

# Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 10th April, 1975

The SPEAKER (Mr Hutchinson) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

## QUESTIONS (87): ON NOTICE

### 1. PRISON AT KALGOORLIE

*New Site*

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Has his department selected a site and secured tenure for same for the erection thereon of a new correction centre at Kalgoorlie?
- (2) If so, what is the location of the site?
- (3) What plans in terms of capital expenditure and time for completion are expected to be followed in the case of this project?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) An area of 21.44 hectares has been set aside and named Reserve 31713. It is located west of the Kalgoorlie airport and opposite the present standard gauge marshalling yards.
- (3) Subject to the availability of finance, determination of priorities between the needs of Kalgoorlie and north west of the State, the construction will be pursued upon the completion of the metropolitan prison complex at Canning Vale.

### 2. ILMENITE

*Processing: Industrial Effluent*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Apart from Australind, where else in Australia are ilmenite concentrates processed to yield titanium dioxide pigments?
- (2) What arrangements are there at these plants to dispose of industrial effluent?

Mr O'Neill (for Mr MENSAROS) replied:

- (1) At the plant of Tioxide Australia Pty. Ltd. at Burnie, Tasmania.
- (2) By marine pipeline.

### 3. PARTICLE BOARD PROJECT, DARDANUP

*Effect on Environment, Ludlow Area*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

In regard to the Wesply (Dardanup) Agreement of 1975, can the Government assure this House that its operation will not prejudice the implementation of recommendations made by the EPA's Conservation Through Reserves Committee in regard to the Ludlow-Wonnerup area, and in particular the Ludlow tuart forest?

Mr O'Neill (for Mr MENSAROS) replied:

Operations under the agreement will not be prejudicial to the implementations of such recommendations.

### 4. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

*Synthetic Rutile Plant, Perth Area*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

Further to question on notice No. 30 on the 8th August, 1974:

- (a) Has the Government yet had discussions with Lennard Oil N.L. and Westralian Sands Ltd., concerning the possible establishment of a synthetic rutile plant near Perth?
- (b) If so, where is the site likely to be, in general terms?
- (c) Has the Environmental Protection Authority been asked to advise on the likely environmental effects of the proposed plant?

Mr O'Neill (for Mr MENSAROS) replied:

- (1) There have been some discussions on the possible development of these mineral sand resources.
- (2) Not presently known. Feasibility studies are being undertaken by the companies.
- (3) The establishment of such a plant will require an agreement with the State. The Department of Environmental Protection is fully involved in the preparation of such agreements.

### 5. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

*Synthetic Rutile Plant, Bunbury Area*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Is Western Titanium N.L. still operating a pilot plant in the Bunbury region to produce synthetic rutile?

- (2) If so, where is it located, and what is its annual output?
- (3) Is the company intending to operate a full-scale synthetic rutile plant in the area (or elsewhere) in the near future?
- (4) If so, has the Environmental Protection Authority been asked to advise on the likely environmental effects of the proposed plant?

Mr O'Neill (for Mr MENSAROS) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Capel—12 000 tonnes per annum upgraded ilmenite.
- (3) A 30 000 tonnes per annum commercial plant is now in operation at Capel.
- (4) No. The industry has complied with statutory requirements including those under the Clean Air Act.

#### 6. PARTICLE BOARD PLANT, KEWDALE

##### *Capacity and Materials*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) What is the designed capacity per hour for the production of particle board (expressed in cubic metres on a 19 millimetre basis) at the Westralian Plywoods Hearn Industries Ltd. Kewdale factory?
- (2) Apart from chipwood, what are—
  - (a) the nature of adhesives and other components comprising particle board and its allied products; and
  - (b) the nature of other materials in producing particle board and its allied products,
 presently used by the company at the Kewdale factory?
- (3) What other particle board factories does the company or any associated company operate in Western Australia?

Mr O'Neill (for Mr MENSAROS) replied:

- (1) Since this is a matter concerning the business operations of a private company it is not within the competence of a Government to provide such information.
- (2) (a) The adhesive used is urea formaldehyde.  
Catalysts are used in minute quantities. Their composition is understandably confidential to the Company.
- (b) Fuel oil.  
Water.  
Packaging materials.

- (3) The same company operates a small factory at Victoria Park.

#### 7. PARTICLE BOARD PROJECT, DARDANUP

##### *Waste Disposal*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

Will he elaborate on the intent of Clause 16 of the Wesply (Dardanup) Agreement whose wording is ambiguous, and in particular state whether it is intended that the company, with respect to all waste materials produced at the works site:

- (a) shall dispose of such waste material at the works site; and
- (b) be disposed of so as to prevent the pollution of water and of the soil and the material below the soil?

Mr O'Neill (for Mr MENSAROS) replied:

- (a) The intent of the company is to dispose of all wastes at the plant site, but the clause is not intended to limit the company to this.
- (b) Yes.

#### 8. *This question was postponed.*

#### 9. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

##### *Agreements: Ratification by Parliament*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Is it Government policy to adopt the procedure initiated by the Tonkin Government of first seeking legislative authority to enter into development agreements, or does it intend to enter into development agreements first and then seek to have such agreements ratified by Act of Parliament?
- (2) Is it Government policy to insert the standard environmental clause in all development agreements into which it enters?
- (3) Is it Government policy to adopt the principle, initiated by the Tonkin Government, of having substantial variations to ratified agreements brought back to Parliament for its consideration and authorisation?

Mr O'Neill (for Mr MENSAROS) replied:

- (1) It will adopt the latter practice as far as is practicable.

- (2) Yes.
- (3) No. The Government will follow its established policy of bringing variations of substance to Parliament for ratification.

# 10. NOISE ABATEMENT *Music Amplifiers*

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

- (1) Is there an accepted maximum decibel limit to control noise created by musical instruments and amplifiers at teenage indoor entertainment functions?
- (2) What are the names of the personnel on the noise abatement authority?
- (3) Has any complaint been brought to the notice of the noise abatement authority in regard to excessive noise from musical and amplifying equipment at teenage entertainment functions?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Noise and Vibration Control Council.

Dr K. J. M. Carruthers  
Dr J. C. McNulty  
Dr B. A. Hamilton  
Mr H. F. Brennan  
Mr G. Cohen  
Mr D. A. May  
Mr F. A. Cross  
Mr R. A. Sims  
Mr A. Y. Wilson  
Mr F. S. Bastow  
Mr P. Fellows  
Noise Advisory Committee,  
Dr J. C. McNulty  
Mr J. W. Shannon  
Mr R. S. Minchin  
Prof B. Johnstone  
Dr H. Percy  
Dr C. Mather  
Dr D. Clements

- (3) Yes.

# 11. RAILWAYS

## *Perth-Bunbury Passenger Service: Replacement*

Mr SIBSON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) (a) To what extent have discussions been undertaken in his department regarding the replacement of Perth to Bunbury and return rail passenger service by total road bus service;
- (b) when can a decision to ascertain the future of this service be expected?
- (2) What losses have been incurred by this service in the years 1971-72; 1972-73 and 1973-74?

- (3) On the Perth to Bunbury and return services, *Australind* and shopper, what have been the—

- (a) maximum number carried;
- (b) minimum number carried; and
- (c) average number carried, in the years 1971-72; 1972-73?

- (4) If the rail passenger service is to be retained, will consideration be given to upgrading the service, e.g., a faster train with air conditioning and other modern improvements?
- (5) In the likelihood of the service being replaced by road buses, does his department feel confident it could handle peak numbers such as holiday weekends and Christmas and New Year periods?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) (a) Studies within the Railway Department have culminated in the recommendations submitted to me by the Commissioner of Railways for immediate replacement of "The shopper and weekender" train services with buses.

The *Australind* service would not be affected at this time but the proposals anticipate a need to provide an alternative bus service for this train in about two years.

These proposals are now being considered by Cabinet.

- (b) When a decision is arrived at by Cabinet.
- (2) Separate profit and loss statements for individual passenger services are not recorded. Where the railway wants to determine whether it is profitable or not to continue running passenger trains it has to undertake separate economic exercises.

It segregates the passenger and freight proportions where these form joint costs and using what is commonly called the "Incremental" approach, can determine the avoidable costs and revenue losses for each service.

A study on these lines was carried out in 1972 and based on the then level of costs and revenue—and without taking into account the annual costs of future capital expenditure—the forecast annual loss on an incremental basis of operations of the Perth-Bunbury-Perth service was \$173 000.

## (3) (a) —

Australind	To Bunbury	From Bunbury
1971-72	312	265
1972-73	259	238

## Shopper

1971-72	239	146
1972-73	274	220

## (b) —

Australind	To Bunbury	From Bunbury
1971-72	31	21
1972-73	27	33

## Shopper

1971-72	8	15
1972-73	11	15

## (c) —

Australind	To Bunbury	From Bunbury
1971-72	85	81
1972-73	91	85

## Shopper

1971-72	72	47
1972-73	64	44

- (4) If the railway passenger service is retained, new rolling stock would need to be acquired and consideration would be given to these matters.
- (5) Yes.

12.

## LAND

*Small Holdings: Murray Electorate*

Mr SHALDERS, to the Minister for Lands:

How many properties are there in the Shires of—

- (a) Mandurah;  
 (b) Murray;  
 (c) Waroona,

which have an area of—

- (i) more than 5 hectares;  
 (ii) more than 4 hectares but not greater than 5 hectares;  
 (iii) more than 2 hectares but not greater than 4 hectares?

Mr RIDGE replied:

This information is not available from the Lands Department. It is suggested that the required information may be obtainable from the local authorities.

13. *This question was postponed.*

14.

## RAILWAYS

*Pinjarra-Dwellingup Line: Upgrading*

Mr SHALDERS, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Could he provide itemised details as to the—
- (a) estimated cost of \$46 300 to upgrade the permanent way between Pinjarra and Dwellingup to passenger standard;
- (b) estimated cost of \$20 000 for train stowing and turning facilities at Pinjarra?

- (2) What length of option to purchase a locomotive and items of rolling stock has been given to the Pinjarra and Hills District Steam Preservation Society?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) The Railway Department is reviewing this matter and I will forward the information sought by the Member to him as soon as possible.

15.

## HOUSING

*Rental and Purchase Homes: Dual Applications*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

How many people presently have lodged dual applications for both rental and purchase assistance with the State Housing Commission?

Mr O'NEIL replied:  
 2 300.

16.

## HOUSING

*Purchase Homes: Applications*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many applicants are presently seeking purchase assistance from the State Housing Commission?
- (2) What percentage of these applicants is it considered will not accept assistance when it is offered them?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) 6 816 in the metropolitan area.  
 (2) Estimated 25%.

17.

## HOUSING

*Rental Homes: Applications*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many applicants are presently seeking rental assistance from the State Housing Commission?
- (2) What percentage of these applicants is it considered will not accept assistance when it is offered them?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) 6 773 in the metropolitan area.  
 (2) Estimated 20%.

18.

## HOUSING

*Duplex Units for Pensioners*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many pensioner duplexes are owned by the State Housing Commission in the suburbs of Balga and Nollamara?

- (2) How many of these have solid fuel stoves and/or hot water systems?
- (3) How many requests have been received by the SHC for tenants in pensioner duplexes seeking that these solid fuel systems be replaced by electric or gas ones?
- (4) How many of these requests were
  - (a) rejected;
  - (b) approved;
  - (c) not subject to decision?
- (5) How many of
  - (a) those accepted;
  - (b) those rejected,
 were accompanied by medical evidence?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) 110 in Balga and 62 in Nollamara.
- (2) This information is not readily available.
- (3) Since October, 1974 there are 8.
- (4) (a) 1.  
(b) 7.  
(c) Nil.
- (5) (a) 7.  
(b) Nil.

## 19. HOUSING

### *Girrawheen: Maintenance Tenders*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it true that there was a considerable delay in completing maintenance work necessary on purchase homes constructed and sold by the State Housing Commission in Curtis Way, Girrawheen?
- (2) When were tenders called for the work?
- (3) When did tenders close?
- (4) How many tenders were received?
- (5) Who was the successful tenderer?
- (6) When was the successful tenderer notified that he had been awarded the contract?
- (7) When did he commence the contract?
- (8) What was the reason for the delay?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Quotes only were requested on 12/9/1974.
- (3) and (4) Three quotes were received September and November of that year.
- (5) Hodema.
- (6) On 8/11/1974.
- (7) Not known.
- (8) The contractor experienced difficulty in obtaining suitable labour.

## 20. HOUSING

### *Balga: Modification of Town House*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is he aware of the State Housing Commission's decision to modify in a minor manner a town house at 9b Markham Way in Balga to be occupied by a tenant whose wife was seriously ill with a crippling disease?
- (2) If yes, on what date was the decision made to make the modifications?
- (3) What was the name of the contractor chosen to carry out the work?
- (4) When was the contractor authorised to commence the modifications?
- (5) When did work on the modifications start?
- (6) When were the modifications completed?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 13/1/75.
- (3) G. & A. Cochrane.
- (4) 25th February, 1975.
- (5) Approximately 1 week after approval was given.
- (6) Approximately 2 weeks after commencement.

## 21. HOUSING

### *Purchase Homes: Construction Period*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

What was the average period of time that elapsed between—  
 (a) the calling of tenders; and  
 (b) the handing over of keys,  
 for houses sold to purchase applicants in each of the 12 months of 1974, and for each of the first two months of 1975?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

This information is not recorded at the commission.

## 22. HOUSING

### *Purchase Homes: Sales and Prices*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many purchase homes have been provided by the State Housing Commission to applicants in each of the past 14 months?
- (2) How many purchase homes does the SHC anticipate making available to applicants in each of the next 12 months?

- (3) What was the average purchase price of homes sold by the SHC in January 1974, and the same figure for January 1975?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) 537 in total: no monthly break-up is available.  
 (2) No estimate can be given, as this is decided at the date of allocation.

It is pertinent to realise that the Tonkin Labor Government and the Whitlam Labor Government entered into the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement of 1973 which has a five-year term and which restricts sale of commission built houses to 30% of the total built.

- (3) (i) January 1974—\$14 500 inclusive of land and other costs.  
 (ii) January 1975—No dwellings were sold.

## 23. HOUSING

### *Balga and Nollamara: Armed Services Personnel*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many single detached homes are presently provided by the State Housing Commission to each of the services in the suburbs of Balga and Nollamara?  
 (2) How many are vacant, and for what period has each been vacant?  
 (3) Is it true that the RAAF is currently negotiating to return a number of single detached homes to the charge of the SHC?  
 (4) How many homes are involved in these negotiations?  
 (5) Does he concede the urgency of the need to make the homes referred to in (3) available to ease the present situation of applicants for SHC assistance?  
 (6) What initiatives has the SHC taken to hasten a successful conclusion to the negotiations referred to in (3)?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

		Army	Air force	Total
(1)				
	Balga	175	104	279
	Nollamara	5	81	86
		180	185	365

- (2) The tenancies of these properties are under the control of the Commonwealth Department of Properties and Services.  
 (3) No.  
 (4) to (6) Answered by (3).

24.

## HOUSING

### *High Tender Prices*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it true that during 1974, the State Housing Commission decided against awarding contracts for the construction of a number of houses because tender prices were considered too high?  
 (2) How many homes were involved?  
 (3) What was the average tender price?  
 (4) Is it true that the average price of homes sold by the SHC in Koon-doola in March 1975 exceeded \$17 500?  
 (5) If not, what was this price referred to in (4) above?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.  
 (2) 60.  
 (3) \$12 500.  
 (4) Yes, inclusive of the land and other costs. These include administration and construction supervision costs, construction contingency costs and provision for death benefit fund.  
 (5) Answered by (4).

25.

## HOUSING

### *Applicants: Categories and Priority*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many applicants seeking assistance or transfer are classed as being—  
 (a) emergency cases;  
 (b) needs cases;  
 (c) wait turn cases,  
 by the State Housing Commission?  
 (2) How is the order of priority of the applicants on each of these lists determined?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

(1)	(a) 160	} Total 6 879
	(b) 370	
	(c) 6 349	

- (2) Allocations are made on:  
 A. Emergency cases—individual special circumstances or degree of urgency with regard to length of time on that priority.  
 B. Need cases—on date of application.  
 C. Wait Turn—on date of application.

26.

**HOUSING***Applicants: Waiting Periods*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it true that applicants classed as emergency cases—by the State Housing Commission's own officers—are being forced in many cases to wait more than five weeks for help?
- (2) Is it true that applicants classed as "needs" cases—by the SHC's own officers—are being forced in many cases to wait more than 13 weeks for help?
- (3) Is he concerned at the waiting periods that are suffered by "emergency" and "needs" cases?
- (4) If "Yes" what policies are being followed to relieve the situation?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) to (3) Yes.
- (4) There is no ready short term solution to increase the number of accommodation units available. More attention is being devoted to surveys to ascertain "under occupancy" to endeavour to transfer tenants to more appropriately sized units. Construction and "buy in" programmes will be increased in the next financial year, provided the Commonwealth meets the State's request for adequate loan funds.

27.

**HOUSING***Purchase Homes: Waiting Period*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

What is the estimated period of time the State Housing Commission considers will elapse before people placing their names on the purchase list in March, 1975, will be offered assistance?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

No estimate can be given until the Commonwealth Minister for Housing gives an indication of the amount of loan funds to be made available to Western Australia under the 1973 housing agreement.

28.

**HOUSING***Applicants: "Wait Turn" Category*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

Has the State Housing Commission considered dispensing with the "wait turn" category and assisting only those applicants with an established need?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

Yes, on a number of occasions.

**29. STATE HOUSING COMMISSION***Social Workers*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many qualified social workers are now employed by the State Housing Commission?
- (2) If none are employed, would he please outline his policy towards their employment?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) None.
- (2) Social welfare work falls within the ambit of the Department for Community Welfare with which Department the State Housing Commission has a close working relationship. As such, it is not intended to develop a social welfare branch within the commission.

30.

**HOUSING***Large Family Units*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many applicants entitled, by virtue of the size of their family, to be considered for four bedroom accommodation, have been allocated—
  - (a) three bedroom town or terrace houses; and
  - (b) three bedroom single detached houses?
- (2) Does he agree that placing families with five or more children in the types of accommodation referred to in (1) above, militates against the State Housing Commission's policy of providing applicants with a permanent future home?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2) will he please advise whether he will discontinue placing larger families in the accommodation referred to in (1)?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) During the past 12 months—
  - (a) 18;
  - (b) 55,
 many of whom were placed at their own request.
- (2) Not necessarily. It is the function of the State Housing Commission to provide improved accommodation to persons of low and moderate income. The 1973 Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement categorises such persons. The determination as to whether the accommodation becomes a permanent home is one for the applicant or tenant within the strictures of the agreement mentioned in the answer to question 22 on today's notice paper.
- (3) Answered by (2).

## 31. HOUSING

*Flats and Town Houses:  
Screening of Tenants*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Which SHC officers screen tenants allocated town houses and flats to ensure that people placed in accommodation within close proximity to others are capable of living in harmony?
- (2) What professional qualifications do these SHC officers have?
- (3) What is the Government's policy towards employing appropriately trained officers to carry out the selection?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) This is a normal function of the officers of the tenancy inspection section of the Housing Commission.
- (2) No relevant professional qualification is required of officers appointed to this section.
- (3) The Government believes that the officers carrying out this function are appropriately trained.

## 32. HOUSING

*Balga: Fencing of Town Houses*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it true that the then Minister for Housing pledged to construct a brick wall behind a group of town houses which were built in Markham Way, Balga, near the Balga high school and which were the centre of some controversy?
- (2) Was a picket fence subsequently erected?
- (3) Was this picket fence subsequently pulled down and replaced by the promised brick wall?
- (4) What was the estimated cost of the picket fence and its replacement?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) I understand this to be so.
- (2) No, it existed at that time.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The cost is not readily available. The Member will be notified as soon as practicable.

33. STATE HOUSING  
COMMISSION*Staff: Restriction on Number*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has the Government imposed any restriction on the growth of the number of people employed by the SHC?

- (2) If yes, what is the nature of the restriction?
- (3) Of what Government policy is the restriction a result?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The growth rate is limited to 2% of effective staff at 30th June, 1974.
- (3) It was a policy decision of the Government to restrain unnecessary inflationary growth.

## 34. HOUSING

*Applicants: "Wait Turn"  
Category*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it true that applicants placed by the State Housing Commission on the "wait turn" list face an indefinite delay in obtaining assistance?
- (2) Is it further true that this "indefinite delay" may amount to a waiting period of several years?
- (3) What is the Government's policy with regard to informing people of the true position with respect to the period (in absolute terms) of time that might elapse before assistance is forthcoming?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) See answer to (1).
- (3) I cannot see how it is possible to indicate in absolute terms any period of time that might elapse.

## 35. HOUSING

*Applicants: "Wait Turn"  
Category*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many applicants for assistance were placed on a "wait turn" basis by the SHC during the first six months of 1974?
- (2) How many of these applicants have since been assisted?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) A total of 2 861, which includes all categories, were placed on the housing "wait turn" lists in the metropolitan area during first 6 months of 1974.
- (2) This information is not recorded.

## 36. HOUSING

*Darwin Evacuees*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many Darwin evacuees sought assistance from the SHC?



- (2) In how many cases was the assistance sought provided by the commission?
- (3) In each case referred to in (2), what was the period of time that elapsed between application for assistance and an offer being made?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) 286.
- (2) 236 offers have been made of which 56 have accepted and 168 have declined.
- (3) The average period was 4 weeks. There are 12 applicants yet to receive offers of assistance.

37.

### HOUSING

*Mr and Mrs Barna: Notice to Quit*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Did the SHC state in writing on 18th March that no notice to quit had been received referring to Mr and Mrs J. Barna, then of 62 Lockwood Street, Yokine?
- (2) Did the SHC on 21st March referring to this family return a notice to quit saying that it should be resubmitted with a completed application form?
- (3) Is it true that the notice to quit was, in fact, sent to the SHC on or about 7th March?
- (4) Is it also true that application forms were sent with each SHC letter referred to in (1) and (2) above?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) to (4) It is a long-standing policy in relation to Housing Commission operations that personal details relating to an applicant or occupant will not be made public. If the Member raises the matter in correspondence, consideration will be given to providing the information he seeks.

38.

### HOUSING

*Mrs Ruby Clune*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Did Mrs Ruby Clune, formerly of 20 Medhurst Crescent, Nollamara, apply to the SHC for assistance during 1974?
- (2) Did the SHC subsequently write to a Member of Parliament saying there was no medical evidence to support the claim for assistance?
- (3) Did Mrs Clune subsequently request the SHC for a doctor's note she had submitted prior to the SHC letter referred to in (2)?

(4) Was the note re-submitted on appeal by a Member of Parliament?

(5) Was Mrs Clune's position re-assessed and was she then placed on a needs basis?

(6) Has Mrs Clune since been assisted?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) to (6) It is a long-standing policy in relation to Housing Commission operations that personal details relating to an applicant or occupant will not be made public. If the Member raises the matter in correspondence, consideration will be given to providing the information he seeks.

39.

### HOUSING

*Balga: Nine-member Family*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it true that a family with seven children is living in a three bedroom SHC townhouse at 16E Wardlaw Way in Balga?
- (2) Has this family applied for transfer?
- (3) If yes, what was the SHC's decision on the application and when was it made?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) to (3) It is a long-standing policy in relation to Housing Commission operations that personal details relating to an applicant or occupant will not be made public. If the Member raises the matter in correspondence, consideration will be given to providing the information he seeks.

40.

### HOUSING

*Representations: Photocopying of Documents*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Does the SHC follow an internal policy of photocopying application forms and other relevant papers to accompany representations made by Members of Parliament and other people?
- (2) Is it true that considerable difficulty is experienced in many cases in ensuring that all necessary information goes forward with the representation?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes, where necessary.
- (2) No.

## 41. HOUSING

*Rental Homes: Additions*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) In the past year, how many applications have been received by the State Housing Commission from people seeking assistance from the Commission to add rooms or otherwise extend properties they are renting from the SHC?

- (2) How many of these applications have succeeded?

- (3) What is the current policy with regard to these applications?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) As each case is dealt with individually it has not been deemed necessary to keep a record of the total number of applications.

- (2) 48.

- (3) Applications are considered on the family's need for additional bedroom or living space, and its financial capacity to satisfy their need.

## 42. HOUSING

*Parliamentary Liaison Office: Applications and Tenancy Transfers*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many applications for assistance or transfer were received by the State Housing Commission in the first three months of 1975?

- (2) How many of these were directed through the Parliamentary Liaison Office?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) 1 774 applications in all categories were accepted and listed in metropolitan area.

- (2) No such records are kept and it is not deemed necessary to do so.

## 43. HOUSING

*Pest Extermination: Commission Policy*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

What is the State Housing Commission's policy with regard to the extermination of pests—

- (a) between tenancies; and

- (b) in cases where new tenants claim the pests persisted from the time before their arrival?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (a) When a rental property is vacated, any observed infestation of pests is treated before the property is relet.

- (b) If it can be established that the treatment prior to tenancy was ineffective, the commission will have the property treated again. During the currency of any tenancy eradication of pests other than termites is a responsibility of the tenant as provided in the tenancy agreement.

## 44.

## ROADS

*Causeway: Lighting*

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How often are the light standards on the Causeway inspected and maintained?

- (2) Is he aware that a more than reasonable number are not giving any illumination at night?

- (3) What action is proposed to remedy the situation?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) Suitable replacement equipment for the existing lighting is no longer available and this has caused some difficulties and delay.

- (3) Work has commenced on a new system of upgraded lighting for the Causeway. This should be completed and in operation before the end of next month.

## 45.

## ELECTION PROMISES

*Employer-Employee Consultations*

Mr HARMAN, to the Premier:

- (1) Did he undertake in March 1974 to encourage regular meaningful consultation between unions, employers and Government, in an effort to ensure that Government economic, financial, social and development objections are better understood?

- (2) Is he aware that the Minister for Labour Advisory Committee has met on only one occasion since the 1st April, 1974?

- (3) If "Yes" to (1) in what way is this election promise being fulfilled?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes, and we have carried out that promise. There have been many discussions with unions and employers on various industrial issues, such as safety legislation, trading hours, and industrial legislation.

The Minister for Labour and Industry toured the Pilbara with an Industrial Commissioner and sat in on meetings of the Iron Ore

Combined Union Committees. He also had discussions himself with members of the various committees.

The same Minister has received many deputations from the Trades and Labor Council and unions on industrial issues.

The Government has also been very active in promoting tripartite participation by the parties on apprenticeship, training and occupational safety.

To encourage greater meaningful employer-union discussion in the iron ore industry, the Government has provided the Trades and Labor Council, and other unions with office accommodation at Port Hedland on a nominal rental basis to assist in achieving better industrial relations in the area.

- (2) The Minister for Labour Advisory Committee only meets to discuss major matters, and it has only been necessary to meet on one occasion up to date. There is another meeting arranged for Monday, 14th April, 1975.

(3) Answered by (1).

#### 46. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

##### *Storage of Desks*

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is he aware that there are quantities of school desks at the PWD stores, Belmont and that such desks are so stored as to be exposed to the weather?
- (2) What action does he propose to take for the proper storage of these desks?
- (3) Are these desks surplus to requirements and, if so, could arrangements be made for their disposal to non-Government schools?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) These desks are obsolete. While some may be required to be re-used, temporarily, the bulk of them are to be disposed of at an early date.

47.

#### TOURISM

##### *Commonwealth Finance*

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) How much finance has the Australian Government contributed towards the development of tourist attractions and facilities in Western Australia so far in this financial year?

- (2) What are the projects and the amounts involved?
- (3) Has the work been undertaken?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) What proposals have been submitted to the Australian Government for which approval is still awaited?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Approvals have been obtained for a total Commonwealth Government contribution of \$227 330.

(2) —

	Total Estimated Cost	Commonwealth Government Contribution
Bunbury—Rest of Lescault Lady Locomotive ...	\$ 32 000	\$ 12 500
Ord Region—Re-erection of Argyle Homestead ...	128 330	98 330
Merredin—Development of railway station as historical centre ...	35 000	10 000
York—Further development of York as historical centre	95 000	60 000
Manjimup—Timber museum	113 000	55 500
	<hr/> \$403 330	<hr/> \$227 330

- (3) With the exception of the re-erection of Argyle Homestead, all projects should be completed or very near completed to the various approved stages by 30th June, 1975.
- (4) Final approval for the re-erection of Argyle Homestead was received 2nd April, 1975. Tenders for the work are now ready for acceptance and the project should proceed without delay.
- (5) Developmental proposals for—  
Hainault Tourist Mine—Kalgoorlie  
Cohunu Wildlife Sanctuary—Gosnells  
Round House, Arthur Head—Fremantle  
Sign Wall—Greenough.

#### 48. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES AND GAS

##### *Accounts: Maylands Electorate*

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Is he aware that quarterly accounts for electricity and gas were forwarded to SEC customers in Inglewood some six weeks later than the normal time?
- (2) What was the reason for the delay?
- (3) When will the meters in Inglewood, Bayswater and Maylands be read again and when is it anticipated that accounts will be forwarded after such readings?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr MENSAROS) 51.  
replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The work involved in assessing every account on a *pro rata* basis and the inadequacy of billing machines to handle the increased load.
- (3) Inglewood and Maylands will be read again on 13th May and Bayswater on 3rd May. Each district's account should be delivered within seven to eight working days after reading.

#### 49. CONSUMER PROTECTION

##### *Credit Systems*

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Has the Minister taken any action "to ensure that credit systems are easy enough to understand so that customers know what they are doing"?
- (2) If so, what specific action has he taken?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Amendments to the Hire-Purchase Act in 1974 have been followed by the publication of regulations in January 1975, which have clarified to a large extent, the use of the Hire Purchase Agreement used in trade with a better understanding of the obligations of the owner and hirer. The Consumer Protection Bureau is looking at further aspects which will be subsequently considered by the Consumer Affairs Council.

#### 50. CONSUMER PROTECTION

##### *After Sales Service: Standard*

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Has he taken any action to examine after sales service to make sure such service is always up to standard?
- (2) If so, what specific action has he taken?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Consumer Affairs Council has this matter under consideration and it is expected that recommendations will soon be forthcoming from that council. The council, amongst other things has been in contact with local business concerns and other consumer protection authorities elsewhere in Australia and overseas in their study of the position.

#### CONSUMER AFFAIRS COUNCIL

##### *Jurisdiction over Trading Hours*

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

When is it proposed that legislation will be introduced to make trading hours the responsibility of the Consumer Affairs Council?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

The question of making trading hours the responsibility of the Consumer Affairs Council was investigated as soon as the Government came to office.

A close examination of the Consumer Protection Act revealed that the functions of the Council were solely orientated to consumer matters and did not provide for the interests of industry, the unions and the public affected by trading hours. It was decided therefore to leave the matter within the jurisdiction of the Factories and Shops Act, but to establish a Holiday Resorts Advisory Committee to liberalise trading hours in recognised holiday resorts on the recommendation of the local authority and other interested local bodies.

#### 52. ALCOHOL AND DRUG AUTHORITY

##### *Appointments and Salaries*

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

- (1) Apart from those positions listed in the answer to question 12 on 19th November, 1974, have any other positions been created by the Alcohol and Drug Authority?
- (2) If so what are the positions and salary ranges of such positions?
- (3) Which staff, if any, have been drawn from other departments and what are the departments concerned?
- (4) What additional appointments, if any, are contemplated?
- (5) What is the total establishment of the authority?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) No further positions.
- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) Acting Administrative Officer on loan from Medical Department. Time divided equally between hospital and authority business.
- (4) Nil this financial year.
- (5) 14.

53. **FREMANTLE PORT  
AUTHORITY***Loss of Charges: BP Refinery*

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

On the basis of charges for wharfage and pilotage levied against the oil refinery in South Australia what is the amount of revenue being lost annually to the Fremantle Port Authority because the BP oil refinery at Kwinana is free of pilotage and wharfage charges?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

Although the South Australian basis is not readily applicable to Kwinana, the national loss of revenue for 1973-74 would have approximated \$1 100 000.

It is understood that South Australia does not supply pilots to ships berthing at the refinery.

54. **FLUORIDATION OF  
WATER SUPPLIES***Link with Heart Failure*

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will he make available for perusal a copy of the paper compiled by three British scientists and read at an international conference on water supply?
- (2) Having informed the Legislative Assembly without qualification, on Wednesday, 21st August 1974 that he would endeavour to obtain from the United States of America particulars of a submission on fluoridation by Dr Edward Groth will he now fulfil his commitment?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes. Tabled herewith.
- (2) Yes. I will again try to obtain a copy from the United States of America. A request to the Embassy of Australia, Washington, to forward a copy of the thesis was unsuccessful. The Embassy did advise that Dr Lloyd Tepper of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said that the article in the *Washington Post* was misleading.

*The paper was tabled (see paper No. 140).*

55. **ELECTION PROMISES***Implementation*

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Premier:

Will he table a return listing the 88 promises publicly stated as being in the course of implementation?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The required information will be available in the document I undertook to table in answer to question 80 on Wednesday, 9th April, 1975, asked by the Member for Ascot.

56. **RAILWAYS AND BUSES***Suburban Fare Structure*

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) Was he correctly reported in *The West Australian* on the 9th of April, 1975 as having stated that "public transport had seen the introduction of a new suburban fare structure"?
- (2) Is it correct that the new fare structure was expected to increase revenue by 27% or \$2.75 million in a full year?
- (3) Is it also correct that the new fare structure which came into force on 4th August, 1974 led to increased rail and bus fares for inner suburban users of public transport?
- (4) Is it also correct that the new fare structure led to an overall increase in rail and bus fares of approximately 11 per cent?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes, and it appears to be fairly well received. It involves overall increases in anticipated total income but has some important advantages to users built into the new fare structure.
- (2) Yes, but it was impossible to assess accurately the amount of expected increase of revenue because the new system provided for a number of journey changes using the one ticket, without further charge.
- (3) To introduce a flat fare of 30 cents within a radius of 30 km of the GPO shorter fares were increased, and larger fares decreased. The shorter riders had the advantage of returning on the same ticket in a two-hour period.
- (4) Yes.

57. **MEAT INDUSTRY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE***Inquiry: Submissions*

Mr MOILER, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Further to my question without notice to him on Tuesday, the 8th April, 1975, in regard to the recent meat industry inquiry, would he advise whether any organisation, individual or Government department, other than the Public Health Department, made a submission

or an alteration to their submission after the 24th January, and if so, who were they?

Sir Charles Court (for Mr McPHARLIN) replied:

I am advised by the Chairman of the Meat Industry Advisory Committee that no submissions, or alterations to submissions already made, were received after 24th January.

## 58. TOWN PLANNING

### *Forrest Place: Redevelopment*

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

What is the present position regarding re-development of Forrest Place?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

The Commonwealth Government has decided not to proceed with the proposals for extending the Australian Post Office across the northern end of Forrest Place.

The Cabinet has under consideration the future development of this area and intends to confer with interested authorities at an early date.

## 59. BUSES

### *Ban on Smoking*

Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) Did the Government, as a Cabinet, or any Minister alone, consider the question of smoking in buses?
- (2) If so, was the move supported?
- (3) If not, can it be assumed that it was the decision of the MTT alone?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Cabinet considered the question.
- (2) and (3) It left the decision to the MTT.

## 60. POLICE

### *Moora Incident: Charges*

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

- (1) How many charges have been laid by the police as a result of the recent incident at Moora?
- (2) Of the charges laid, how many charges involved
  - (a) whites;
  - (b) Aborigines?
- (3) Were any charges laid by the police against the persons who were involved in the throwing of glasses and bottles which resulted in windows being broken?

(4) If answer to (3) is "Yes", what did the charges involve?

(5) If answer to (3) is "No", why was no action taken by the police?

(6) Is he aware that the police who arrested the four whites at Moora assured the men that they were being taken to the Moora Police Station for their own protection and now they have been charged?

(7) If answer to (6) is "No", will he have inquiries instituted to ascertain the position and advise the House?

(8) If answer to (6) is "Yes", does he not consider the charges against the four whites should be withdrawn in view of the assurances given by the police?

(9) What action does he intend to take in order to prevent a similar disturbance from occurring at Moora?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) 5 charges have been laid against 4 persons and 11 summonses have been issued concerning complaints involving 11 persons.
- (2) (a) 5.
- (b) 11.
- (3) Summonses have been issued.
- (4) Wilful damage and disorderly conduct.
- (5) Answered by (3).
- (6) to (8) The matter is *sub judice* and it is not proper for me to comment at this stage.
- (9) Police will have close liaison with members of the Aboriginal Advancement Council and licensees in an endeavour to control the position.

61 to 65. *These questions were postponed.*

## 66. HEALTH

### *Hospital Benefits Insurance Premiums*

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

What amount did residents of Western Australia pay in 1974 as hospital benefit insurance premiums?

Mr RIDGE replied:

This information is not available.

## 67. LAND

### *Salt Encroachment*

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

- (1) What is the total area of land in Western Australia upon which salt encroachment brought about as a result of agricultural pursuits has occurred?

- (2) Will he provide a map delineating the areas of Western Australia where salt encroachment is found?

Sir Charles Court (for Mr McPHARLIN) replied:

- (1) A survey of salt land was made in 1962 as a joint project by the Bureau of Census and Statistics, Farmers' Union of W.A. and Department of Agriculture. Answers to the survey questions indicated that there were then an estimated 12 348 hectares of former good crop land in the agricultural areas affected by salinity. Results of a similar survey in 1974 are not yet available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.
- (2) Due to the scattered, sporadic and varied nature of soil salinity, it is not possible to prepare a suitable map of its occurrence.

## 68. RAILWAYS

### *Bridgetown Depot*

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

- (1) Has the report of the committee set up to examine the effects of the moving of the railway depot from Bridgetown to Manjimup been delayed for any reason?
- (2) If so, when will the report of the committee now be presented?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes. The Director-General of Transport and his staff have been very heavily engaged in arranging interstate transport operations since the interruption to Commonwealth Railways services on March 19. They have lost about three weeks working time on the Bridgetown study.
- (2) The Director-General of Transport has advised me that his new target date for presentation of the committee's report to me is 19th May. The Shire of Bridgetown/Greenbushes has been advised of this.

I am sure the honourable member will understand the reasons for this and go along with it accordingly.

## 69. WATER SUPPLIES

### *Pemberton*

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

- (1) Was a petition regarding the standard of the water supply service and quality of water at Pemberton received by his department earlier this summer?

- (2) By what percentage has siltation reduced the catchment capacity of the Pemberton water supply dam across the Lefroy Brook?
- (3) What effect has the reduced storage capacity of the Pemberton dam caused through siltation on the colour, smell and taste of the water entering the town water supply?
- (4) Is it proposed to construct a new dam to meet the water supply needs of Pemberton and if so—  
(a) where will the new dam be sited; and  
(b) when will it be commenced, and when is it expected to be completed?
- (5) If no new dam is proposed for Pemberton water requirements, will he give urgent consideration to having a new dam constructed across the Lefroy Brook, and the results of his deliberations made known to the Member for Warren?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) This has not been measured.
- (3) As far as is known, the quality of this water is not affected by siltation in Pemberton Weir.
- (4) There are no proposals to construct a new dam.
- (5) Investigations indicate that adequate water is available.

70. *This question was postponed.*

## 71. ELECTIONS

### *One-person-one-vote-one-value Basis*

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- (1) Having conducted the daylight saving referendum on a one person, one vote, one value basis, will the Government now in the interests of consistency, fairness and of putting things right legislate to implement this policy in ordinary Parliamentary general elections in this State?
- (2) If "No", why?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) Comparison of a Referendum and a General Election for representative Government is not valid.

Parliamentary General Elections are conducted on the basis of one person one vote in accordance with the Act as agreed to by Parliament—bearing in mind also that the last redistribution of boundaries was carried out during the period of the Tonkin administration under present legislation.

There is no lack of consistency or fairness in the present system.

The Electoral laws of the State are the decision of the Western Australian Parliament.

They have been amended from time to time with full regard for the special geographic and other special circumstances of the State's widespread and greatly varying regions.

I have no intention of departing from this basically logical and fair approach.

## 72. POLICE

### *River Rock Cruises: Reports*

Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Police:

Further to questions 77 of 19th March, 1975, and 38 of 25th March, 1975 and the replies given thereto—

In the six police reports which he has refused to make public, what crimes, misdemeanours, simple offences and other misconduct are alleged, suspected, referred to or would appear to have occurred on the river rock cruises of *Temeraire II*?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Crimes—nil.
- (2) Misdemeanours—nil.
- (3) Simple offences—obscene language, fighting, assaults on females.
- (4) Misconduct—juveniles served with and consuming liquor. Juveniles behaving in a questionable manner in public view.

## 73. ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

### *Power Lines: Damage by Vehicles*

Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Electricity:

- (1) Will he supply the date and place of each accident which has occurred since 1st July, 1972 in which a motor vehicle whilst travelling along a public road has struck SEC overhead power lines?
- (2) In each case will he give the cost to repair—
  - (a) the overhead lines;
  - (b) the damage suffered by householders;
  - (c) other damage?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr MENSAROS) replied:

- (1) and (2) I am given to understand that some 60 000 book entries would need to be examined and I am sure the Member will appreciate the considerable

amount of work involved in extracting the information he desires. It is suggested that he discuss the matter with the SEC which will endeavour to assist him if possible.

74.

## STATE FINANCE

### *Authority for Private Loans*

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

What steps has he taken (if any) and when, to obtain Australian Government permission to borrow funds outside of the Loan Council?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I answered a similar question on 20th March, 1975. The situation has not changed since that date.

75.

## LIQUOR ACT

### *Payments under Section 168 (1)*

Mr BERTRAM, to the Treasurer:

When does he intend to pay moneys out pursuant to subsections 168 (1) (a) and (b) respectively of the Liquor Act, 1970?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

No payments have been made under these subsections of the Act since inception in 1970 by either the former Government or the present Government, as moneys for the purposes specified in section 168 are provided for in the votes of the respective departments.

76.

## POLICE

### *Dorothea Flatman: Liquor License*

Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is he aware of the contents of question 96 of the 26th March, 1975, and the reply given thereto?
- (2) Was it he who, on the 5th September, 1974, tabled a statutory declaration made by one Dorothea Flatman of no stated address?
- (3) Is the said Dorothea Flatman one and the same person as the person who made the aforesaid statutory declaration?
- (4) Did he draw the attention of the Commissioner of Police or any of his servants or agents, or any member of the Police Force, and, if so, whom, to the said statutory declaration?
- (5) If "Yes" when and by what means?
- (6) If "No" why?



Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) Yes.
- (4) No.
- (5) Answered by (4).
- (6) It was not considered necessary.

## 77. LIQUOR LICENSE

*Kimberly John Flatman*

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

- (1) Will he table the Licensing Court file relative to the transfer to Kimberly John Flatman on 15th November, 1974 of a cabaret licence of the premises situated at 104 Murray Street, Perth?

- (2) If "No", why?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) The Licensing Court has indicated that it does not wish to have the file tabled because specifically it relates to the premises and therefore contains information concerning licensees, which it considers should remain confidential.

Any specific information required by the Member will be considered on request.

## 78. MEDIBANK HEALTH SCHEME

*Free Hospitalisation*

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

- (1) Should the Medibank scheme commence in W.A. is it proposed by the Commonwealth Government that all persons will receive free hospitalisation in public hospitals and is it intended that this will only apply to public wards?
- (2) If "Yes" to (1), what consideration has been given to private hospitals to ensure that they will not be disadvantaged?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) and (2) As discussions are taking place with the Commonwealth on the Medibank scheme, I am not in a position to answer the Member's question at this stage.

## 79. PUBLIC HOSPITALS

*Free Treatment*

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

- (1) Would he advise the names of public hospitals in this State?
- (2) Where a person is in receipt of a Department of Social Services medical entitlement benefit, would he indicate those hospitals where they receive "free" medical and hospital benefit and under what conditions?

- (3) What was the cost of this service in financial year 1973 and method of recoup to the State from the Commonwealth Government?

- (4) Is the State Government expected to meet any portion of the cost of this entitlement and, if so, can he give details of the amount involved in 1973?

- (5) Can he advise the total number of eligible patients advantaged in the year 1973 in relation to (2) above?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) All public hospitals in operation as at 30th June, 1974, are listed in the Medical Department's annual report for 1973/74, which was tabled in Parliament at the end of the 1974 session. Only the Kalamunda and Mount Hospitals have become public hospitals since that date, whilst the Kwinana Hospital has ceased as a leased hospital and is now operated as a public hospital.

- (2) Pensioners with medical entitlement cards are entitled to free hospital treatment at all public hospitals. Generally doctors do not charge pensioners for any medical services, but a few do, recognising that the pensioner medical service does not provide for payment by the Commonwealth for surgical procedures. Doctors at hospitals other than teaching hospitals may charge the Commonwealth for consultations under the pensioner medical service scheme.

- (3) and (4) The cost of public hospital treatment of pensioners in 1973/74 is estimated at \$27 900 000. The Commonwealth pays the hospitals \$5 per occupied bed per day, which produced \$2 200 000 in 1973/74. Thus it cost the State approximately \$25 700 000.

- (5) No, but the number of days treatment given to pensioners in public hospitals in 1973/74 totalled 444 650.

## 80. CONSERVATION THROUGH RESERVES COMMITTEE

*Report*

Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

- (1) On what date was the report of the Conservation through Reserves Committee made public?

- (2) Have other Government departments, e.g. Town Planning, Tourism, etc., been allotted copies of the report, and if so, would he indicate when?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) 20th January, 1975.
- (2) Copies of the report have been despatched to Government departments and instrumentalities as they have requested them.

# 81. LAMBS

## Imports from the Eastern States

Mr BLAICKIE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Can he advise the number of lambs imported to Western Australia from the Eastern States in each week since December 1974?
- (2) What were the number of lambs held in storage by the Lamb Marketing Board in each week since December 1974?

Sir Charles Court (for Mr McPHARLIN) replied:

The Western Australian Lamb Marketing Board has advised as follows:

(1)—

Week ending		Carcases	Cartons of cryovac Cuts
January	4	....	....
January	11	....	844
January	18	....	....
January	25	....	2 045
February	1	....	953
February	8	....	847
February	15	....	....
February	22	....	880
March	1	....	2 023
March	8	....	850
March	15	....	....
March	22	....	800
March	29	....	800
		10 647	*2 444

\* Estimated as equivalent to 1 750 carcasses.

All of the above were chilled/fresh lamb suitable for the domestic market.

## (2) Frozen lamb carcasses in storage

Week ending		
January	4	240 523
"	11	238 970
"	18	237 982
"	25	233 533
February	1	233 493
"	8	231 163
"	15	223 740
"	22	209 030
March	1	209 506
"	8	68 828
"	15	69 815
"	22	69 343
"	29	61 097

Dating from week ended 22nd February, 8 124 carcasses surplus to domestic requirements were packed for export.

82.

# BUS SERVICES

## Beyond 25-mile Radius

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will he advise the termini, and number of kilometres outside the 25-mile radii circle centred on the Perth GPO, of each MTT bus route—with the exception of those which emanate from or beyond Kwinana?
- (2) Can he advise—
  - (a) the number of services per day which; and
  - (b) the estimated number of passengers per day who, commence their journeys from such areas outside the 25-mile radii?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The information required by the Member is not readily available. I will forward it to the Member as soon as possible.

83.

# WATER SUPPLIES

## Mullewa

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What is the source of the water supply for Mullewa?
- (2) Will he advise his department's assessment of the quantity and quality of the water, related to present and anticipated requirements?
- (3) Is he aware that at least one community group in Mullewa has expressed concern at the quantity and quality of water, and has expressed the opinion that it is unfit for human consumption?
- (4) Has the department considered piping water from the Wicherina Dam to improve the Mullewa service?
- (5) If "Yes" to (4) what were the conclusions of such consideration?
- (6) If "No" to (4) will he give it consideration?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Local dams and bores.
- (2) Inadequate quantity and poor quality.
- (3) and (4) Yes.
- (5) The scheme is feasible and, as a result of representations made by the Member for the district, the Hon. Sir David Brand, provision has been made on the department's draft loan programme for the commencement of a new pipeline from Wicherina to serve Mullewa. Details have been provided to Sir David Brand.
- (6) Answered by (5).

84.

# KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

## Environmental Protection Report

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

- (1) Why was a taxonomist rather than an ecologist consulted with respect to the ecology of the area involved in the proposed southern extension of the Kwinana Freeway?
- (2) Has the Department of Environmental Protection a report from Dr N. Sammey relating to the area referred to in (1)?
- (3) If so, will he table the report?
- (4) Was the report critical of the report by Dr N. G. Marchant which is included in Appendix IX of the MRPA's report on objections?
- (5) Why was the report referred to in (2) not included or referred to in the MRPA documents?
- (6) What other reports does the department have which refer to the above subject matter and whose contents have been suppressed?
- (7) Why was the House of Representatives Select Committee on Road Safety's Report on "Roads and their Environment" neither included nor referred to in the Department of Environmental Protection's report?
- (8) Is he aware of the report on the environmental impact of State Highway 23 on Blackburn Reserve, Newcastle, New South Wales?
- (9) To what extent does the Environmental Protection Authority's report on the scheme fall short of the standard shown in the report referred to in (8) above?
- (10) Does he regard the Environmental Protection Authority's report as sufficiently comprehensive?
- (11) Why was the Environmental Protection Authority's report not released in time for the MRPA's hearings of objections, which was concerned, *inter alia*, with environmental problems?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) In considering the ecological aspects of the proposed southern extension of the Kwinana Freeway the Main Roads Department has sought expert advice from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Agriculture. In particular, with respect to botanical aspects the Main Roads Department sought

the advice of the Western Australian Herbarium through the Department of Agriculture. The Member will appreciate the fact that judgment had to be exercised in utilizing the best available technical advice.

- (2) A paper prepared by Mr N. Sammey has been forwarded to the Department of Environmental Protection for information by Dr Maslen.
- (3) The paper in question was prepared by Mr Sammey for the Aquinas School Council in a private capacity and as such has not been formally referred to the Department of Environmental Protection by either Mr Sammey or the Aquinas College Council. I will respect the wishes of Mr Sammey who does not want the report made public.
- (4) and (5) Answered by (3).
- (6) No reports have been suppressed. The Department of Environmental Protection is satisfied with the advice that the Main Roads Department has sought, and is currently seeking, on the ecological aspects of the proposed southern extension of the Kwinana Freeway. The Environmental Protection Authority, except in matters of grave importance to human life, feels obligated to meet agreements which have been arrived at in good faith in periods prior to the establishment of the Environmental Protection Authority.
- (7) The Environmental Protection Authority's report, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment was in the form of a brief historical review, an assessment of the present situation, and a series of recommendations by the Environmental Protection Authority. As such, it did not include reference to the document mentioned nor any other technical references that were considered.
- (8) Yes.
- (9) The Environmental Protection Authority's report on the proposed scheme was never intended to be an environmental impact statement.
- (10) Yes, in the circumstances it was presented which are clearly stated in the preamble to the Environmental Protection Authority's report.
- (11) The Environmental Protection Authority did not wish to complete its report until it had considered the full range of public objections to the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority on

environmental matters. Consequently the report was not released in time for the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority's hearings of objections, but it was released in time for it to be fully considered by the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority in making its own report and recommendations.

## 85. TOWN PLANNING

### *Geraldton Regional Planning Study Group*

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

- (1) When was the Geraldton Regional Planning Study Group established?
- (2) What are the responsibilities charged to the study group?
- (3) What is the basis on which its membership is comprised?
- (4) Who are the persons presently serving on the study group?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

Although it would have been more appropriate to address the question to the Minister for Industrial Development, I have sought his advice and am able to advise as follows:—

- (1) February 1973.
- (2) To consider the impact of possible major industrial activity on the future development of Geraldton and to recommend an outline plan making provision for the integration and allocation of major industry, port facilities, highways, railways, power systems and engineering services. It is an *ad hoc* Committee charged with undertaking this task and its operations would terminate on the completion of the report. The outline plan is intended to provide a guide to both Government and local authorities in the ongoing implementation of planning and development.
- (3) Representatives of the local authorities and State Departments and authorities involved in the provision of the abovementioned services.
- (4) Dr D. R. Kelly, Chairman—Department of Industrial Development.

Cr C. Mildwaters—Mayor Town of Geraldton, representing the Town of Geraldton and the Shires of Greenough, Chapman Valley and Irwin.

Mr D. Shepherd—Technical Adviser, Town of Geraldton.

Mr D. Lowe—Technical Adviser, Shire of Greenough.

Mr D. Henshaw—Postmaster General's Department.

Mr M. Anderson—Public Works Department.

Mr R. Clarke—Geraldton Port Authority.

Mr J. Griffiths—Town Planning Department.

Mr J. Hoare—Western Australian Government Railways.

Mr P. Van Noort—Lands and Surveys Department.

Mr D. Gooch—State Electricity Commission.

Mr R. Kaeshagen—Main Roads Department.

Mr W. Power—Department of Industrial Development.

## 86. ROAD TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

### *Officers: Accrued Leave and Salary*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will officers now employed by local authorities who subsequently are employed by the new traffic authority be able to transfer their long service leave and accrued leave?
- (2) Will the contributions to superannuation funds made by officers referred to in (1) above and on their behalf by their present employers, be transferable when they join the new authority?
- (3) Will accrued sick leave be transferable?
- (4) Will the transferred officers retain a salary level equal to the one they were receiving immediately prior to transfer?
- (5) Is it true that the salary level will be maintained by creating a special allowance to be paid only to officers transferred from local government?
- (6) Is it further true that future salary increases will result in the erosion of this special allowance and that this erosion will continue until all or most transferred officers are being paid at the rate of a first-year police constable?
- (7) Will transferred officers be employed on an equivalent rank to that attained in existing employment immediately prior to transfer?

- (8) Will the length of service of officers with their present employer be counted in relation to seniority with the new authority?
- (9) What employment opportunities will there be for local government officers employed on traffic matters and who are—
  - (a) fully engaged on administration duties;
  - (b) partly engaged on administration duties, immediately prior to transfer?
- (10) When an officer is made redundant by the takeover, what compensation will be offered for the loss of job opportunity?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Persons transferring will carry *pro rata* long service leave entitlements, not accrued leave.
- (2) Yes. The Government will take over the employer's contribution. Where eligible, persons transferring may join the State Superannuation Fund.
- (3) No.
- (4) Yes, unless other mutually acceptable arrangements are made.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) This is still under negotiation.
- (7) There is no equivalent rank between traffic inspectors and police.
- (8) See answer to (6).
- (9) (a) and (b). These are areas still the subject of negotiation.
- (10) So far this has not arisen, and if it does, will be the subject of negotiation.

## 87. ROAD TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

### *Shire Traffic Inspectors: Absorption*

Mr P. V. JONES, to the Minister for Traffic:

Having regard to the answers given to question 94 on Thursday, 27th March, 1975,

- (a) have the members of the Road Traffic Authority discussed the status, salary and seniority of shire traffic inspectors who are enrolled into the Road Traffic Authority?
- (b) Is it correct that shire traffic inspectors will only be enrolled as first-year constables as indicated by the chief executive of the authority and the police union?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Discussions are continuing to see if arrangements mutually acceptable to all parties, can be achieved.

## QUESTIONS (9): WITHOUT NOTICE

### 1. RAILWAYS

#### *Flood Damage: Building of Bridge*

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

- (1) Was he correctly reported in the *Daily News* yesterday as saying, with reference to the restoration of the flood-damaged trans.-Australia railway line, "It was planned for the W.A.G.R. to start on one side of the gap and the Commonwealth Railways to start on the other, but the W.A.G.R. men finished the bridge before the Commonwealth had started"?
- (2) If it was the responsibility of the Commonwealth to start on the building of a bridge on one side of the gap, will he explain why the W.A.G.R. did the complete job?
- (3) Is it not a fact that by agreement with the Commonwealth, the W.A.G.R. was to be the constructing authority and the Commonwealth undertook to provide the spoil from Whyalla?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

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

- (1) to (3) I made a statement to the effect that originally the Commonwealth was to start on one side of the break and the State on the other. But the State did 100 per cent of the bridging.

From information I have this is correct. The Commonwealth idea was to start filling on one side, culverting and diverting water; the WAGR—bridging. The Commonwealth idea, apparently was not very satisfactory and the bridging was completed by the WAGR in approximately 11 days.

I believe the Western Australian engineers and workmen did a magnificent job and the Premier took time to meet them at Forrestfield at

8 a.m. yesterday to express his thanks.

The line remaining out of action would have cost the Western Australian taxpayers and housewives approximately \$3m a month and, as 5 000 jobs rested on the work being completed, prompt action was essential.

In view of the poor financial results of the Commonwealth Railways, their apparent poor performance on the bridging, and the fact that they want to take over the WAGR, this exercise clearly indicated that the WAGR is better run from Western Australia than from Canberra.

Further, as the Commonwealth was not prepared to participate in a subsidy until the Western Australian taxpayer paid the first \$1.5m, members can see what a financial disaster could occur should the Western Australian Government Railways be handed over to Canberra. Also, following the completion of this work, members can realise what a magnificent job the WAGR and the Western Australian employees are capable of doing.

## 2. HEALTH

### *Fish: Heavy Metals Contamination*

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

- (1) What are the results of the testing of fish caught in Western Australian waters with respect to—

Arsenic  
Cadmium  
Zinc

for the years 1974 and to date in 1975?

- (2) What are the internationally tolerated limits for human consumption of the heavy metals referred to in (1) above?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) and (2) Actually, the honourable member did give the Minister for Health some notice of the question, but as it has not been possible to have all the information tabulated I ask that the question be placed on the notice paper.

## STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION

### *Management Structure: Report*

Mr MAY, to the Premier:

In view of the fact that I have received no acknowledgement or reply to my letter dated the 21st February, 1975, together with the fact that the matter was raised in Parliament on Wednesday, the 26th March, 1975, regarding a request to make available a copy of the study conducted into the State Electricity Commission by Cresap, McCormick and Paget, will he—

- (a) advise if the letter was received;
- (b) advise when a copy of the report will be made available; and
- (c) if not, would he indicate the reason for declining the request?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

In answer to the member for Clontarf, and in accordance with the promise I made yesterday, the answer is as follows—

- (a) Yes. I am sorry a reply was not sent earlier, due to an oversight. It is being prepared.
- (b) I understand a copy of the report has already been made available to the Leader of the Opposition (the Hon. John T. Tonkin, M.L.A.) on a confidential basis.

A copy of the report is also before the Public Accounts Committee.

Should the honourable member desire to sight a copy of the study, this can be made available to him at the Minister's office.

I shall discuss with the Minister on his return the future policy in respect of the public release of the document.

- (c) Answered by (b).

## 4.

## PRICES CONTROL

### *Legislation*

Mr CARR, to the Premier:

Following the June 1974 Premiers' Conference at which it is understood a proposal was discussed that the States should get together with the Australian Government in a combined attack on prices—

- (1) Is the Premier prepared to introduce legislation complementary to the Prices Justification Tribunal at this point of time?

- (2) If not, under what conditions would the Premier be prepared to introduce such legislation?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

In answer to the member for Geraldton, who gave me ample notice of the question, the answer is—

- (1) No, but see answer to (2).  
 (2) Only if all the States and the Commonwealth agree on such a course, and the move is accompanied by other measures designed to contain inflation at the national level, as was the proposal when my offer was made to the Commonwealth.

#### 5. PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE SYSTEM

##### *Establishment*

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Premier:

- (1) Does the Premier support the Federal Leader of the Opposition (Mr Malcolm Fraser) and in particular his call today for the development of an effective system of standing committees in Parliament, so as to make that institution more efficient, and to give the back-bench member a meaningful role?  
 (2) As the Premier has used the argument that this House has too few members for an effective committee system, how does he explain the existence of a satisfactory committee system on shire councils, some of which have as few as 10 councillors?  
 (3) What action is being taken by the Premier to provide a full and meaningful role in the legislative process by back-bench members on the Government side?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (3) I suggest the honourable member place the question on the notice paper if he wants a comprehensive answer. This matter has been canvassed to a great extent in this Chamber on many occasions. If the honourable member wants an answer in a considered way I shall be pleased to give it. In fact, I have not heard of Mr Fraser's proposal, so it would not be a bad thing if I looked at it first.

#### 6. CORPORATIONS AND SECURITIES LEGISLATION *Opposition by Non-Labor States*

Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

Is it a fact that his Government has joined with other non-Labor Governments to mount a campaign in the Federal Parliament

to defeat the corporations and securities legislation; and, if so, what are the reasons for that action?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The State Government has not mounted such a campaign. I am talking about the State of Western Australia for which our Government is responsible. This State has not mounted a campaign to defeat the legislation. What we have done is to make representations to have the question considered in a sensible way by the Commonwealth and the States.

#### 7. REFUGEE FUND *State Contribution*

Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

Would the Premier inform the House of the extent and the amount of financial assistance that his Government has contributed to the Australian refugee fund that has been set up on a national level?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

If the honourable member wants a considered answer I suggest he place the question on the notice paper. If he had genuinely wanted an intelligent answer he would at least have given me some notice of his question so that he could be supplied with a specific statement on the matter. When we talk about assistance we talk not only of money, but other forms of assistance which the Government has given by way of co-operation at the request of the Prime Minister or on its own initiative.

#### 8. HOUSING

##### *Applicants: Release of Particulars*

Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

If, as the Minister says, it is long-standing policy not to release personal details regarding particular applications, can the Minister explain why he did so with regard to question 56 on yesterday's notice paper, and question 32 on today's notice paper, but refused to do so in respect of other questions?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

I do not have a copy of yesterday's notice paper, however, I would point out to the honourable member that question 32 on today's notice paper makes no reference to a particular person.

## 9. STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION

### *Management Structure: Report*

Mr MAY, to the Premier:

Following the answer of the Premier to my question without notice, and in particular to part (b), I understand the report has already been made available to the Leader of the Opposition on a confidential basis. Am I to understand that the Premier is implying that I will be able to get the information from the Leader of the Opposition?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

Obviously the answer is "No." Knowing the experience of the Leader of the Opposition, I doubt whether he would give it to the honourable member.

Mr May: Why did you mention this?

Sir CHARLES COURT: Only to let the honourable member know there were copies of the report in certain official quarters. One has been supplied to the Leader of the Opposition, and another to the Public Accounts Committee, so as to dispel the suggestion that the Government has anything to hide in the matter. I make an offer to the honourable member, pending the return of the Minister concerned, that if he wishes to see the report he can do so on the same basis in the Minister's office.

Mr May: One cannot see the report in the Minister's office overnight.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I can assure the honourable member that ample opportunity will be given to him to read the report there, including over the weekend if he wishes.

## AGENT GENERAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### *Introduction and First Reading*

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

## PYRAMID SALES SCHEMES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

### *Second Reading*

MR GRAYDEN (South Perth—Minister for Consumer Affairs) [3.07 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The sole purpose of this short amending Bill is to fix a period longer than six months for a prosecution to be commenced for an offence against the Pyramid Sales Schemes Act.

Offences under this Act are dealt with in accordance with section 8 as summary offences and normal procedure in a court of summary jurisdiction requires a complaint to be lodged with the court within six months of the commission of a summary offence.

Experience has shown this period to be totally inadequate for inquiries and investigations into likely breaches of the Act. Under the Companies Act a limit of three years is allowed for the making of a complaint from the date of the offence and it is considered that a similar period should apply in the Pyramid Sales Schemes Act.

An inquiry recently into one firm involved in pyramid selling arose from a number of complaints and the typical pattern showed that the individual signed his application form and paid cash to the promoters, but it was at least some four to five months later before he became disillusioned with the scheme and a complaint was lodged.

Lengthy time is then required in the taking of statements of various persons, arrangements of search warrants on bank accounts and premises, preparation of briefs for law officials and the like. The promoters of these schemes are usually highly organised businessmen whose methods of operation require exhaustive inquiry.

Bearing in mind the insidious nature of pyramid selling and the destructive effect it can have on the financial position of an individual who may be drawn into its operations, a three-year period in which a complaint may be lodged from the commission of an offence is fully justified in the consumers' interests.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Harman.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: TENTH DAY

### *Motion*

Debate resumed, from the 9th April, on the following motion by Mr Old—

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

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

MR SHALDERS (Murray) [3.09 p.m.]: It gives me great pleasure to speak in the Address-in-Reply debate. I have listened with great interest to the comments of the members of the Opposition who criticised the Government for what it has done,



for what the honourable members alleged it did wrongly, and for not doing the things which they claimed it should have done.

To set the record straight I would like to enumerate a few of the achievements of the Government in my electorate since it assumed office. Firstly, I will refer to the small town of Dwellingup which has a population of some 200 or 300 people. The previous Government saw fit to transfer the policeman from that town and allow the police station to reach a stage of disrepair where it became an eyesore. The Premier, in his pre-election statements, said he would replace the policeman at Dwellingup. That promise is now in the process of being fulfilled and the police station is being renovated.

I am pleased to say the people of Dwellingup have asked me to convey their appreciation to the Premier for the action which has been taken. There has been some trouble in Dwellingup, caused not so much by the people of Dwellingup themselves but by transients who have been aware that there is no policeman in the town and that trouble has developed usually during weekends. I convey that appreciation from the people of Dwellingup to the Government.

Mr Jamieson: Do we cheer or clap?

Mr SHALDERS: A far more serious problem existed in Mandurah with the erosion of the beach-front along Ormsby Terrace. The people living in that area were faced with the prospect of having their homes washed away, and of losing many thousands of dollars. Not only that, but there was the prospect of one of the finest beaches in the area being lost.

The Government has recently announced that a tender has been accepted involving the expenditure of some \$500 000 to complete stage 1 of a programme which, hopefully, according to the experience of those carrying out the planning, will overcome the problem in the area. We have to face the fact that when experts make decisions regarding problems such as erosion there is a certain amount of crystal ball gazing. However, to the best knowledge of those experts the present action will overcome the problem. I again convey the appreciation of the local authority, and the people of Mandurah, for the action taken. The restoration will have the side effect of providing a fine small-boat harbour for the Mandurah area.

A reticulated water supply has been constructed in Mandurah and surrounding districts. The water comes from bores in the Piniarra area. Unfortunately, the quality of the water is extremely poor and it contains a high degree of sediment. Many people have complained that the sediment has caused hot water systems to burn out rapidly, and some have even

complained to me that skin complaints, and similar conditions, have become worse since they have been using the water.

The Minister for Works has announced that during the 1975-76 financial year a programme costing \$1.3 million will be undertaken to supply Mandurah and surrounding districts with water from the South Dandalup Dam. Again, the people of Mandurah and surrounding areas are most grateful that their difficulties and troubles have been acknowledged, and that the quality of the water will be improved. Everybody realises that the improvements will not take place next week, or even next year. I understand the programme might take up to two years. However, at least the people know there has been a recognition of the problem, and they know that the Government is prepared to act accordingly.

I also extend my personal thanks to the Premier in his capacity as Treasurer for his action to subsidise the public transport service in country centres so that children who travel by public transport will pay no more than children who travel on the metropolitan transport system. Children in the metropolitan area pay a maximum of 10c daily.

A small bus service started recently in the Mandurah area and it caters for over 200 children each day. The parents of those children are paying no more than 10c a day, and the provision of the bus service has answered a need in that area.

Much has been said about, and much criticism has been levelled at, the Ministers of the present Government. Let me convey the appreciation of the local authorities, and also of the many different organisations in my electorate, to the Ministers of this Government who have been prepared to speak with and meet the local authorities and organisations in order to discuss the problems at the local level. Perhaps the answers which Ministers have provided have not always been what the local authorities or the organisations would have liked but at least they appreciate that they have had the opportunity to meet with the Ministers and the Premier in order to put their cases.

The people concerned have been able to receive considered replies and they have been made aware of the difficulties which may preclude them from being satisfied immediately. I would like the appreciation of those organisations to go on record.

Members of the Opposition have made great play about increased charges for electricity, water, and so on.

Mr Bertram: Hear, hear!

Mr SHALDERS: I do not think the Premier has ever said he enjoyed increasing costs.

Mr Jones: He said he would put these things right.

Mr SHALDERS: The Premier has made it perfectly clear that costs are inflationary. There are two solutions to the problem. Firstly, the State Government should receive enough money so that it can absorb extra costs without having to increase costs to the consumers. This increase can be achieved in two ways. Growth within the State can bring in additional royalties but that avenue has been stifled by our friends in Canberra who have decided that they will be the ones who will say what growth will be allowed to take place. Goodness knows, the previous Premier, prior to the last election, was upset at the attitude of the Commonwealth Government because of its decision regarding a complex which was to be constructed on the outskirts of Bunbury. I believe the former Premier even went to the extent of saying that the decision in Canberra could have cost him the election.

Mr Skidmore: The Australian Government is looking after our natural resources for the people of Australia.

Mr SHALDERS: If that is so, it should make sure that the State Government receives sufficient reimbursement of finances from the Commonwealth collections to carry on without having to increase charges. However, our Premier was told to go home and increase charges. The Commonwealth was not worried about or interested in the problems of this State. That attitude might be excusable if the Commonwealth Government was struggling for finance, and down to its last 10c or 20c, so to speak. However, let us look at the amount actually collected by way of taxation during the 1970-71 financial year.

Mr Bryce: What about the deficit?

Sir Charles Court: What about it?

Mr SHALDERS: During the last year of the Liberal Government in Canberra a total of \$7150 million was collected in taxation revenue. The estimated collection for the present financial year is more than twice as much; that is, \$14580 million. That is only an estimate. We know that the present Federal Government has generated inflation which has led to a tremendous increase in the revenue which it will collect. It has decided that it will create a Father Christmas image and it will hand out money left, right, and centre.

Mr Skidmore: You were accusing it a little while ago of not doing enough.

Mr SHALDERS: The Commonwealth Government says it will hand out money where it considers it is necessary. I think that even the Leader of the Opposition, if he were in Government, would appreciate having the money given to him so that he could spend it and have his record examined in the light of how that money was spent. Surely if the Opposition was

in Government its members would be in favour of having the money handed to it to spend as it saw fit. It could then go to the next election and say to the people, "This is our record."

As the situation now stands what can a Government say? Does it say, "These are the achievements of the Federal Government"? I wonder whether members opposite would still be saying glowing things about the Commonwealth Government in those circumstances. The member for Balga has been interjecting but his stare is as vacant as his seat often is!

There is no question that the Australian Government is creating a Father Christmas image by handing out money where it sees fit. It has found out that the best way to obtain more revenue is to promote inflation. The more inflation, the more taxation, and the more revenue is collected. In following this procedure it has evolved a great number of its own schemes.

Some of the shire clerks I have spoken to are absolutely perplexed by the amount of paper work which they have to interpret. Many shire clerks spend almost the whole of their time reading and trying to interpret the various schemes which the Federal Government has instituted. The shire councils are tired of this. I will come to one example in a minute and it may illustrate that some shire councils would sooner be without some of these schemes.

Mr Skidmore: We will wait for it.

Mr SHALDERS: I would like to refer to the RED Scheme. This is a fine how-do-you-do. People have been put out of work by the Australian Government—its policy is to put people out of work—and yet it attempts to gain a Father Christmas image by spending money to employ the very people it has put out of work.

Mr Sodeman: They print more money.

Mr SHALDERS: Some of the shire councils are becoming extremely worried about the situation. What is more, I accuse the Australian Government of requiring local authorities to provide bridging finance for their operations. I will quote one instance of this where a shire council undertook a project worth \$68 000 under the RED Scheme. This council has received \$17 000 and yet it has paid out over \$35 000. Its last application to recoup this money was made about the middle of February to the Australian Government, but no payment has been forthcoming to date. So here we have the situation where shire councils are required to provide bridging finance to employ people who are out of work as a result of the policy of the Australian Government. If the shire councils had caused the unemployment, it would be fair enough that they should pay for it. However, the shire council to which I refer has applied for finance in connection with the scheme, but it has not received the money from the Australian Government.

Mr Skidmore: I doubt that.

Mr SHALDERS: Of course the honourable member doubts it, because it suits him to doubt it but they are the facts. I suggest that the honourable member should visit the people in Guildford in an endeavour to assist those who are in trouble through the fire. He would be better off doing that than making inane comments.

I want to draw the attention of members to another situation which has arisen under the provisions of this RED Scheme. A shire council in my electorate was advised by the Federal Minister for Labor and Immigration (Mr Clyde Cameron) that it was given permission to employ a costing clerk for 25 weeks. The council was informed it could charge the cost of the labour to the Federal Government at \$105 per week. The person employed in this position was to supervise materials and employees who were carrying out projects under the RED Scheme.

The person who was sent to the shire council to take up this position had the listed qualification of a pay clerk, and it is extremely doubtful whether or not it will be legal for the shire council to pay this man at the rate of \$105 per week. The union may insist that the man be paid his award rate, and the council will be faced with the prospect of paying him \$120 to \$130 per week, and yet it will be reimbursed by the Australian Government at a rate of \$105 per week. In other words, the ratepayers of Mandurah will be subsidising the RED Scheme.

Mr Bertram: Which shire is this?

Mr SHALDERS: This is in the Shire of Mandurah. In addition to the extra salary, at the end of the period of employment of this costing clerk, the shire must provide the man with holiday pay, any sick leave entitlements that may accrue, as well as making payments for his workers' compensation insurance. This will be an additional out-of-pocket expense to the shire council. I cannot see that ratepayers in any area should be forced to subsidise a scheme which the Australian Government wants to implement. This is in fact a double tax; our income tax is being used to pay the unemployed, and also ratepayers in particular shires are having to contribute to the operations of the RED Scheme.

Mr Skidmore: Will the shire concerned gain any benefit from that officer? You feel it is unrealistic that the shire should meet some of the cost?

Mr SHALDERS: That is not the point.

Mr Skidmore: It is the point.

Mr SHALDERS: The point is that these schemes have been put forward by the Australian Government, and it has told the shire council to charge out the labour for that particular person.

Mr Skidmore: The Australian Government is not telling the shire to hire the labour.

Mr SHALDERS: The Australian Government approved the hire of this particular employee by the shire, but the charge to the Australian Government is to be \$105 per week.

The shire employed two other men under this scheme, and again it was instructed to charge the labour out at \$105 per week. These men were asked to do a small painting job, and they immediately informed the shire that to do this job they must be paid at the rate of a tradesman painter. I understand that the union which represents painters informed the shire that it supported the claim made by these men.

Mr Bertram: Are you a member of the shire?

Mr SHALDERS: This makes a mockery of a system whereby the Australian Government says to the shire that it can charge out the labour at a particular figure, but the shire finds that it must pay the employees a tradesman's wage or another figure. I understood that unemployed people would be grateful to be given a job, and that they would appreciate the chance to receive a weekly wage. However, if the unions intend to take that attitude, they will bite the hand that feeds them.

Mr Skidmore: Take what attitude?

Mr SHALDERS: Although our benevolent Australian Government has instituted many schemes, some areas have been neglected. I hope some members of the Opposition will agree with me when I ask the Australian Government to reconsider its policy in regard to the provision of the utility of public telephones. All of us have had dealings with the PMG's Department, and I must say that I have received tremendous co-operation and assistance from the district telephone manager in my area.

Mr Skidmore: So have I.

Mr SHALDERS: This gentleman is always helpful, but he is bound by the policy which says that a public telephone must make a profit. Let us consider the case of a small State Housing Commission development. Perhaps only 10 or 20 houses are provided at the start, but these houses may be a long way from a telephone. The Australian Government should consider providing this utility in instances such as this so that people can get help if a crisis develops.

Mr Barnett: Where is that policy laid down?

Mr SHALDERS: Do not talk nonsense. The honourable member will find this out if he rings up his local district manager. He should not show his ignorance. The policy should be that public telephones are a utility. Recently I asked the district telephone manager to consider the provision of public telephones in a number of

areas in my electorate. He was very helpful, and he undertook a survey. He informed me that the survey showed that public telephones would be approved in three places only. He told me that he had to follow the policy and so only three public telephones could be provided. He then went on to say that because of the serious shortage of multi-coin equipment, it would be 12 months before these public telephones could be provided. So I suggest that the Commonwealth Government and the Postmaster-General should try to speed up the delivery of this equipment. Where approval is given for a public telephone, it should be supplied speedily. I hope that the Australian Government will change its policy. Even a small number of people in a developing area may require a public telephone.

Mr Skidmore: Private enterprise has not been able to provide the equipment needed.

Mr SHALDERS: We seem to be at some conflict with members of the Opposition in another area. Members opposite say that if we go and talk to the people we will find they are fed up with the State Government. Members opposite must be talking to different people from the ones I talk to because as far as I am concerned the people to whom I speak—I do not refer to people within my own political party set-up, but to the people I meet as I travel around my electorate including the people in the more urban area of Mandurah, down to the rural areas of Coolup and Waroona—certainly do not like these misconstrued charges.

They are fully aware of the reasons this Government has increased charges. I believe the Opposition would be extremely naïve if it really believed such accusations. Fair enough, members opposite must say these things for the benefit of their supporters. However, this Government has had no option but to increase charges.

People in the electorate are aware of this and of the difficulties the State Government is in as a result of actions of the Australian Government—the benevolent Australian Government which has removed the superphosphate and petrol subsidies and which proposed a capital gains tax. I concede that the Government announced such a tax would not be implemented, but it was certainly one of its policies.

Then there was the offer of finance to beef producers at 11 per cent. With friends like that, who needs enemies? The beef producers were extremely grateful to receive such an offer and I believe they would like Mr Whitlam to visit them so that they could tell him what he could do with his finance at 11 per cent.

One area of concern in my electorate which is within the province of the State Government relates to the area of water known as the Peel Inlet. The Peel Inlet has a tremendous potential; it is a magnificent body of water which I believe is

unique in Western Australian. However, there is no question that the health of the Peel Inlet is deteriorating.

People who have lived in the area for many years, such as the professional fishermen and elderly residents, have seen changes taking place and are concerned for the health of this body of water. I hope the Minister for Conservation and Environment will take steps to institute an in-depth inquiry into the matter. I know he is concerned about it and I appreciate the concern he has shown.

I read with interest the progress report of the study instituted by WATT-Aid on behalf of the Metropolitan Water Supply Sewerage and Drainage Board. The progress report states that there are deficiencies in data and that more information is required. This highlights the need for more money to be allocated to this area.

I have written to the Minister asking him to make representations to the Australian Government, which has established a committee to inquire into the national heritage, so that perhaps more money could be provided for a study into the Peel Inlet similar to that done in the Hardy Inlet. I hope this can be done because if we leave it for too long, the situation could get so out of control that it would be impossible to restore the area to its previous balance.

I am sure everyone in the State would be extremely sorry to see this body of water lost. It has enormous potential for tourism and for conservation. I would not like to see the entire body of water thrown open to tourism; both tourism and conservation of the environment could exist side by side, so that the people could enjoy certain areas and that other areas could be properly conserved in their natural state.

It has been very frustrating on occasions to sit here and listen to charges levelled by some of the more raucous members of the Caucus.

Mr Skidmore: Name them, so that I will not be embarrassed.

Mr SHALDERS: If the cap fits, wear it! Members opposite have accused backbenchers on this side of the House of being muzzled and somnolent, and disinterested in the proceedings.

I speak only for myself when I say the only reason I have not spoken as often as some members opposite is that I am primarily interested in ensuring that this Government gets on with its business. It is not able to do that while we are listening to one speaker after the other from the Opposition jumping up and bleating pathetic statements in support of absolutely foolish amendments to the Address-in-Reply motion. I do not think they deserve any credit for their actions.

It is my contention that the most effective way I could gain supporters would be to bring to this place as many people as

I could find who voted for the Opposition at the last election so that they could see the way members opposite behave in this place. In my opinion, that would be the best way I could increase my popularity. They would be absolutely staggered to see the performance of members opposite and would be horrified to know the sort of members they supported.

Mr Skidmore: Bring them down! I do not think they would be unduly alarmed.

Mr Bertram: We will subsidise the buses for you.

Mr SHALDERS: I understood that it was the duty of an Opposition to be constructive in its opposition. Members opposite have not been constructive; they have been only destructive and have made absolutely pathetic attempts to prop up and make excuses for an Australian Government which in my opinion—

Mr Skidmore: Is the best Australian Government this nation has ever known!

Mr SHALDERS: —has done and is doing everything in its power to destroy both State and local governments.

MR JAMIESON (Welshpool—Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [3.36 p.m.]: One of the matters that has concerned me in recent times in this Chamber is the growing conceit of members opposite. Perhaps this was exemplified by the speech of the member for Murray, who has just resumed his seat. However, others have been indulging in this practice quite a bit, of late. It has even reached the stage where the Minister for Works indulged in a little bit of this practice, although not in this Chamber. However, I will relate those actions as I proceed.

I was rather surprised last night to hear an honourable member complaining bitterly about the state of decorum in this House.

Mr Watt: Bitterly?

Mr JAMIESON: I believe that is a direct reflection on you, Mr Speaker, because I am sure you would not stand for an indecorous House. Such a situation would not occur under your direction, and I am sure you would not want it to occur.

If the honourable member who made the statement had had the experience of witnessing other Parliaments in session, I doubt whether he would have made such an accusation. The only Parliament in Australia which I have not observed in session is the Victorian Parliament; but by comparison with each of the others, this place is very decorous.

Mr Watt: Two wrongs do not make a right.

Mr JAMIESON: That may be so. I could go even further and say that I have witnessed a couple of overseas Parliaments in action, and they were not very impressive by comparison with this Chamber. I refer members to reports published from time to

time about the riots in the Diet in Japan and in the Italian Parliament, where members start to chop into one another and do all sorts of things.

The honourable member may or may not be aware that the seating arrangements in this Chamber were based on the original system at Westminster; that is why we are placed three sabre lengths apart, so that a person who is threatened may have the opportunity to get his sabre out before he gets sliced. That tradition has continued under our system for a long while, although we have not had any sabre play for quite some time.

As a matter of fact, since I have been in this House I have seen only one punch thrown by one member at another and that was over an emotional issue of world-shattering importance; namely—

Mr O'Neill: The pool in the park!

Mr JAMIESON: —the pool in the park. I see the Minister knows about that incident.

Mr Watt: But that did not occur in Parliament, did it?

Mr JAMIESON: Yes, it did. In the other place, a person who is now a Minister was once draped over the table during a division. Except for those two occasions, I have not known of an indecorous act in this place.

Of course, a few threats have been made. In fact, last year some threats were made to take people out where the bulls feed, etc.; however, usually things calm down sufficiently for good sense to prevail.

On one occasion I took on a Federal member. As a matter of fact the late member concerned has two sons in this Parliament at the present time. I took the Federal member on because I felt that the radio broadcast of the debates in the Federal House indicated that the standards of that House were not what they might have been. When I mentioned this to the Federal member concerned he said, "What do you want; a Sunday school picnic like you have on the hill?"

I do not regard this as a Sunday school picnic; I think our activities here are quite temperate and reasonable. There is of course no doubt that tempers do get heated occasionally, but of course we must realise that the philosophies of members in this Chamber are so violently different and opposed and it is natural that a certain amount of heat will be generated.

For example, when one treads on somebody else's toes one will always hear squeals and squawks. I have heard members of the present Government, when in Opposition, screaming out about democracy having gone out of the window, and that sort of thing. After he has been here long enough to have changed from one side of the House to the other the honourable member will find that things are not as bad as they are made out to be.

Mr Watt: My attitude is unchanged.

Mr JAMIESON: We will wait and see. It is possible that the honourable member himself may one day get out where the bull feeds.

Mr Watt: I mentioned this possibility.

Mr JAMIESON: I would now like to refer to this question of conceit. As members know we have become a little accustomed to the member for Moore and all he has had to say. God save the Queen! At this point I must say that I respect Her Majesty.

Mr Young: Is she a whinging type of pommy to whom you referred?

Mr JAMIESON: No, she is not. There are two kinds of pommies; those who whinge and those who do not. I have attended meetings where the whinging type of person has been present and they have been pointed out to me by their fellow countrymen who have quite often added that they should not have been allowed out here. As I have said, there are two distinct types of pommies that emerge from the British Isles—and this is unfortunate—and they are recognised by their own countrymen for what they are.

Getting back to the question of conceit, we have people telling us at length how hard they have worked all their lives. The Deputy Premier is a typical example of this. We should not, however, judge people by the praise they heap on themselves. If we did this and bought people at the price at which they valued themselves and sold them for the value that we might place on them I am sure that in some cases we would make a substantial loss.

We have had instances of certain people accusing others of not having done a hard day's work in their lives. It has been my experience that people who talk like this and who praise themselves generally find, that their next hard day's work is their first. As a rule such people are all talk; they are not genuine.

Before asserting that one person has worked harder in a physical sense for the community than another it is necessary to study very closely the person's background. It is only then that we would be able to make such a remark with any degree of certainty. Let us get rid of all this stupidity that appears to be prevalent among members opposite. Let us not hear any more talk of their having gone out and carved a farm out of virgin bush. People on this side of the House have bogged coal and done a thousand and one similar things. They may even have been on the end of a shovel loading coal on the railways, and when one has done that one knows what hard work is. I have done this in company with my friend the member for Collie and others in this place.

It is not my desire to go around telling everybody that I have shovelled sand or that I have shovelled coal, etc.

Mr Skidmore: What else have you shovelled?

Mr JAMIESON: I have done a little of that too, and very successfully. That is why my garden is growing so well at present!

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr JAMIESON: Quite recently we found that the Minister for Works was guilty of a degree of conceit when he wrote the political column. He seems to have become as bad as the journalists. Not only does he take a great deal of license in this regard, but he also alters what has been said in an endeavour to make it look factual.

*Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.05 p.m.*

Mr JAMIESON: Before the afternoon tea suspension I was expressing concern about the conceit of some members, particularly that of the Minister for Works, because he wants to run not only the affairs of the Government, but also the affairs of the Opposition and that this was a little more than I could take. As a matter of fact, I must take him to task over his journalism. He said in *The West Australian* of the 3rd April this year, in the "Political Notes"—

... it would appear that the Opposition learnt little from its long tenure of that office between 1959 and 1971.

He then said that the Opposition should follow the example set by the Liberal-Country Party coalition Opposition between 1971 and 1974. These words made me think that the then Opposition must have done some great work during that time so I carried out some research on the subject, but I will deal with the results in a moment. I first wish to deal with his journalism. The Minister for Works said—

Parliament remembers, if the Opposition does not, the opinion expressed last year by no less an authority than the present Deputy Leader of the Opposition and State president of the Australian Labor Party, Mr Jamieson, when he said, in effect—

I must admit he used the qualifying words, "in effect". To continue—

—that—whatever the causes—there was no cure for inflation: We must "let it rip" and learn to live with it.

I did not say anything like that, of course, and for the record I think I should repeat what I did say so that the Minister for Works will not have to avail himself of the services of the research officer. On the 21st November last year, I said—

I have often said that inflation had to run its full course, and if we tried to interfere with it we would create other problems.

A little further on, after referring to my experience in America, I said—

... no useful purpose would be served by their trying to cure it.

I was referring to the Federal Opposition leader and the Premier. To continue—

It would be like King Canute trying to turn back the waves. Once a serious economic movement starts in the world it cannot be stopped until its tempo has slowed down.

Of course even the Premier is beginning to find this out. He thought at one time that he could cure all these things, but I notice he was not pressed to stay in Japan very long in order to cure that country's inflation problems which are greater than our own, because he would be only a liability to the Japanese.

The other matter with which I wish to deal concerns the various gigantic motions to which reference was made. He said we should be following the Liberal-Country Party's example, but I do not know which one we were supposed to be following. Perhaps it was the example set during the session of 1972. If so it would be an exemplary one and I am sure all Governments would like Oppositions to follow it because during that year the Opposition did not move a single amendment.

I have looked at the debates during the others years and I find that in March, 1973, the first amendment moved was by the then Leader of the Opposition, now the Premier, who took to task the Commonwealth Government no less although it had been less than three months in office. He also chided the State Government for not having attempted to stop Commonwealth intrusion into our affairs, and so on. Yet, the Commonwealth Government had hardly had time to warm the Treasury bench!

A little later on another wonderful amendment was moved concerning blackmail and intimidation by trade unionists. I suppose that was world-shattering; again it all depends on one's opinion.

If this is the kind of example we were supposed to have been following, heaven help us.

Now I come to another amendment moved by the then Opposition, and this is rather a good one. It followed much the same format as a previous one moved by another member and it was the third in that particular year. The subject matter had already been debated, but the Premier of the day incurred the wrath of the Opposition by moving the closure of the debate on that particular amendment. Are these great examples of what should be done? That was in 1973.

In 1971 the present Government, when in Opposition, took the then Government to task for its indifference to the financial position of the State when it was making its election promises. Of course we found out that our Treasury was very empty and

quickly we had to tailor our cloth accordingly. Nevertheless, by adjustment over a period of time, we managed to honour the promises we made during the election campaign without any great financial difficulties. The amendment on that occasion was moved by the present member for Greenough, the then Leader of the Opposition.

We then had another great amendment in which the Opposition accused the Government of being directed by an outside body; to wit, the State Executive of the ALP. I treated that amendment with a little contempt because a number of members on this side were not only members of the state executive, but actual officers of it and these same members were being accused of bending to outside direction. Therefore, that amendment was not particularly world-shattering, and it was moved by the present Premier who said that all sorts of thing could happen because of this outside direction and he was most concerned about it.

We all know that the Minister for Works is a smart aleck. He picks up little mistakes and draws the attention of a member to them so that he can raise them. He does this I suppose because of his long training in Parliament. He very rarely raises the matters himself, but very often he makes the bullets and loads the gun for someone else to fire.

On this occasion he gave the ammunition to the present Minister for Transport who moved an appropriate amendment dealing with the Scandia Line and the extreme importance of supplying sufficient wool to keep the ships calling at Albany.

The reason I am raising this matter is that the amendment was so badly worded that the Speaker of the day had this to say after two other members had spoken—

Before the next speaker rises to his feet, I would point out that the member for Mt. Lawley has resumed his place in the Chamber. The amendment is badly worded. Has the member for Mt. Lawley the amendment in front of him?

The member for Mt. Lawley is, of course, the present Minister for Transport. The following then appeared in *Hansard*—

Mr. O'Connor: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I suggest that the amendment should be reworded along the following lines:—

The Speaker then had to make no fewer than four corrections so that the amendment was sensible. The Speaker then said—

If the member for Mt. Lawley agrees with the rewording I will alter the amendment accordingly.

We all vividly recall recently when the Opposition attempted to amend a typographical error in an amendment. In regard to this matter the Minister for Works in the "Political Notes" indicated that this error caused chaos because on the 3rd April this year he wrote—

### CHAOS

The shadow Minister for Agriculture, Mr H. D. Evans, moved one amendment, circulated another quite differently worded, and induced a situation of chaos in which Parliament found itself debating an issue based on part of an Act which does not even exist.

We all know about that, but we were forced into that position because of the stupidity of some people in not allowing the alteration to be made. The Speaker at the time of the previous amendment, who has since passed from our midst, was evidently a little more tolerant of mistakes than you are, Sir, and he took action himself to make the necessary alteration so that the amendment was sensible and debate could continue on the subject matter.

If these are the classic examples the Minister is referring to, we are not improving very much, because on this occasion only a typographical error was involved; not a badly conceived motion.

Mr Harman: The Minister refused to co-operate with the Speaker on the last occasion.

Mr JAMIESON: Of course he did, but on the previous occasion the Speaker said, "The motion is badly framed. I will amend it in this way. Do you agree?", and the member said, "Yes."

I regret the Premier is not here because I am going to refer to an interesting article I read in the February, 1975, issue of *Queensland Calling*, the monthly journal of the Save Our State Campaign. That body is a very right-wing organisation but it is very concerned about Australia's assets, and particularly about Western Australia's assets being sold out when the Premier of this State was overseas and involved in talks with people who might be able to give financial aid. The article pointed out that because of his activities the Premier would fall out of the frying pan into the fire, and it goes on to say—

So, among other places visited, was the plush New York office of the Rockefeller-owned Chase-Manhattan Bank! It has been reported that David Rockefeller has agreed to co-operate in a Western Australian Investment project to tap the mining and development potential.

The article then outlines the history of this particular banking organisation, how it originated, and what it did. It is

interesting to note that it was subsequently involved in financing both participants—Germany and the United States—in the first World War. The article goes on to say—

Many have pondered how the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917 was financed, as well as the almost uninterrupted flow of production from the Western World to the Soviet Union in the intervening years, providing as it did the opportunity for the Communists to consolidate their position.

Startling new evidence from former Research Fellow of the Hoover Institute at Stanford University, California, Dr Anthony Sutton, confirming what many have suspected, now leaves no room for doubt.

A small number of financial houses, including the Chase-Manhattan Bank, provided the vital credit the Soviets needed.

Recently the Chase-Manhattan opened its Soviet Branch at the most exclusive address in Moscow—1 Karl Marx Place.

Queenslanders can count themselves lucky that they have a Premier who is not so blinded by financial chicanery that he will pawn his State to the international financial coterie.

When a right-wing paper addresses an article like that to the Premier of this State, I think it is time some of us started to have a look at the kind of finance that is being encouraged into the State. As the article I have just quoted points out, these financial organisations have been in the financial arena much longer than our Premier has and they will ensure they get their dollar.

Mr Young: What was the authority for the story about the Chase-Manhattan Bank?

Mr JAMIESON: No lesser person than a former Research Fellow of the Hoover Institute at the Stanford University, California (Dr Anthony Sutton), whose evidence, the article says, now leaves no room for doubt.

Mr Young: He made other claims at the same time that certain other large financial institutions had financed all sorts of communist revolutions, and he was laughed out of the United States.

Mr JAMIESON: That may be so, but the fact is that not very many western banks have an address in Karl Marx Place—I do not remember seeing many of them—so this bank must have excellent relations with Russia. I do not say that is wrong and I am not denying the bank any rightful financial business, but we hear people saying it is wrong to be associated with communist activities and we hear about the hordes who are going to come up the beach—whether at Cottesloe



or further up the coast, I do not know, but they are evidently going to come up the beach one day. Yet the Premier becomes involved in this sort of chicanery with financial institutions which could easily sell us short because they have been operating in the financial world far longer than our Premier has.

I would like to move on to quite a different topic which has been concerning me for some time; that is, the place of peaceful tranquillity where the conceits and arguments of members of Parliament are forgotten and everyone enjoys a state of bliss. I refer to Rottneest Island.

I have observed the island for a number of years, and one of the problems I see with it is that it is within about 60 kilometres of what is now a metropolis of 800 000 people and what will become in a few years' time, as we heard yesterday from the transport authorities, a metropolis of something in the vicinity of 1.4 million people. Each year numbers of people go to the island by boat; it is practically the only place for which the lesser navigators of the world can head from the Swan River. Perhaps a few of them go to Garden Island but the majority go to Rottneest Island.

My concern is that the island is probably harbouring at least 100 more boats each year in its various bays. It is reaching the stage where at Christmas and Easter one can almost walk across the bays on the boats. We are not progressing on the island as well as we should be.

One of the reasons that this wonderful place will finally be spoilt is that there is very little control over the boats. Some people might like swimming in the various bays amongst pink paper and excreta, but I do not think it is very choice. This state of affairs exists in all the bays and it will continue to exist because there is very little control over the tying up of the boats.

It is high time a development plan was arranged for the island with some other form of control. In saying that I do not want people to rush to the conclusion that I am criticising Des Sullivan and the people who work with him. I am not speaking about that type of control. They do their job well as far as I can see. The type of control I am referring to is that exercised by the Rottneest Island Board of Control, about which we have heard a great deal in the Parliament from time to time.

My great objection is the unnecessary waste of finance involved in the policies of the board; to wit, the type of accommodation which is now being erected on the island. It is absolutely ridiculous; and to think that among the board members is an architect, supposedly of good repute, who allows this to take place! A number

of cottages and villas are being constructed with faced bricks; that is, the type of brick from the Midland Brick Company which is not meant to have plaster on the outside.

Before anyone rushes in to tell me that is the only type of brick that can reasonably be used on the island because the bricks are taken over on pallets, I might agree that might be the best way to transport faced bricks, but it seems to me an unnecessary cost is involved. I know unnecessary cost is involved in smothering the new residences with a garish amber colour to try to make them look like the old original buildings on Rottneest Island. Before very long, the section of the island which should be maintained will be completely spoilt. I refer to the section around the lodge, the bakery, and the general shopping area, where the old original buildings stand. No doubt they should be maintained as much as possible in their original state—

Mr Ridge: A great effort is being made to do that.

Mr JAMIESON: —but it is a great mistake to try to imitate the old buildings. The facing material is put on smooth bricks and it comes off as quickly as it is put on, which creates a maintenance problem. Quokka Cottage looked very good until it was smothered in that material.

Mr Ridge: That problem has been overcome to some extent by including the colouring matter in the material with which the bricks are surfaced.

Mr JAMIESON: I was over on the island a short while ago, and I think members of the board should be horse-whipped for allowing this to happen.

Mr Ridge: It is very pleasing to the eye, in my opinion.

Mr JAMIESON: In the Minister's opinion.

Mr Ridge: Yours is only another opinion.

Mr JAMIESON: The Minister has probably been on a boat tied up in Thomson Bay, and not up on the hills looking down on the Spanish-type villas. When walking around Thomson Bay, which used to be the most pleasant spot on the whole island, all one can see now are back fences.

Some new changerooms were put up at the Basin a few years ago. This is the principal swimming area. The cream faced bricks looked much better than the old weatherboard place with an iron roof. After about a year someone came along and smothered the building in the amber colouring, and it is fretting off. Next, those responsible will be smothering the TAB shop in it.

Mr Ridge: They probably will, too.

Mr JAMIESON: Something that is unique will be smothered—

Mr Ridge: What is unique about a straight brick house?

Mr JAMIESON: They do not have to be straight brick houses. The houses can be varied; many things can be done.

Mr Ridge: And make it like any other suburban area.

Mr JAMIESON: It will be worse than a suburban area if something is not done about the matter soon.

Mr Ridge: They will create a character that belongs to Rottnest.

Mr JAMIESON: They will create a false character, like the back of the building we see from Parliament House.

Mr Ridge: You have your opinion, and I have mine.

Mr JAMIESON: In my opinion the board should be looking at some other kind of accommodation on the island. For instance, I think it is wrong that people should be denied the right to some form of permanent residence there.

Mr Ridge: Oh, come on! You would open it up to everyone in Australia.

Mr JAMIESON: Just a moment; the Minister will have his turn.

Mr Ridge: Righto.

Mr JAMIESON: I would be the last person to sell any of the island; I do not think it should be sold. However, I believe some form of development should be undertaken there and that people should be able to retire at Rottnest on the basis of leasing a villa or a cottage. This would give some semblance of a regular population on the island and would improve the lot of the people—workers and others—who presently live there permanently. One of the problems they face now is that they are reasonably few in number and they cannot get away from one another's company. It would benefit the feeling on the island. It could be done in several ways.

Mr Ridge: Not in my time.

Mr JAMIESON: That is what the Minister says. I take it he is interested only in further extending the problem to each bay of the island.

Mr Ridge: It is a holiday resort principally for Western Australians as far as I am concerned. You want to give the people the right of ownership or permanent residence.

Mr JAMIESON: I did not say they should have the right of ownership, but at least they should have the right to live there. If people have sufficient money now they can tow a fibreglass building across to the island and live in it.

Mr Ridge: That is not a permanent residence, though.

Mr JAMIESON: Well, I suppose if they returned to the mainland for one day in each six weeks they would not be permanent residents. I do think some areas of the island should be opened up to provide the facility of which I am speaking. In this way people would be spending money on the island and paying rates into the purse of the Rottnest Island Board. If we do not allow this some people will buy boats worth \$20 000, \$30 000, or \$50 000 just to park them in the bay, because there is no other facility close to Perth.

Mr Ridge: How long would it be before the island became obliterated by dwellings?

Mr JAMIESON: It would not be obliterated, because the board would maintain control on a basis no different from that under which it operates at present. Whatever limitations it wished could be placed on development. This would benefit the general way of life of the people who at present live permanently on Rottnest Island.

For years I have seen what is happening to Rottnest, and I worry now that more and more of the people who go there are day trippers or those who are able to afford to live there on a boat. People could live forever on Thomson Bay if they took a boat there. They could circle around during the day and come back to the buoy at night. I do not think that would be right. It would be far better for the board to obtain some revenue from those who live there.

To carry it further, I suggest that because of the large number of people who go to Rottnest in boats, we should be seriously considering making an opening into the salt lakes. I know the ecologists will say this would kill all the brine shrimps; but if we want brine shrimps we have only to go to Lake MacLeod, and the people there will give us tons of shrimps which they have strained from the brine. These shrimps are not of very great moment. They come from Siberia and are obviously brought here by travelling birds, and have been brought here since time immemorial. They are not a unique species; they live in plenty of places throughout the world. Spreading the salt lakes might even induce other types of birdlife to visit the island.

Indeed, many of the birds which visit Rottnest from Siberia do not appear regularly; their appearances are intermittent. Sometimes they may not appear for two or three years; so obviously they have other places to go to.

The development to which I referred could be achieved by way of an overall plan, and it could be carried out in a much better fashion than present development is being carried out. I have always been most critical of members of the board having a life tenure. Many are members for life.

Mr Ridge: I can assure you that as far as I am concerned there will be no more of those.

Mr JAMIESON: Yes, but although I do not wish any harm to present members, I point out that some might not die for 20 years.

Mr Ridge: Since I have been the Minister I have been responsible for two appointments, and they have been made for a limited term.

Mr JAMIESON: The constitution of the board should be changed considerably. Rottnest can no longer be regarded as a resort for mum, dad, the kids—in other words, working people—when it costs \$97 a week to rent a villa. I suppose middle class people could afford that rent.

Mr Ridge: It is a pretty cheap holiday, generally.

Mr JAMIESON: Maybe it is, but when a person has to take along his family of children and pay the increased fares on the ferry, he cannot afford to rent a villa; and we are discouraging that sort of person.

Mr Ridge: Many people take their own children and several others as well.

Mr JAMIESON: Of course they do, and we will always get that. But I am talking about the lesser endowed type of family. If the rent were increased to \$200 a week some families would still go there.

Mr Ridge: Many of the people you like to refer to as lesser endowed are still taking advantage of the comparatively cheap accommodation provided.

Mr JAMIESON: There are not too many of them.

Mr Ridge: Don't you worry; there are quite a lot.

Mr JAMIESON: The Minister says there are many, and I say there are few. We will continue to differ on that.

Mr Ridge: We sure will.

Mr JAMIESON: I do not think the right thing is being done at present. I do not know how much experience of Rottnest the Minister has, but no doubt since he became the Minister he has been taking a greater interest in the island than did previous Ministers from that side of the House; some did not seem to become involved at all.

I mentioned earlier the undue expense being incurred by the board in the erection of villas. As an example I instance the type of foundations being used. Glazed faced bricks by the thousand are being used as foundation bricks in the sand banks of Thomson Bay. The Minister may say that is the only type of brick that can be taken there. However, I would point out that about half of the stone used in the early construction of Parliament House came from Rottnest. If he

looks at the section of wall near the back door he will be able to see shell embedded in the stone. The quarries at Rottnest were capable of producing stone good enough to last during the time Parliament House has been in existence, so surely it would be possible to reopen one of the quarries in the off season and provide foundation stone for buildings on the island. This would be a much cheaper proposition than carting top quality faced bricks from the mainland and hiding them in the sand.

Mr Ridge: Have you ever conveyed those thoughts to the Rottnest Island Board or made a complaint to the Minister?

Mr JAMIESON: Of course I have. I have complained about this to the members of the board, just as I am complaining now.

Mr Ridge: I can assure you it has not been brought to my attention or to the attention of the board since I have been the Minister.

Mr JAMIESON: That is not my fault; I have been bellyaching about the practice ever since it was commenced.

Mr Ridge: Perhaps you should bellyache to different authorities.

Mr JAMIESON: The Minister for Lands is becoming as smug as the Minister for Works.

Mr Ridge: If you wish to present a proposition, present it to the people who are able to do something about it.

Mr JAMIESON: I have been referring this matter to the members of the board for several years now. The Minister is one member of the board—

Mr Ridge: To whom you have never referred the matter.

Mr JAMIESON: That is because he is a more recent member of the board.

The SPEAKER: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has two minutes.

Mr JAMIESON: I have not discussed the matter of Rottnest Island with the present Minister. Unless a different sort of development is encouraged on the island I feel we will lose control of it. The development must be allowed to proceed further than it is at the moment. We have to get water on the island.

Mr Ridge: We agree on that.

Mr JAMIESON: Mr Sullivan will tell the Minister of ways to get water there, because I have discussed various schemes with him, and I have seen various plans which would enable water to be taken to the island without costing the board anything at all.

Mr Ridge: I certainly do not believe giving the people the right to permanent occupancy would do anything for the island.

Mr JAMIESON: I think it will. I do not think anyone should be denied the right to retire there. In fact, we could be contravening the Constitution of Australia by refusing that right.

Mr Ridge: If we are, then I am quite happy to continue to do so.

Mr JAMIESON: I cannot see why people should be denied the right to be able to retire there if they so wish and to lease a cottage for, say, 20 years. Why should they be forced to go to Mandurah or Rockingham if they prefer to go to Rottnest?

Rottnest is the only place close to the metropolitan area where we have beaches which are protected from the prevailing winds. These beaches along the north shore could be used extensively to provide accommodation for people from the metropolitan area. But if we allow thousands of boats to go there the waters will be polluted. Believe me, in another 10 years there will be thousands of boats at Rottnest. When I was last there, some time in January, some 1 500 or 1 600 boats were counted on a weekend, and the number will continue to grow.

The SPEAKER: Order! I point out I did not give the Deputy Leader of the Opposition very much warning, but his time is virtually up.

Mr JAMIESON: The boats will grow in number and will continue to pollute the bays. It is time we had better planning in respect of Rottnest Island. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

MR CLARKO (Karrinyup) [4.42 p.m.]: I am proud to support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply. In today's issue of *The West Australian* an article appeared under the heading of, "WA rush for high interest home loans". I quote only the first two lines of that article, as follows—

Thousands of West Australians are scrambling for high interest building society finance in an effort to beat rapidly increasing rises in the prices of new and established houses.

The question of housing costs is of considerable concern to me. Can people today beat the rise in costs? Who caused the rise? How are we to provide for the people who will want homes tomorrow?

Mr Skidmore: What is your Government doing about it?

Mr CLARKO: Every Australian couple has the right to own their own home. It has been shown clearly that Australians have this as one of their major ambitions. The Australian census, with one slight exception in 1971 when there was a minute fall, has shown on every occasion an increase in the degree of home ownership.

Some 70 per cent of Australian people either own their own homes or are in the course of purchasing them. The present crisis in housing is due to the policies of the Australian Government. I must give that Government credit for the fact that this is a deliberate policy to destroy the Australian dream.

Mr Bertram: What dream is that?

Mr CLARKO: The dream of owning one's own home; a dream which it is the policy of the Australian Government to destroy. The policy of that Government was commented on in today's edition of *The West Australian* by a man described as a noted American economist. I refer to Professor Milton Friedman, and this is what he said to the National Press Club in Canberra yesterday—

Australia's inflation was made in Canberra and nowhere else.

Now that Australia had an exchange rate, that was flexible, inflation could not be imported.

"That doesn't mean that what happens abroad does not affect Australia," he said. "The quadrupling of the price of oil caused Australia some extra cost."

He said quite explicitly—

"But nothing that happens abroad will determine your rate of inflation. That will be determined at home."

He goes on also to talk about the main factors that have caused inflation. He points out that Governments, inevitably, tried to fix prices, including wages which were the price of labour. That is the view expressed by an American economist on the Australian economic policy, and it is the Australian economic policy that is the overwhelming and dominant cause of the problems being faced by the potential home buyer.

Late last year the then Federal Treasurer (Mr Crean), wrote to Mr Rudduck, the Federal member for Parramatta. Mr Rudduck, in the House of Representatives, quoted two paragraphs from that letter which appear in the Commonwealth *Hansard* of the 29th October, 1974, at page 2961. The first of those two paragraphs reads as follows—

The Government's policies over the past 18 months have been directed towards reducing the excessive availability of housing finance.

I repeat that Mr Crean, the Federal Treasurer at that time said that the Government's policies were directed towards reducing the excessive availability of housing finance. The second paragraph reads—

These measures are designed to bring to fruition our aims in the field of welfare housing.

That statement has never been denied by Mr Crean who, unfortunately, was to pass on in much the same way as many of his colleagues have already passed on. I am referring to Federal members; to Mr Barnard; Mr Charles Jones, the Minister for Transport, who is next; and Mr Reece, in Tasmania. The list is so long that I will not refer to all the members.

Sir Charles Court: That was made very clear in the Federal Parliament this morning by the Prime Minister.

Mr Jamieson: We all have our turn, even you.

Mr CLARKO: I will now quote from a statement made by the Federal Leader of the Opposition. This is what he said in a speech he made to the Housing Industry Association Convention—

The high social priority of housing demands that this sector of the economy must not be used to regulate general inflationary tendencies.

Mr Bertram: Which one was that?

Mr CLARKO: That was the Federal Opposition leader. Do members opposite agree with that?

Mr Bertram: Which one was that; the first, or the fourth?

Mr CLARKO: First of all I just wish to ask whether any members on the other side of the Chamber agree with that statement and then I will answer the question that has been put to me. That statement was made by the Federal Leader of the Opposition, at that time. He also quoted a remark made in 1965 by Mr Bury, the Minister for Housing at that time, which was as follows—

The deficiency in using housing to dampen demand is that it impedes achievement in some of our fundamental objectives.

That first quotation was made by the Federal Leader of the Opposition in 1970—a man known as Gough Whitlam. However, now that he is in power he follows a completely different line. This convention was held on the Gold Coast where the Labor Party likes to hold its conventions and where the wealthy men of Cabinet like to confer. Members should bear in mind Mr Crean wrote—

These measures are designed to bring to fruition our aims in the field of welfare housing.

What I am saying is that the prime objective of all Australians is to own their own houses. I welcome any honourable member on the other side of the House to suggest it is not a good thing for an Australian to own his own home. I am sure that was the aim of all those on the other side of the Chamber in their earlier years, and they were able to achieve their

objective at that time because of the tremendous record set by the Liberal-Country Party Government at that time.

Several members interjected.

Mr CLARKO: I say to the member for Swan what he usually says to us: "Get up and speak in your own time." The member for Swan interjects with his bullfrog voice and affords little opportunity to any honourable member on his feet to get on with his speech.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CLARKO: Australians have always been keen to own their own homes, but the deliberate policy of the Federal Government is to prevent an Australian from exercising his option to purchase a home of his own. The Federal Government is trying to stop people who want to build their own homes, instead of following the pattern set by the previous Government whereby a person could build a home of good design and one that he chose in a suburb he preferred.

I will now quote some figures in regard to the housing situation in Australia. In 1972, 156 000 homes were commenced, and in 1973 the figure rose to 176 000. One would expect, in an expanding nation such as Australia, that this figure would rise in 1974, but in that year the full effects of the Labor Party policy were felt and the figure fell from 176 000 to 130 000. Therefore it can be seen that there was a decrease of some 46 000 housing commencements in the year 1973-74.

Taking into consideration Australia's increasing population at the present moment, various experts have estimated that the number of houses falling short of the requirement ranges from 50 000 to 100 000. Unless it is the desire to have people suppressed in a peasant sort of way such as the socialists seek, it should be our desire to catch up with that backlog and when the figure of 100 000 homes is faced the demand from other young people will be felt also and, of course, the pressure for additional housing will be even greater than it is now.

Let us look at the Western Australian scene. In 1973 some 15 000 approvals were granted. In 1974, with the Labor Party now going full guns with empty ammunition, there were 10 000 approvals; a fall of 33½ per cent. This meant that 5 000 Western Australians were unable to obtain homes. Our population is growing and the demand for housing obviously must become greater, but what happens when we consider the present year? At the moment, in the Perth statistical division, housing approvals number approximately 600 a month, giving an annual rate of 7 200, which is less than half the figure of two years ago.

Therefore at the present time, in Western Australia, we have over 10 000 people who have been denied a home, despite the fact that it was their desire to build. They want to build and they are trying to save in order to purchase their own homes but they cannot catch up with the ever-increasing gap between their savings and the purchase price of a home because of rampant inflation. They cannot take hold of that tiger's tail. To give members some idea of how impossible the task is, the Director of Defence Service Homes, in his 1974 annual report, stated that the average cost of dwellings financed by his department rose by almost \$5 000 in the previous year. How does a man save that \$5 000, unless his wife goes out to work? If she does, she may bring home \$100 a week net income, but that man and his wife will still be marking time. He will still be as far away from owning his own home as he ever was.

In fact, because of the Federal socialists in the Australian Labor Party, who want to put everybody in 15-storey flats such as those one finds around the edge of Moscow, an Australian today, in trying to build a house, is in much the same position as standing on a bed of quicksand; that is, the harder he struggles, and the greater effort he makes in an endeavour to save, the more he sinks into the mire of the disastrous economic policies deliberately planned by the Australian socialist Labor Government.

Several members interjected.

Mr CLARKO: I am sorry to use the word "socialist" all the time but members opposite have shown at election time that they never had the courage to say it then.

Mr Jamleson: We like that.

Mr CLARKO: They are afraid to say that outside.

Mr Jamleson: We like that.

Mr CLARKO: My respect for those members has reached rock bottom because the only place they talk about socialism is in this House when no-one is present in the Public Gallery. They are not game to go outside and say what they want to achieve.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order! The honourable member will resume his seat. I did not mind the odd interjection when the honourable member was speaking, but a chorus of interjections cannot be supported. Members must realise that often an honourable member will say things that are not honey to their ears, and that does not depend on which side of the House members are. Regard must be had for that. However, there is no need for a chorus of interjections. It is part of my responsibility, as Speaker, as all members

know, to ensure that an honourable member is heard in this place, whether members agree or disagree with his remarks. The member for Karrinyup.

Mr CLARKO: The desire of the present Federal Government is to put every person in a prefab unit turned out by the Commonwealth aircraft factory which would have been closed down because of the state of the Australian economy; that is, as far as the manufacture of aircraft is concerned.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr CLARKO: I am sure there will be stacks of factories that can be used in order to build these prefab-type units, or ticky-tacky homes which are just like the neo-German lavatory style of home seen among older types of buildings on the edge of a reserve. This is what the Federal Government is seeking. It wants a State Housing Commission to build homes such as that.

I must say that there is a tremendous difference in the style of houses that are being built here now—compared with those that were built in the past by the commission—as a result of careful design and thought in recent years. The commission has been developing housing estates which are much more attractive in appearance than those that are being constructed in the large capital cities of the Eastern States, where houses cost much more than they do here. Therefore I commend the State Housing Commission on its policy in this regard.

However, the Australian Labor Party is endeavouring to turn every Australian citizen into a mirror image of a peasant. It is led by the sons of wealthy men who hold Cabinet positions in Canberra or, if not by the sons of those wealthy men then by representatives worthy of the Tammany Halls of the USA. No doubt one of the representatives of nepotism in this House, who uses the family arrangement, will have his grandchildren here shortly and that will be to the disadvantage of all of us.

The problem, in relation to what is happening at the moment with higher interest rates, is that the ordinary working man who could have borrowed \$20 000 in the past to build a home, because of the high level of interest rates, can now borrow only \$16 000. The reason for this is that his monthly repayments are so high that he cannot afford to borrow \$20 000 and therefore he must look for a smaller house. The repayments on a mortgage of \$20 000 have risen from about \$36 to \$47 a week; that is, the monthly repayment has risen from approximately \$156 to \$204. This is an increase of nearly \$50 which is extremely hard to find out of an ordinary working man's pay packet.

This is a deliberate policy followed by the Australian Government, and many speakers have said this in so many words. Another factor is that there has been a tremendous escalation in building costs. What is happening now is that we are returning to those days in the late 1940s, just after the war, and the 1950s, when homes in Western Australia were built according to a basic pattern. As the 1960s came along, and particularly during those years when this State made tremendous progress—and here I would like to ask members on the opposite side of the House to approach some political historian with a view to hearing facts and figures, on a month-to-month basis, on the state of the Western Australian economy at that time—houses of better design and construction began to appear. Western Australians began to move into much more attractive homes and, in particular, builders started to put more and more items into these homes. However, today, the opposite is the case. Builders are forced to cut back on additional items that have gone into homes since the end of the post-war era.

Several members interjected.

Mr CLARKO: It is obvious that I am not talking to myself. In view of the many interjections from those on the other side of the House I must accept the fact that they are listening to me.

The SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Mr CLARKO: The size of rooms is being cut back by the builders. We find the same thing happening to the cupboards in kitchens. Compared with houses built in the last decade the built-in wardrobes in the houses of today have been reduced in size or are not installed at all. In the bathroom of the modern house we see a return to the style of the 1950s when only one row of wall tiles was fixed around the bath, compared with recent times when several rows of tiles were provided.

I challenge anyone who is interested in the building industry to deny that what I have been saying is not happening. That is the way the builders are trying to place people in homes—by cutting back on fittings. In the article which appeared in the Press last weekend we see how the builders are trying to place people in homes, but they are reducing the homes to the basic elements.

In my young days a person could afford to build only a two-bedroom home, and he hoped that later on he would be able to add another as his family grew. Nowadays we find a return to that situation, and many people are building homes with two bedrooms. When their children grow up and they have to provide more accommodation, they will find the extensions very costly. This is a crushing burden that has been inflicted by the Australian socialist Government on the people and it has done that deliberately.

Several members interjected.

Mr CLARKO: Despite all this, the building industry in Western Australia has a tremendous reputation for the quality of the houses it builds. On a value basis there is nothing in Australia to compare with the houses in this State. I think even members opposite will agree that this is how Western Australia is generally regarded by people engaged in the building industry in this country—I refer to the employers and the unions—that the quality of workmanship in Western Australia is more than comparable with that elsewhere in Australia. It is certainly a fact that the building industry here can provide houses at a lower unit cost.

That fact has been acknowledged by Mr Les Johnson, the Federal Minister for Housing. He made that very statement when he was in Western Australia. I commend the people engaged in the building industry for the quality of their workmanship, but of course they are running up a steep Himalayan mountain in trying to maintain their present position.

There has been a tremendous escalation in costs in Western Australia, and that has been caused deliberately by the Australian socialist Government. In 1974 housing costs were estimated to have increased by 20 per cent. At present it is projected the costs will rise at an even greater rate.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Will the honourable member sit down? Some members are continually interjecting in such a way that I am beginning to believe they are trying to prevent the member for Karrinyup from making his speech and airing his views. If those interjections persist, and I can pin them on a particular member, I will warn him first before I name him. I would ask members to have regard for the fact that it is one of the privileges of a member of this House to have his words heard, irrespective of whether or not other members are in agreement with those words.

Mr CLARKO: Without any emotion I believe that a great number of the interjections arise because members of the Opposition basically believe in the need and desire of Australians to have their own homes, and that is the reason many members opposite are now walking out of the Chamber. They are trying to defend the Australian socialist Government by making sidetracking interjections.

Mr Skidmore: If you make provocative remarks you must expect to draw interjections.

Mr CLARKO: I am being provocative because I am using the term "Australian socialist Government"? I advise the honourable member that in future I intend to

refer to it as the Australian socialist Government, and that Government should be happy to be so correctly described!

The situation is that last year there was an increase of 20 per cent-plus in building costs, and in the current year the increase is estimated to be in the order of 30 per cent over last year's costs. This spiralling cost is affecting established homes also, although the rate of increase in the case of these homes has not been as high as that of new homes. According to the results of a survey which was reported in the Press, there has been a 20 per cent increase in the cost of established homes in the last three months; in other words the annual rate is an increase of 80 per cent. However, I hope the increase will not continue to run at that level.

It is a fact that people do want to own their homes, but the impeding factor is the high interest rate policy adopted by the Australian socialist Government. I have already quoted from the letter from Mr Crean, the previous Treasurer of the present Commonwealth Government; he stated that this increase in interest rate was brought about deliberately, and was part of the policy of his Government. I am sure that no financier, economist, or person engaged in the building industry would say that the Government has not done this deliberately.

Mr O'Connor: Did the Commonwealth Government not promise to reduce interest rates if it was returned to office?

Mr CLARKO: That was the promise it made; but interest rates have increased dramatically, and the last imposition of 2 per cent took the rate from 9 per cent to something like 11 or 12 per cent. That was the killer to home owners, and it broke the backs of the 100 000 people who did not have a home but wanted one.

The Australian socialist Government sought to provide an answer to this problem by introducing the mortgage interest tax deductibility scheme. This scheme is designed to offset the increase in interest rates, but it would do that only for a minute number in the community. If we take into account what the Director of the Commonwealth Defence Homes section said—that the increase was \$5 000 a year—how much would the home owner have to be paid in order for him to come out square? Will the Commonwealth Government provide the home owner with \$12 per week?

There has been a tremendous influx of people into my electorate, and that is only natural. Let us consider the suburbs where people desire to live and have established homes in which they have lived for a few years. Let us assume that the mortgage loan was 8 or 9 per cent. Under their mortgage agreements these people become liable for any increase in interest rates. I would stress the fact that these people are already living in homes which have

not been altered. Suddenly they are asked by their bank or building society to pay another \$30, \$40, or \$50 per month for precisely nothing, with no advantage to themselves whatsoever. That is a tremendous and a most iniquitous burden to impose on people living in suburbs such as those in my electorate, purely because the Federal socialist Government has mismanaged the economy.

On one occasion last year I knocked on the door of a good quality home in Karrinyup. The person answering the door asked me what political party I belonged to. When he was told he said very peremptorily, "If you are a Liberal you will get my vote, because the Labor Party has cost me \$30 more per month in interest rates".

There are many thousands of people placed in similar circumstances. If the member for Swan has a son who is placed in the position where another \$30 to \$50 per month is ripped off him, would he be smiling? I ask that rhetorical question.

Mr Skidmore: The answer is "Yes".

Mr CLARKO: In the report which appeared in *The West Australian* of today the following appears—

Mr A Rocher, the president of the Master Builders' Association, warned that the cost of a new home could increase by 60 per cent in the next year.

We find there was a 20 per cent increase last year, and a 30 per cent increase this year; yet Mr Rocher forecasts a possible rise of 60 per cent next year. To use the figures quoted by that gentleman, a house which now costs \$16 000 could cost \$26 000 in 12 months' time. How can the ordinary young couple, saving up for a home, be in a position to take on a loan for the building of a house which will cost so much? I say the Australian socialist Government has destroyed deliberately the dream of our young people to own their homes.

The side effect is that young couples intending to buy houses are forced to remain with their parents or in flats for a longer period. I would not advocate this. If the Australian housing deficit continues to grow at the present rate—there is now a deficit of 100 000 houses—we will soon find the lag to be 200 000 houses.

What will happen to rents? Obviously they will rise. Under these circumstances young people will find it all the more difficult to obtain their own homes. People who are now living in unsuitable accommodation and wish to move out will find it impossible to do so.

Those are the remarks I wish to make in regard to the Australian housing situation. I deplore the policies of the present Federal Government in this regard, because they are making it impossible for people to own their homes. It has been proven that what young Australian couples want more than anything else is their own homes.



I now wish to talk about the problems in newly developed suburbs, such as those in my electorate, I should stress that one of the fundamental aspirations of man is the desire to be free to live his own life as he wants to live it, subject to not interfering with the rights of others. When one lives in a suburb situation one has to give up some of these freedoms, and such loss of freedom is burdensome on some people. For example, I am concerned at the increasing pressures exerted in my electorate to diminish the size of the average building lot. In my father's time building lots in the Perth metropolitan area used to be in the order of a quarter acre. When I built my house the lots were reduced to one-fifth of an acre. Today we find, as evidenced from reports in journals, that people are seeking to provide lots of 14 perches; this is a minuscule piece of land, and in my view it is grossly insufficient for the average Australian family.

Such crowding of people together in accommodation which has common walls, or in duplexes where if the occupier flushes the toilet his neighbours would hear the noise, or where if the occupier eats cracker biscuits the noise can be heard next door, is in my view most undesirable. Some planners say that this noise problem can be overcome by placing the bedrooms side by side, and the living rooms side by side, with a single brick wall separating them.

I suggest that people living in such flats or duplexes receive a lower quality of accommodation than is desirable; but pressures are being exerted for the provision of that type of accommodation, because of the need for economy and for building cheaper units. Builders have to erect this type of accommodation because of the current high rate of inflation.

The City of Stirling recently approved of a subdivision in which the width of the road reserve was reduced. It was contended that because the houses were to be built in cul-de-sacs there was no need for a wide stretch of bitumen to be provided. I was on the committee that considered this matter; and I was prepared to support the narrower strip of bitumen to serve the people concerned, but I was opposed to the idea that the reserve should be reduced thus allowing the front fences to be built closer to each other.

I believe that the people need more space. In Australia where there is not a shortage of land, the people should not be crowded side by side, with the houses close together front to front, and back to back. I regret that these moves to crowd people are being made, and it is unfortunate that certain planners, local authorities, and others are beginning to support these moves.

It is claimed that because small blocks of land are acceptable in parts of Western

Europe they should be acceptable in Western Australia. I do not believe that should be so. It would be to our great disadvantage. We would be foolish to give up this present asset, certainly within the next few decades.

I will touch briefly on a controversy which exists in my electorate in regard to Marmion Avenue. A connecting road is shortly to be built between Warwick Road and Karrinyup Road, and this has caused considerable discussion at a controversial level. Certainly, it has caused a lot of noise, and it will get louder as the road progresses southward to Karrinyup Road. It has been suggested that the road go through what is an open-space area near the Contacio Motel and the Trigg Island Surf Club, so that the road will link up directly with West Coast Highway.

I believe we should oppose any such continuation through such a large area of public open space. Certainly, the land is not used at the present time and because it is sand dune country I do not think it will ever be used. However, I believe we should preserve the area. I know that when I drive home through Floreat Park, I find pleasant relaxation when I pass through the bushland in the Reabold Hill area. I believe the same should apply along the coastal highway—although I do not support that term. I believe it is advantageous, when leaving Scarborough and travelling northwards, to be able to travel along the coast. It is advantageous to have an open road.

I was amazed to learn that the Scarborough Ratepayers and Citizens' Association proposed another direction for Marmion Avenue to pass over Karrinyup Road southward. The association suggested it should cut through Duke Street and thus divide southern Karrinyup, north and south Scarborough, and then continue through Wembley Downs. I was amazed to learn that a local group which calls itself a progress association should want to put a major road through the heart of dormitory suburbs such as those which exist in that area.

Mr Rushton: I have told them.

Mr CLARKO: I have written to the association and tried to explain the position. I believe that we must encourage the extension of the Mitchell Freeway so that it will serve as a southern route for the northern suburbs as well as connecting Whitfords to Marmion Avenue. It would draw a large volume of the traffic from the West Coast Highway. The West Coast Highway should then be lowered in status to a drive. For my own part I attempted to get the Nomenclature Committee to change the name of the coastal highway to Panamuna Drive, which is the Aboriginal word for "ocean".

I believe we have a fundamental problem on our roads today with regard to noise from vehicles. I hope the Government will look into this question because excessive noise is emitted from many of the large trucks which travel on our roads.

Mr Hartrey: Hear, hear!

Mr CLARKO: It is argued that a need exists for heavy trucks, and perhaps one has to give a little ground. However, I would still like the Government to do something to reduce the noise level. I see no reason whatsoever that the Police Department should allow certain cars to have fancy double-exhaust systems and allow the drivers of those cars to burble up and down suburban streets spoiling the environment for the people who live in the adjacent houses.

I hope that something will also be done about trail bikes, not only from the noise level angle, but also from the environmental angle. These bikes should not be allowed to despoil the natural vegetation, as is occurring at present, particularly in my electorate and in the electorate of the member for Toodyay.

Mr Jamieson: The member is showing some sense at last.

Mr CLARKO: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I listened carefully to what he had to say and perhaps that is why I am speaking well today!

I would also mention that we have a problem associated with signs. I have spoken previously on the question of "pop sticks" around our landscape. I refer to the large number of lamp posts which stick up out of the ground throughout our suburbs, and also to the traffic signs.

The SPEAKER: The member has another six minutes.

Mr CLARKO: It intrigues me why we cannot become a little more sensitive with regard to "Stop" signs and parking signs which are erected at intersections. At almost every intersection there is a "No Parking" and a "No Standing" sign one car length from the corner. This usually means that four signs are sticking out of the ground at each corner. I believe we should follow the system used in New Zealand where the kerbside is painted a bright colour. Different colours mean different parking restrictions.

Mr Jamieson: Do not paint the kerbs red, whatever you do.

Mr CLARKO: The question of the pop sticks which are sticking up out of the landscape must be faced. Power lines are another eyesore and they should be placed underground.

I would like to mention again the recent argument which has occurred with regard to the City of Stirling. I do not think members appreciate the fact that the City of Stirling has a population almost half that of the whole of Tasmania, and about

twice that of the City of Perth. Such a vast number of people as that cannot be governed without difficulties arising.

Only last week the City of Stirling opened three community recreation centres throughout its area. The Hon. Frank Stewart, the Federal Minister for Tourism, gave an excellent speech at the opening of the Hamersley centre at which I was present. I appreciated the sentiments he put forward when he praised the City of Stirling and said that nowhere else in Australia had a local authority opened three recreation centres on the one day.

By the way, the one in Hamersley cost over \$100 000 for which unfortunately we did not obtain any Federal Government assistance. I do not criticise the Federal Government for that because it did help in regard to the other two.

I am proud to say that I was the first person publicly to support the establishment of the hall and I am delighted that the project has at last reached fruition.

I would like to point out the continuing need to develop the parks in my electorate so that not only do the parks provide for active sports such as football, cricket, and so on, but also passive recreation. In other words we must have parks where people can sit quietly on benches and just take it easy under the shade of a tree.

Finally, in connection with the beaches which play such an important part in my electorate, the City of Stirling is currently examining plans to upgrade them, but I hope that these plans are of a minimal nature because I would like the beaches to be left to a large extent in their natural state; that is when they are most beautiful.

MR BRYCE (Ascot) [5.23 p.m.]: Members on this side of the House have become increasingly concerned in recent weeks about expressions of political extremism by certain members opposite. In our collective opinion—I am not speaking for all members on this side, but only for those with whom I have discussed the matter—there is a fairly clear indication that a statement once made by one Eric Butler, the most outstanding national figure in the League of Rights, that the policies of the League of Rights were upheld and accepted by thousands of members of the Liberal and Country Parties throughout Australia—both parliamentary and ordinary—is true.

For many years we have heard in this political forum and in other political forums about the alleged sinister left-wing influence on the ALP. I would like to take a few minutes this afternoon to draw to the attention of members of this Chamber some of the very disturbing features of the organisation known as the League of Rights and, more particularly,

the manner in which the organisation hides and conceals itself behind a variety of front organisations.

In order that members will not think for one moment that what I am saying is purely my own opinion on this subject, I propose to refer to a few short quotes to indicate that other people in Australia, who are students of politics, have studied the situation and expressed similar concern.

The first of the three quotes I wish to make appears in an article reprinted from *The Age* published in Melbourne and dated the 26th February, 1972. The article reads—

**The farther shores of Australian politics**

Writing in their introduction to K. D. Gott's study of the Australian League of Rights, Voices of Hate, the then editors of Dissent, Leon Glezer and Peter Samuel, described the league as "the leading racist organisation in this country." "On the one hand," they wrote, the league "supports the British Empire and Christian civilisation—

Mr Blaikie: What is wrong with that?

Mr BRYCE: There is nothing wrong with it. To continue—

—and opposes centralisation of the State, fluoridation and communism. On the other hand, it has a consistent record of bigotry and hate-mongering of the worst kind.

This sort of hypocrisy we are not altogether unaccustomed to seeing mixed with politics, are we? A second quote from the same article, but of great relevance and not out of context, reads—

When Gott's study was written in 1965, the league was but a miniscule organisation on the "farther shores of Australian politics". Since then, however, and particularly in the past 18 months, the league has greatly consolidated its position as by far the most formidable component of the expanding extreme Right wing in Australia.

The third small quote to which I draw the attention of members is in the next column and reads as follows—

League branches, called Voters' Policy Associations, have sprung up in every mainland State and now number more than 100...

But above all, the past six years have seen the league's expansion into the Liberal and Country Parties—

At the time the article was written of course he went on to say, "the parties of

Government in Australia." To continue—

This fact has been attested to by Government Parliamentarians, including the Deputy Prime Minister—  
As he was then. To continue—

—(Mr Anthony), by members of the party machines concerned, and by Mr Butler himself, who has claimed that "thousands" of Liberal and Country Party members support the League's views...

There is a principal reason I draw this issue to the attention of members in this Chamber. It is important because one of the main features involving the operation of the organisation concerns the way it hides behind front organisations; and some people, particularly in country communities, are approached to join organisations for which advertisements appear and they do so because there is generally a lack of organised social activity in some country districts. There is not always a terrible dearth, but this is how the organisation gets a foot in. I would like to refer members of the Chamber to some of the names—

Mr Old: To which centres do you refer?

Mr BRYCE: Most in Western Australia—

Mr Old: No. I am referring to the centres which lack social activities.

Mr BRYCE: I am referring particularly to those rural areas where the television reception is not excellent. In those places there is from time to time a need for different types of social activity. If some person comes up with an idea for an organisation or a discussion group, it is often accepted. This is the kind of organisation which has popped up in some country districts in Western Australia.

Mr Blaikie: How about naming a few of them?

Mr BRYCE: I happen to know for a fact that one of these organisations has regular meetings in the electorate of Vasse between Busselton and Yallingup. It also meets regularly in Harvey and in areas in the Moore electorate.

Mr Young: Under what name?

Mr BRYCE: The names of the organisations vary. One can take one's pick. There are five of them. I think it is important for people to be aware that these front organisations exist, and they should be aware of the real purpose of the people who organise them.

Mr Blaikie: You are not confused with the "hippies", are you?

Mr BRYCE: I will list the organisations. The Voters' Policy Association usually pops up at election time. There are also the Institute of Economic Democracy, the Christian Institute for Individual Freedom, the Lilac (Women's)

League, and the Australian Heritage Society which seems to be the latest one. This constitutes deception on the part of people who have a very deliberate political motive.

The organisations operate in different ways and their stated objectives vary according to their publications. I will mention briefly some of the declared objectives.

The basis of the organisations is usually clearly anti-Semitic and their philosophy is based mainly on a rather conspiratorial view of the world. This is not the first time such organisations have appeared in different parts of the world. These organisations, especially the league itself, have a complete lack of respect for and disenchantment with democracy. In fact they despise the party system of government in this country, and they are quite opposed to the parliamentary system of government which we cherish and are prepared to defend.

Mr Laurance: That is the bicameral system you are talking about?

Mr BRYCE: No. More importantly, the league is racist in its basic objective; and if there is one single force in our society which is capable of creating a great deal of division and anxiety from one end of Australia to the other, it is people who are organised on a racist basis.

Mr Blaikie: Is that because they support Rhodesia?

Mr BRYCE: They are also pro-Nazi; there is no question about that. These are the people who find a communist under every bed in every corner of the country. We certainly have on the other side of the House spokesmen who have that weakness and give expression to it frequently.

Some of the methods of operation are interesting. Nobody objects to the fact that they organise letter-writing campaigns to bring pressure to bear on members of Parliament. That is the normal lobbying activity. However, their declared objective in a general sense is to be actionist and educationist. In being "actionist", they are prepared to organise groups to write letters to members of Parliament. We have all received letters from the Australian Heritage Society, but very few members of Parliament are aware of the objectives motivating the people who associate with that particular group.

They also endorse the procedure of appointing *agents provocateurs*. That expression goes back to the French Revolution, and perhaps beyond it. The idea is to plant inside a union organisation a person who will pose as an ALP supporter in order deliberately to disrupt support for a particular figure in the Labor movement. Perhaps this occurs in other ways but the point I make is that when it occurs at the other end of the spectrum we very frequently hear from members opposite.

We have heard nothing about this kind of activity in respect of the League of Rights. Members opposite, by their silence, seem to endorse the actions of the league. We also see in articles such as the one to which I have been referring that these people band together to join the Country Party, in particular, and try to influence pre-selection procedures.

Mr Blaikie: What about the Liberal Party?

Mr BRYCE: I suppose in the heavily decentralised decision-making preselection procedures of the Country Party those people could have some grisly effects as far as some members of the Country Party are concerned. If they moved into a particular locality, it could be a rather serious matter.

I shall be happy to make available to members the article to which I have referred. If they do not agree with it they can shoot holes through it, but it is a most authoritative source of information on the subject. The people who made the survey estimated that as long ago as 1972 the members and supporters of the League of Rights in Australia numbered 10 000.

Mr Hartrey: We have 12 million people in Australia.

Mr BRYCE: And not many of them are politically active.

I do not wish to refer to anything the member for Moore said in respect of the man on the land or the problems concerning his electorate, but in his concluding remarks he wandered into international affairs, and I could not help feeling that we on this side had sighted on the back benches a political Rip van Winkle who had been asleep since the 1950s, because he treated us to a selection of views which were current in the era of McCarthy and in the early days of Bob Menzies' regime.

Mr Young: Would you mind—

Mr BRYCE: I would, actually. The honourable member has had his opportunity.

Sir Charles Court: You are a great offender when other people are trying to speak.

Mr BRYCE: I do not ask questions.

Mr Young: I interject to say that during the member for Moore's speech the other night you said, "The Catholics and the Jews have", and you did not finish the sentence. You were talking about the League of Rights. Would you now finish what you were about to say then?

Mr BRYCE: I just happened to see it in *Hansard*. The *Hansard* reporter did not get the end of it, because it is followed by, "Several members interjected."

Sir Charles Court: We heard what you said.

Mr BRYCE: The Premier thinks he heard what I said. I make the point that in his speech the member for Moore highlighted—

Mr Young: What did you say?

Mr BRYCE: I will have a look at it. I have no intention of trying to research an interjection for the benefit of the member for Scarborough at this moment.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Ascot.

Mr BRYCE: From memory, two points were highlighted by the member for Moore. Firstly, he frequently referred to South Vietnam as being part of the free world.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: Free!

Mr BRYCE: Volumes have been written to prove what a corrupt and totally unfree country South Vietnam is and has been since people in Saigon decided, contrary to the agreements of the Geneva Accords, that they would establish their own Government in the face of international opinion. Secondly, the member for Moore seemed to think it very important to know where the moratorium marchers were now, and the people who were previously streaming into the streets of Perth protesting about the atrocities in Vietnam.

Mr Blaikie: A good question.

Mr BRYCE: It is. Quite a number of members of the honourable member's political persuasion, not only in this Parliament but also in other Parliaments, have asked the same question.

I am very happy to say that I was one of those protestors, and I would protest again if Australia became involved in that kind of war. The people who sat back, including those in this Chamber who are asking that question, obviously appreciated very little indeed about the reason for the protestations. The fundamental reason for the protestations was that Australian troops were being sent up there to commit murder and to kill—

Sir Charles Court: That's a dastardly thing to say about soldiers.

Mr BRYCE: The Premier knows full well that was the fundamental motivation of the people in this State—

Sir Charles Court: A dastardly thing!

Mr BRYCE: —and everyone else in this country, and we will protest again should the need arise.

Sir Charles Court: Those soldiers were doing their duty to the country.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: Genocide.

Mr BRYCE: When a Government, like the Government we had in the late 1960s and early 1970s, committed Australian troops to go north under the pretext of some fear philosophy and a campaign of hatred—

Sir Charles Court: Which is now being justified.

Mr Jamieson: Oh, get out!

Mr BRYCE: So the question is asked, "Where are the protestors now?" And the answer is that Australian troops are not in Indo-China committing the murder they were directed to commit during the period of the moratorium campaigns.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BRYCE: This brings me to the point that I feel compelled to move an amendment to the Address-in-Reply relating to this particular subject.

Sir Charles Court: Silly boys. Tell us your views of the North Vietnamese slaughtering innocent people.

#### *Amendment to Motion*

Mr BRYCE: I move an amendment—

That the following words be added to the motion—

We are compelled by recent events in Australia and South-East Asia to advise the Administrator that—

"Liberal and Country Party members and Governments throughout Australia must now accept full responsibility for the decision, based upon a philosophy of fear and hatred, which led Australia to become an active participant in the civil war in Vietnam".

It now rests upon the conscience of all Liberal and Country Party members that—

- (a) theirs was the decision to become part of a war of massive foreign intervention in Indo-China;
- (b) their national Government's disastrous handling of Australia's role in the Vietnam conflict (prior to its demise in December 1972) resulted in:—

1. widespread destruction of property and innocent human life including the needless sacrifice of more than 600 young Australians;
2. cruel continuation of the conflict because of Liberal Government's opposition to efforts by the United States Government to refer the Vietnam conflict to the United Nations Organisation;

3. the diminution of Australia's standing in the eyes of its Asian neighbours, all of whom (with the exceptions of South Korea and Taiwan—acting as United States satellites) steadfastly refused to become involved in the internal affairs of another nation;
4. an extension of the conflict which has produced two million deaths and countless orphans, homeless refugees and maimed people;
5. a devastating attack upon a peasant people involving the heaviest bombing and the greatest level of fire power used in history;
6. some of the world's finest old centres of civilization being transformed into cities of death and disease;
7. a loss of confidence in western civilization;
8. pressure upon the Vietnamese people to surrender their cherished independence from China and all other foreign countries.

and that now, Liberal and Country party members have failed to disguise the blatant insincerity of their headlong rush to squeeze every drop of cheap political mileage from a campaign of fear and hatred.

This present insincerity is illustrated by—

- (1) their refusal to assist financially (in any meaningful way on a State level) the Australian Government's efforts to relieve the problems of refugees and orphans in Vietnam;

I am referring here to Liberal and Country Party politicians. To continue—

- (2) their refusal to face up to and support the logical extension of their policy which is the recommittal of young Australian soldiers to the war.

- (3) their approval—as proved by their silent acceptance—of plans by extremist groups to raise private armies to fight in Vietnam;

Their silence is deafening on that subject.

Mr O'Neil: I thought you were reading an amendment, not making a speech. Your comments will now be included in the amendment.

Mr BRYCE: To continue—

- (4) their long stand in the continued and irrational support of the corrupt and cruel Thieu regime which does not enjoy the support of even the people it purports to rule.

Now, Mr Speaker, there are a few remarks I would like to make in support of my amendment.

Mr O'Neil: What about reading it again, because the comments you made about your own amendment are now part of the amendment.

Mr BRYCE: I did not think the Minister for Works was quite so slow.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BRYCE: In support of my amendment I would like to say, firstly, that it is now over 30 years since the French decided to go back to Indo-China to attempt to re-establish what was left of their empire. As a result of their efforts, a war of independence on the part of the indigenous people was turned into a massive war of force with the intervention of foreign powers, one after the other.

Members on the other side of the House, and many of their sympathetic political creatures in the United States of America, failed then to appreciate, and still fail to appreciate, that an idea cannot be beaten with a bullet. We have heard the member for Moore, the member for Mt. Marshall, and various other members, from time to time talk about the threat of a communist invasion coming through the islands north of us towards Australia. The member for Moore particularly does not talk about an idea that may be on the march; he does not talk about the futility that has been proven time and time again. One cannot stop an idea with a bullet; one must beat it with a superior idea.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: Hear, hear!

Sir Charles Court: You think you have the superior idea.

Mr BRYCE: The Premier thought he had it. It is about time he went north instead of trying to solve Australia's economic problems. Why does he not go north

with some of his Japanese friends and work out the real solution to the problems of the people of Indo-China—

Sir Charles Court: Just a minute—

Mr BRYCE: —and those in South-East Asia? I am not interested—

Sir Charles Court: This superior idea of yours is communism, I suppose.

Mr BRYCE: I am not interested in what the Premier supposes.

Sir Charles Court: It can only be one thing that you are advocating—communism.

Mr BRYCE: Oh, rubbish!

Sir Charles Court: It cannot be anything else.

Mr BRYCE: The Premier wears political blinkers—

Sir Charles Court: I am just listening to what you are saying.

Mr BRYCE: —and his views are so narrow he is not capable of looking outside the scope of those blinkers.

Sir Charles Court: I am simply asking what is your superior idea?

Mr BRYCE: Will the Premier never realise that he cannot kill an idea with a bullet? It is no use sending Australian troops to Vietnam.

Sir Charles Court: All right, we accept this. What is your superior idea?

Mr BRYCE: We must try to stop people being killed.

Sir Charles Court: Your superior idea is communism.

Mr BRYCE: Absolute rot! The Premier is an absolutely deceitful political animal, he is completely deceitful and he is not prepared to listen to logic.

#### *Withdrawal of Remark*

Sir CHARLES COURT: I take exception to the remarks of the honourable member. We have given him a fair amount of license, and I ask that those remarks be withdrawn.

Mr Davies: A fair amount of cheek, too.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Might I also raise another point of order? Another member has made an interjection at the same time to which I take exception—the member for Victoria Park.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Jamieson: A fair amount of cheek—oh God!

The SPEAKER: Order! I ask the Premier what were the remarks made by the member for Ascot to which he objects.

Sir CHARLES COURT: He referred to me as being deceitful, and I take exception to that.

The SPEAKER: The member for Ascot has been asked to withdraw that remark. I ask him to withdraw it.

Mr BRYCE: I am happy to withdraw the remark.

Sir CHARLES COURT: On a further matter, Mr Speaker, the member for Victoria Park interjected and said, "There is a lot of truth in it." I ask for those remarks to be withdrawn.

Mr Jamieson: He didn't.

Sir Charles Court: Then what did he say?

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Victoria Park has been asked to withdraw the remark he made. I ask him to withdraw it.

#### *Points of Order*

Mr J. T. TONKIN: On a point of order, Sir, may I request that we refer to *Hansard* to ascertain the remarks that were actually made before the member for Victoria Park is asked to withdraw.

The SPEAKER: Yes. Will the Clerk ascertain what was the remark made by the member for Victoria Park? The Clerk has ascertained that *Hansard* records the member for Victoria Park as having said, "A fair amount of cheek, too."

Mr Davies: That is correct.

Mr BRYCE: If I may continue—

Sir CHARLES COURT: In that case I do not take exception to the comment of the member for Victoria Park.

The SPEAKER: Order! Will all members resume their seats.

Mr Moiler: Aren't you game to face up to the issue?

Sir Charles Court: We will face up to any issue you can create.

The SPEAKER: Order! This cross chat must cease. The House is getting into a terrible state. Two members were on their feet. I gave the call to the Leader of the Opposition. Would he please restate what he said?

Mr J. T. TONKIN: I simply asked, as is my right under the Standing Orders, that we refer to *Hansard* to ascertain the exact words to which the Premier objected. We have now obtained the words recorded by *Hansard*, and they have been found to be different from those stated by the Premier. Under those circumstances the Premier has no choice but to withdraw his request.

The SPEAKER: The Premier has done that.

Mr DAVIES: Mr Speaker, could I have an apology from the Premier for attributing to me something I did not say?

The SPEAKER: Order! We are becoming foolish in our approach to this matter. I rule there is no point of order in that regard. The Premier thought the member for Victoria Park said something, the matter has been established, a withdrawal has been made, and that is the end of it.

*Debate (on amendment to motion)  
Resumed*

Mr BRYCE: I desire to spell out rather clearly for the benefit of the Premier, so that he cannot be of the impression that he did not hear me and so that he cannot pretend to be thick-headed to the extent of not understanding what I am saying, that when I said that experience in Indo-China proves that an idea cannot be beaten with a gun, I also said it needs to be beaten by a superior idea. I suggest again that a system of parliamentary democracy such as we have is a very much superior idea; but the way we are going about trying to implement this in South-East Asia leaves a great deal to be desired.

After the French were defeated in 1954 there were two principal opportunities to achieve a peaceful settlement of the situation in that part of the world. The first was the 1954 Geneva agreement. One of the two principal features of that agreement which was designed to bring about a peaceful and political solution to this complex problem was a proposition for the whole of Vietnam to be reunited.

I would like the Minister for Labour and Industry to appreciate this point, since I know he deliberately tries to avoid making any suggestion that would mislead members of the House. The motion of which he has given notice makes the point that a small, independent nation has been attacked and overtaken by force. There is no such independent nation as South Vietnam, and there is not a single international legal convention to prove that such a nation exists. In fact, the contrary is the case.

Sir Charles Court: Is there such a nation as North Vietnam?

Mr BRYCE: No, there is not, because in the terms of the—

Sir Charles Court: You are changing your ground.

Mr BRYCE: —agreement of 1954 there was a requirement that the whole of the country be reunited and, secondly, that free elections would be held in Vietnam to determine the future of that country. Every member opposite knows that the political pundits in the United States and their puppets in the Saigon Government at that time knew and estimated that 80 per cent of the people of the whole of Vietnam would probably vote in a ballot to support a Government under Ho Chi-Minh.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: I heard Dean Rusk say that on a CBS news special,

Mr Grayden: You know perfectly well that is not so.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Morley: There is no need to shout like that.

Mr BRYCE: The Minister has suggested I know very well that is not so.

Sir Charles Court: Those great communist sympathisers over there! Ho Chi-Minh!

*Withdrawal of Remark*

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I take objection to the Premier's remark that we are great communist sympathisers because it is quite untrue.

Mr Bateman: So do I! I am not a communist!

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Morley has asked the Premier to withdraw the remark he made about "communist sympathisers over there". One member has taken objection to that remark, and I ask him to withdraw it.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I withdraw the remark, Mr Speaker.

Mr T. J. BURKE: I also take exception to the remark and ask that it be withdrawn.

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The Premier has made a withdrawal, and it stands for all.

*Debate (on amendment to motion)  
Resumed*

Mr BRYCE: For the information of the Minister for Labour and Industry, who has already interjected that what I said was untrue—

Mr Grayden: Completely untrue.

Mr BRYCE: —I suggest that he read the memoirs of Dwight Eisenhower who made that statement. I would say there is a slightly more accurate presentation of the truth in that statement than we may expect from him in respect of this question. Dwight Eisenhower plainly made the point that in his opinion—and he was the President of the United States at the time and had at his disposal all the resources of the United States intelligence—a vast number of Vietnamese people would vote for Ho Chi-Minh. Of course, in 1956 this puppet Government in South Vietnam made a statement—a public declaration—that the elections would not be held. So much for the fight for democracy.

Mr Grayden: Absolute rot.

Mr BRYCE: For the benefit of the Premier in particular, I point out that it was the intervention of the Russians supporting North Vietnam and of the United States of America supporting South Vietnam which meant that the solution to this problem would be a bloody solution and not a peaceful solution.



Mr Grayden: Who is slaughtering the hundreds of thousands of refugees? The communists, with your support.

Mr BRYCE: I suggest to the Minister that if he read the reports accurately he would find those responsible are as much the South Vietnamese Government troops as the troops from the north.

Mr Grayden: Why are hundreds of thousands—

Mr BRYCE: South Vietnamese Government troops are slaughtering their own people in panic.

Mr Clarko: Do you support the North Vietnamese?

Mr BRYCE: No, I do not.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Will the member for Ascot resume his seat. This debate must be conducted with much more decorum than is being shown at the present time. As I said on a previous occasion, the words one hears in debate are not honey to all ears, but we must have regard for the right of a member to be heard. The member for Ascot.

Mr BRYCE: In answer to the question I do not try to forgive or overlook the transgressions that have been made by the north. Both sides of this conflict have made terrible and unforgivable mistakes. But the responsibility is on the shoulders of everybody in Australia where this issue comes up for political comment from time to time to advocate that the killing and the war be stopped in Vietnam.

If as seems inevitable the Government in South Vietnam does fall, it will fall after 20 years of needless killing, because in 1954 it was patently clear that the people of Vietnam would have supported a Government of the type which Ho Chi-Minh would have given to the whole of Vietnam. If as seems inevitable the Government in Saigon collapses, it will be the same result, 20 years later, after the expenditure of untold billions of dollars and the loss of more than two million lives.

This is a tragedy with which we in Australia have been associated through our criminal act of being involved in the murder and slaughter in that part of the world—all because we had a Government at that time which intended to squeeze every single drop of political mileage out of the Red scare.

Mr Grayden: Who is doing the slaughtering at the moment? Is it the South Vietnamese or the North Vietnamese?

Mr BRYCE: I would say that there is a fair amount of slaughtering going on on both sides. I repeat: Any reasonably objective analysis of the Press reports coming out of Vietnam would indicate quite clearly that there are many civilians being slaughtered, raped, and pillaged by their own troops in South Vietnam.

Mr Grayden: Are you concerned with South Vietnam or North Vietnam?

Mr BRYCE: My sympathies lie with the whole of Vietnam.

Sir Charles Court: You have changed your tune!

Mr BRYCE: I am not changing my tune.

Sir Charles Court: Yes you are. You are changing your tune because you are feeling the pressure from this side of the House.

Mr BRYCE: The Premier should open his bigoted eyes. It is time he took his blinkers off. The Premier is not capable of assessing anything in even a slightly objective fashion.

Mr O'Neil: The honourable member is not capable, period!

Mr BRYCE: We hear again from the brazen Minister for Works; he is a very brave fellow when he is sitting on his tail. The second opportunity for a peaceful solution to this problem was at the Paris peace talks in 1973. The 1973 Paris talks did envisage a peaceful settlement. However, both sides of the conflict have broken the undertakings they gave. I should like to quote two articles of those accords which give lie to much of the substance of the thinking of the Minister for Labour and Industry, evidenced by his notice of motion.

I refer firstly to article 15, which envisaged a united Vietnam, with all political units in Vietnam participating in the Government of the people, not a separate Government in South Vietnam and a separate Government in the north. Article 15 states—

The military demarcation line between the two zones at the seventeenth parallel is only provisional and not a political or territorial boundary, as provided for in Paragraph 6 of the final declaration of the 1954 Geneva Conference.

That indicated that, as recently as 1973, it was clearly the intention that Vietnam should become one nation. The Paris Peace Accords provided for the establishment of the National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord; but of course the South Vietnamese Government has done nothing about calling that body together as it was required to do within 90 days of the cease fire.

Thus the South Vietnamese broke the agreement entered into at the Paris Accords just as the North Vietnamese broke the agreement entered into when they resorted to force. So, instead of seeing a peaceful political settlement to this problem we now see a blood-letting solution, once again.

When the Minister for Labour and Industry stands to make his comments later next week no doubt he will be completely objective in his arguments.

In conclusion, I draw the attention of members to the four points which constitute the second part of the amendment. The Premier stood in this Chamber tonight and indicated that the Western Australian Government, despite its alleged concern for refugees and for orphans, could not confirm whether even one cent had been contributed by this State to the national relief fund. Other State Governments have already indicated how much they are prepared to donate. This proves the superficiality of the concern this Treasurer shows for this issue.

Sir Charles Court: Can you deny that we have co-operated with the Commonwealth Government? Ask your Prime Minister!

Mr BRYCE: Members opposite must face the reality that the true meaning of their policy and their objection to the withdrawal of troops from Vietnam could lead only to a bloody solution instead of a peaceful political solution to the war. They now must face the realisation that the logical extension of their policy is the recruitment of young Australian soldiers to that war. They cannot sustain the arguments they have advanced recently in this place without appreciating that this is the logical conclusion. I was—

The SPEAKER: Order! The honourable member's time has expired.

MR B. T. BURKE (Balga) [6.08 p.m.]: I wish to second the motion and, in so doing, address a few remarks to the House.

#### *Point of Order*

Sir CHARLES COURT: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, can we be advised on the motion before the House, because the honourable member actually moved a motion different from the one that has been circulated among us. I presume that you will want to incorporate the interpolations in the motion and we do not have a copy of it before us.

Mr Bryce: What a scurrilous statement!

The SPEAKER: Order! I was not completely aware that there was an interpolation. In retrospect, and having regard to the fact that the member for Ascot has done this, I believe that, in all probability, there are interpolations which will have to be incorporated in the motion. Because of this, as Speaker, I do not want to rule it out of order.

Sir Charles Court: We are not asking for that, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: However, I believe we can accept, in a practical fashion, the fact that the motion is 99 per cent in the same form as it was when it was handed to me as Speaker. Nevertheless this is a warning that when a motion is read, it should be read as such.

It has now been brought to my notice that the amendment is not signed, and therefore propose to discuss the matter briefly with my Clerks and while doing so I ask members to remain in their seats.

After consulting my Clerks I find that the situation is somewhat different from that which I was putting before the House in that I understand that in the past interpolations have been made that have not been incorporated in the motion moved. I also understand that, on occasions, amendments have not been signed at the time but were signed subsequently.

#### *Speaker's Ruling*

In the circumstances I rule that this motion is in order, and I warn the member for Balga that if he wishes to continue speaking next week he should ask the House for leave so to do.

#### *Point of Order*

Mr HARMAN: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, if the member for Balga asks for leave to continue his speech next week I will need the concurrence of the House.

The SPEAKER: That is so.

#### *Debate (on amendment to motion) Resumed*

Mr B. T. BURKE: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Speaker. I will follow your suggestion and ask leave of the House to continue my remarks at a later time.

The SPEAKER: The member for Balga seeks leave of the House to continue his speech on the next day of sitting. Is leave granted? If there is a dissentient voice leave cannot be granted. Is there any dissentient? As there is no dissentient voice leave is granted.

Debate thus adjourned.

*House adjourned at 6.14 p.m.*

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## **Legislative Council**

Tuesday, the 15th April, 1975

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. A. Griffith) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m. and read prayers.

#### **ADDRESS-IN-REPLY**

*Presentation to Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator: Acknowledgment*

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. A. Griffith): I have to announce that I have in company with several members, waited on His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor and Administrator, and presented to