr COWAN to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What response has there been to the hotline established by the Government to deal with the changes to the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme?
- (2) What have been the major complaints from the public?
- (3) What number of complaints were received from pharmacists?

Mr WILSON replied:

(1)-(3)

I can advise the member that there was a big response to the hotline run by the Government. I think 406 people phoned in. Most of those were patients, and the majority of those patients were pensioners, although some pharmacists did contact the hotline. I do not have the numbers for the pharmacists concerned. Most of the people who phoned in were pensioners, patients, or their relatives, who were concerned about the restrictions that had been placed on drugs for the treatment of high blood pressure and cholesterol, epilepsy, and drugs that are used principally in our public hospitals for the treatment of various cancer conditions.

They were quite specific complaints, and they endorsed the position that was put by me to the Federal Minister for Health, that in the main the drugs that people are concerned about are drugs for which there are no alternative cheap drugs available. Therefore, the restrictions that are being applied by adding

those 53 drugs to the authority's list are not achieving anything; they are not going to save money; they are going to cause inconvenience to the patients affected and it will be a wasted effort. It would have been a much better course for the Federal Government to engage in an education program with doctors to help those doctors who might be susceptible to advertising by drug companies to use expensive drugs when there are less expensive alternatives. In most cases, the drugs complained about were drugs for which there are no effective alternatives.

All of the submissions from the hotline have been forwarded to the Federal Minister concerned, Hon Peter Staples, to back up the earlier submission that I put to him. We are continuing to find that there is growing concern from senior medical academics in universities around Australia about the ill advised action taken by the Federal Government. I continue to be hopeful that these efforts will result in changes, although those changes will need to occur very soon if they are to reassure the people affected that they will not be denied the treatment they so badly need.

INQUIRIES - PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Report

192. Mr CLARKO to the Minister for Local Government:

Three weeks ago at a conference of either the Local Government Association or the Country Shire Councils Association, the Minister stated that the results of the inquiry into pecuniary interests - which was set up nearly a year ago as a result of allegations by the member for Perth regarding corruption by councillors at the Perth City Council - would be released later that week.

- (1) Why has that not happened?
- (2) When will the report be released?

Mr CARR replied:

(1)-(2)

I have received a copy of that report from the people who undertook the inquiry, and I will be referring the matter to Cabinet. I expect there will soon be a release of the report.
