

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 17 June 1986

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Burkett) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

THE LATE HON. A. R. G. HAWKE, MLA

THE LATE MR C. M. HUGHES, MLA

Condolence: Motion

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balga—Premier) [2.17 p.m.]: I move—

That this House records its sincere regret at the death of the Hon. A. R. G. Hawke and Mr Clive Hughes, former Members of this House and tenders deep sympathy to all members of their families in their tragic loss.

Since last we met, prior to the commencement of this session, Hon. A. R. G. Hawke and Mr Clive Hughes have passed away. It is appropriate that we record in this condolence motion the regret felt by members in this House, most of whom were colleagues of at least one of the two former members. I extend to the families of the two former members our sympathy and sorrow in their losses.

Bert Hawke was a former Premier of Western Australia. He died on 14 March this year. He was first elected to the Western Australian Legislative Assembly to represent the seat of Northam. He held that seat continuously for 35 years. Bert Hawke was one of the great Labor Premiers. During the Depression he was elected to this place in a stunning win over Sir James Mitchell. That was in 1933, but it was not the first occasion on which Bert Hawke had been elected to a House of Parliament.

In March 1924, some nine years previously, at the age of 23, Bert Hawke was elected to the South Australian Parliament as the member for Burra Burra. His career in that Parliament was short-lived because he lost his seat by 11 votes at the election held in March 1927.

Bert Hawke was a Labor man in every sense of the word. He was a socialist and he was prominent during anticonscription campaigns. In fact, after successfully applying for a position in a bank whilst a prominent anticonscriptionist, he lost his job when one of the customers—who was a bank manager's wife—threatened to organise a boycott of the business unless Bert was sacked.

Of course, that is typical of the stance he took through many situations he encountered during his life. When he was elected to the Western Australian Parliament he was a very aggressive and innovative Labor person and, along with other Labor members of that time, the Labor Party was swept into Government. Many of these members were later to become Premiers of the State. Elected at that time were John Tonkin and Frank Wise, both of whom became Premiers of the State.

During his period as Premier—from 1953 until 1959—Bert Hawke was responsible for implementing many Labor Party policies. He was particularly active in trying to propagate Labor Party control of unfair trading practices and excessive pricing policies followed in the private sector as he identified them at that time.

Bert Hawke had a long and illustrious career, holding the seat of Northam until his retirement from Parliament in 1968. On his retirement Mr Hawke was succeeded by Mr Ken McIver who lost his seat at the recent State election.

Bert Hawke was elected at a time of great hardship for our State. The Depression had hit hard, farmers were broke, businessmen were in financial strife, and workers by the tens of thousands were unemployed. In turning out of office the Mitchell Government, which was elected in 1930, "work and prosperity for all" was the platform on which the Labor Government of which Bert Hawke was first a member was elected. I should say also that, at his first election, Mr Hawke beat the then Premier by 460 votes and held the seat for many years following that successful first foray into Western Australian politics.

On a personal level, Premier Hawke was not well known to me, but he was known to me as a kind and wise person capable of providing very wise counsel to young members of Parliament. He was certainly a fiery orator and was prepared to bait the Opposition and to stand his ground in the face of quite bitter debate.

While he died in South Australia, I think we, in this State, can claim him as one of our sons in every respect except those of birth and death. Certainly his contribution to the public life of this country was a contribution made mainly in Western Australia.

Clive Hughes, the former member for Cockburn, succeeded in this Parliament by Mr Norman Marlborough, was 38 when he died following a relatively brief illness. Clive leaves

a widow and two young children. His period in this Parliament was disappointingly and tragically brief, but it permitted those who knew Clive and who watched his performance in this Parliament to realise the successful and major contribution he made to it.

He was a former official of the Hospital Service and Miscellaneous Workers Union, and was elected to the seat of Cockburn in a by-election in November 1984. He gave long and dedicated service to the trade union movement and to the Labor Party and, as I said previously, his time to contribute in this place was tragically cut short when he developed cancer, the disease from which he died.

During the final months of his life, Clive was in great pain associated with medical treatment. Yet he was able to remain cheerful and to take his place in this Chamber under circumstances and disabilities that I am sure most of us would not have been able to overcome to continue our work here.

As an example, often when he had to leave the Parliament it was because the side effects of the treatment that he was undergoing made work almost impossible for him. Yet, Clive Hughes still managed to attend meetings in his electorate, to hand out sporting trophies, and to go to Labor Party functions until he became bedridden at home.

To Liz Hughes and to Clive's two children we send our sincere sympathy. We remind them that they have, in their memories, a remembrance of a man who, through the trade union movement, through the Australian Labor Party, and through his election to this place, in the brief period he was a member, marked himself as someone with the capabilities and passion to make a considerable contribution to the public affairs of this State.

MR HASSELL (Cottesloe—Leader of the Opposition) [2.26 p.m.]: I second the motion of condolence moved by the Premier and, on behalf of my colleagues, join him and his colleagues in expressing our sympathy to the families of the former Premier, A.R.G. Hawke, and of Clive Hughes.

In expressing the feelings of the House towards their families, there is, of course, a striking contrast between the two people whom we remember today. In the case of the man known commonly as Bert Hawke, we saw someone who began his political career at a young age, worked for many years and became the Premier of the State and had what, in any terms, would be described as a long and suc-

cessful political career. It was one in which he achieved the maximum that could be achieved in the State sphere and for which he was acclaimed and recognised for his work. He survived to see the fruits and successes of his work.

Clive Hughes, on the other hand, sat here for a very brief period. He was not given the time to reach the conclusion of a career or even to get it under way. It is particularly sad on a personal basis for members to reflect on his passing, recognising that he leaves a young widow and young children.

We join in the expressions of sorrow to his widow and to his young children and recognise what a burden it is for his family, bearing in mind that he left them so young.

We therefore join the Premier and the members of the Government in expressing our sympathy to and support for the families of those who have departed.

MR COWAN (Merredin) [2.29 p.m.]: On behalf of my colleagues in the National Party of Australia, I support the motion moved by the Premier and seconded by the Leader of the Opposition. I had the opportunity and pleasure of meeting the late A. R. G. Hawke not very far from this place when I was a schoolboy. Perhaps the thing I most remember in my first brush with politics was the discussions we had with the then Premier when he did his usual lap around the block after dinner in this place. Even then it was easy for him to discuss with us some of the affairs of the State and it became something that we all looked forward to. I convey to his family my personal sympathy and the sympathy of the National Party.

With respect to the late Clive Hughes, I recall many interesting discussions I had with him in the area known to those in the National Party as "the bridge". If he had been given the opportunity to make a real impact in the affairs of this place some lasting memories would have been attributed to him. The statements he made were nothing but commonsense.

My colleague, the member for Stirling, spent a little more time than I did with Clive Hughes because they were both members of the Select Committee investigating the wine industry. The member for Stirling can vouch that it was one of the tragedies of this place that Clive Hughes was not given time to leave an impression on the Parliament. On behalf of the National Party I extend my sympathy to his family.

MR RUSHTON (Dale) [2.31 p.m.]: I wish to join with those members who have expressed their sympathy to the families of the late A. R. G. Hawke and the late Clive Hughes.

I knew the late Bert Hawke well, as did my family when they lived in Northam where my late father was the local mayor for a number of years. I may be one of only two members in this House today who served in the Parliament at the same time as Bert Hawke. He was a good friend and I played tennis with him—he was no mean tennis player. He ceased playing tennis at the age of 78 years and found it difficult to resume that sport.

I remember well his advice to me when I entered this Parliament. He told me to work the electorate hard and it would never be taken off me—his advice has worked.

I am sure my family joins with me in expressing sympathy to Bert Hawke's family.

I did not have the opportunity to know Clive Hughes well, but I convey my sympathies to his family.

MRS WATKINS (Joondalup) [2.32 p.m.]: I join with the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the National Party and the member for Dale in speaking to this motion. I direct my remarks to Clive Hughes. I was not fortunate enough to know the late Bert Hawke.

Clive was the sort of human being who engendered a feeling of well-being. I never heard Clive speak ill of anyone. He always found time to listen, and championed the cause of the underdog. Above all, Clive showed everyone the meaning of the word "courage". He was too busy wondering how his loved ones and friends were going to cope to feel sorrow or pity for himself.

He was handed a very cruel sentence, but he got on with the task of living in the short time he had left. His wife, Liz, could also give each of us a lesson in courage. How she managed to remain calm and composed through those awful final weeks of Clive's life, I do not know.

Clive's early death has created an enormous void not only in the Labor movement, but also in the hearts of his friends and family. I just wish that he had been given more time to fulfil the hopes and aspirations he held for the people not only of the Cockburn electorate, but also of Western Australia.

Clive's successor, Norm Marlborough, is a close friend of the Hughes' family. I have no doubt that he is aware of Clive's aspirations,

and that he will set about the task of fulfilling them with the same caring persistence and commitment that Clive would have shown.

MR CRANE (Moore) [2.34 p.m.]: I feel it appropriate that I should say a few words at this time in regard to the two persons about whom the Premier has spoken so honestly and whom many of us knew.

I met the late A. R. G. Hawke on only one occasion, sometime in the 1950s which were difficult days after the war. I was requested to come to this place by the then member for Moore, Mr Hugh Ackland, and he introduced me to Mr Hawke. I remember apologising to Mr Hawke because I had just completed putting in a crop and my hands were covered with cracks caused by using superphosphate, grease, and other substances one is obliged to use under those conditions. He told me I should never be afraid to have dirt under my fingernails or to let it be known that I earned my living the hard way. I will never forget his remark because at that time I was embarrassed and tried to keep my hands in my pockets; but one cannot eat dinner with one's hands in one's pockets! I remember the warmth with which he said that to me and I realised then that he was a man of understanding and feeling.

I was shocked to learn of the passing of Clive Hughes. Unfortunately I did not read the newspapers at the time of his death and was unaware of his passing and therefore did not attend his funeral. Had I been aware of it, I certainly would have attended.

The Leader of the National Party mentioned that the member for Stirling participated in the Select Committee inquiring into the wine industry. I was a member of that committee also and, as a result, had the opportunity to get to know Clive Hughes better than members in this place usually get to know other members. Unfortunately, much of the time of members in this place is taken up by glaring at one another across the House.

I was given the opportunity to know Clive well and while perhaps our political philosophies may have been poles apart, I can assure members that our commonsense held common ground. He often spoke to me about his experience working on farms and he knew what it was all about. He was a humane person and I became attached to him.

I remember an occasion when members of the Select Committee were attending a function in New South Wales and a person verbally attacked Mr Hughes because he was a member of

the Labor Party and, I understand, he was given a rough time. I was unaware of this incident and I am sorry that I was because I would have defended him—such were my feelings towards him.

Clive Hughes always acted as a gentleman when I was with him and he leaves behind the memory of a human person, and one who would have made a great contribution in this place had he been given the opportunity to stay longer.

I join with other members in saying sincerely that I was saddened to hear of the passing of Clive Hughes.

MR BRYCE (Ascot—Deputy Premier) [2.39 p.m.]: I was a very young man in the body politic when I first came in contact with Bert Hawke and he made a big impact on me. I had the responsibility and privilege of representing this Government at his funeral in Adelaide earlier this year.

I remind members of this House that Bert Hawke was one of three Labor Premiers who entered politics in 1933 as the result of a landslide in that year. It did not matter what party a member belonged to at that time—if he had to face an election he went out on his neck. Bert Hawke defeated the then Premier, John Tonkin defeated the then Minister for Education, and Frank Wise defeated the then Minister for Works in their respective electorates. Bert Hawke entered the Ministry in 1936 and there are very few people in the history of this State who have served for 17 years in a Ministry and eight years as Leader of the Opposition. Of his 35 years in Parliament he spent literally 25 years at the top in terms of the weight of his responsibilities.

I guess there are a lot of observations that could be made about his contribution to this place, but I would say that he was regarded as one of the finest speakers this Parliament has known. He was a very effective speaker and those people who had the privilege of listening to him know that no matter how serious the subject became, Bert Hawke was capable of injecting into the debate a unique humour. In that sense he was truly an all-round, very appealing and effective speaker. He was truly quite amazing.

My first contact with Bert Hawke was as a candidate for the Federal seat of Moore, way back in 1966, when, as a fresh-faced 22-year old, I had decided to take on, in a political sense, the establishment in the wheatbelt. Bert Hawke represented the seat of Northam and he

provided an enormous amount of moral support to me in a hopeless situation. I actually benefited tremendously from his guidance. Bert himself was not only a very fine speaker, but also—for those people who understand the traditions of this place—he was probably one of the best billiards players that this institution has ever produced.

These days very few members of Parliament seem to play billiards, but Bert's routine after he retired was to challenge every new Labor member of Parliament to either a game of tennis or a game of billiards. His daily routine was to arrive at Parliament House and read the newspapers of both South Australia and Western Australia, and he knew the football results from every part of the country. If he could not coax someone into a game of billiards after lunch or a polemical exchange, he would settle for an early day and be home at his flat by 4.30 p.m. Members who were here during the 1970s know that that was his routine prior to his shifting back to Adelaide.

When the Prime Minister presented a very short address at Bert's funeral he made the point that Bert Hawke had lived a very full and quite remarkable life. He was a very old man when he died—well into his 80s—and he would have said, had he been there, that there was no real reason for anyone to be terribly depressed. He was a man of enormous spirit and good humour, and he would have wanted the young people who followed him, both in a political sense and in the community generally, to get on with the business of living effectively.

I would say to the member for Avon, with all due respect, that he might be interested to know that Bert Hawke died without knowing that the seat which he had represented, and which he held very dear even after he had left it, had been lost in the last State election. He knew, even in a semi-comatosed state, that the Government had been returned but he did not know that his old seat had changed hands.

Question passed, members standing.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER

Distinguished Visitor

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Burkett): I would like to acknowledge at this time the presence in the Speaker's Gallery of one of our colleagues from the Eastern seaboard, Mrs Jane Wilson, the member for Dandenong North. We welcome you to Western Australia, Jane.

[Applause.]

ENVIRONMENT: SWANBOURNE HOSPITAL BUILDINGS

Demolition: Petition

DR LAWRENCE (Subiaco) [2.46 p.m.]: I have a petition to present which reads as follows—

To:

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

We, the undersigned:

- (a) respectfully draw the attention of the House to the historic buildings comprising Swanbourne Hospital,
- (b) deeply regret the decision of the Government on the future of the Hospital, which will see the majority of the buildings demolished,
- (c) point out the eminent suitability of the buildings and the surrounding land as a headquarters for community groups, and to house a technology museum, a conference centre and a nature reserve, and
- (d) call for the Swanbourne Hospital complex to be preserved, thereby enabling a science centre unique to Australia to be established, as well as preserving a part of Western Australia's heritage.

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

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

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

(*See petition No. 5.*)

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION BILL

Second Reading

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balga—Treasurer) [2.48 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill consolidates the insurance activities of the Government sector through the amalgamation of the State Government Insurance Office and the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust to form a new body to be called the State Government Insurance Commission.

This consolidation is based on the recommendations of a State insurance task force established by the Government to examine the operations of the State Government Insurance Office and the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust. The task force identified a number of weaknesses in the present structure and operations and it is believed that the establishment of the commission will achieve the principal objectives of—

minimising premiums on compulsory forms of insurance; and

maximising the financial returns to Government from its commercial insurance activities.

The State Government Insurance Commission will comprise two operating arms. One arm is to undertake non-competitive forms of insurance: compulsory third party personal injury motor vehicle accident insurance, the State Government's own self-insurance arrangements, and other non-competitive forms of insurance. The second arm is to undertake competitive forms of insurance and is to be known as the State Government Insurance Corporation. It is intended to compete with private sector insurers in all classes of life and general insurance.

It is proposed that all of the existing assets and liabilities of the SGIO and the MVIT will be vested in the commission which will have the initial responsibility to then re-allocate them as appropriate to one of the funds established under the Bill.

The commission will be headed by a board of seven members including a chairman and deputy chairman together with a managing director who will be the chief executive of the commission. The provisions of the Public Service Act will not apply to staff in order to allow for a more flexible and market-orientated approach to the management of staff resources.

Importantly, the Act contains provisional arrangements which protect the rights of existing staff in both the State Government Insurance Office and the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust. There will be no retrenchments, salary reductions, or loss of superannuation entitlements.

By adopting the structure outlined above, the Government believes that it can achieve both the economies of scale and management resources necessary to improve the performance of Government insurance activities and bring a more market-orientated approach to the insurance business of Government. At the same time, the Government has ensured that the commission's commercial activities will be competitively neutral.

The competitive arm of the commission, the corporation, is to be established along the lines of private sector insurers. The corporation is to have share capital and be governed by a board of directors whose chairman will be the managing director of the commission.

The aim of the corporation will be to compete with the private sector in both life and general insurance and, accordingly, the legislation allows the corporation to have financial and business powers similar to its private sector competitors. There is no extension of the SGIO franchise beyond that which was approved by the House in the 1983 State Government Insurance Office Amendment Act.

The Insurance Commission will always hold a majority of shares in the corporation but provision has been made for other public sector organisations to hold shares also.

The Government believes that competitive neutrality of the commission and corporation will be achieved by establishing the corporation at arm's length from the Government as a subsidiary of the Insurance Commission and by funding the corporation through the issuing of share capital to the commission. The issuing of share capital will provide also a benchmark by which to assess the commercial success of the corporation.

In addition, the legislation requires the corporation to—

comply with the Financial Administration and Audit Act;

observe all solvency and other requirements imposed on insurers under the Commonwealth Insurance Act and Life Insurance Act;

pay the equivalent of all Commonwealth taxes and charges to the State Government;

pay all State and local government taxes and charges; and

pay a commercial fee for service from Government authorities and instrumentalities.

When legislation to extend the franchise of the State Government Insurance Office was approved by the House in 1983, the Government gave an undertaking that a Standing Committee would be established to oversee the competitive neutrality of the Government's insurance activities. As is evident, this legislation ensures the competitive neutrality of Government insurance activities by imposing a code of conduct on the boards of both the commission and the corporation. For this reason, the Government believes that the legislation would not only make a Standing Committee redundant, but also that by incorporating the basis for competitive neutrality in the legislation itself, the legislation goes well beyond the effectiveness of a Standing Committee in ensuring competitive neutrality.

In addition, the success of the corporation will depend on its ability to compete in the marketplace and the establishment of a Standing Committee may interfere with the corporation's activities and place it at a commercial disadvantage.

In any event, as both the commission and the corporation are required to prepare separately identifiable accounts and annual reports under the Financial Administration and Audit Act, the activities of both organisations will be subject to scrutiny by the Auditor General as well as by the Public Accounts Committee.

I commend the Bill to the House.

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

ACTS AMENDMENT (ACTIONS FOR DAMAGES) BILL

Second Reading

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balga—Treasurer) [2.52 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill amends the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1941 and the Supreme Court Act 1935 and is introduced in conjunction with the State Government Insurance Commission Bill 1986.

Part of the strategy to contain premium cost increases for compulsory insurance must be to reform the law in a number of areas so as to curb the growth in court awards in personal injury cases.

This legislation proposes to—

abolish the right of a husband to claim damages for an injury to his wife where he is deprived of her society and services;

abolish the right of courts to award prejudgment interest on damages for pain and suffering; and

provide for the discount rate used when calculating the present value of a lump sum award for future loss of earning capacity or future medical or other expenses to be varied, with the rate initially being set at six per cent.

While abolishing a husband's rights to claim for the loss of his wife's society and services and abolishing prejudgment interest will not reduce claims by a great deal, such action serves two very useful purposes. Firstly, it is aimed at containing premiums by reducing the cost of claims to the community. Secondly, in the case of consortium, the proposed reform represents the end of an offensive anachronism, and, in the case of prejudgment interest, an end to overcompensation for some people.

What is of more significance, however, is that part of the legislation aimed at fixing a discount rate of six per cent. As is well known, discounting has the effect of ensuring that a lump sum award paid today has the same value as a benefit paid over a period of time in the future. In simplistic terms it represents the real rate of interest.

The discount rate of three per cent currently used by the courts is based on a 1981 High Court case. At the time the court acknowledged the difficulties of making such calculations. The year 1981 was characterised by very high rates of inflation. The economic situation is markedly different today with inflation about half the 1981 level, but with real rates of interest at continuing very high levels. This increase in the real rate of interest supports the view that the proposed increase in the discount rate is now appropriate. The real rate of interest obviously changes over time and it is for this reason that the legislation provides for the Governor, on the recommendation of the Attorney General, to vary the discount rate from time to time in the light of prevailing economic circumstances.

If the discount rate is not increased, then the situation arises where those who elect to take a lump sum will receive more than those who elect to take periodic payments. This distortion results in an increased cost to the community as a whole.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Mensaros.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR PETER DOWDING (Maylands—Minister for Industrial Relations) [2.57 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is the first step in a legislative package aimed at modifying, finetuning, and improving industrial relations in Western Australia.

The Government also will bring before Parliament a special Bill to enable the enactment of a code of conduct on the State registered Builders Labourers Federation.

The legislation proposed reflects the Government's intention to ensure that the legislative aspects of industrial relations in Western Australia are not only relevant, but up to date and in keeping with the needs of the State, its industry, and the people within industry.

The present Bill will remove from the Industrial Relations Act Part VIA which is titled "Protection of members and non-members of employee organisations."

In addition, and as a consequence of that removal, it is necessary to modify the jurisdiction of the commission by an amendment to section 23 to remove the prohibition on the commission from granting preference to unionists.

Furthermore, the regulation-making powers of the commission will be amended to enable the registrar to issue certificates of exemption from union membership which will be recognised, and which will have equal status with union membership.

The Government believes that a number of considerations should be taken into account in the framing of industrial relations legislation.

These should include an evaluation as to whether the legislation is relevant to the industrial reality of the workplace and is capable of being implemented, and will assist in better regulation of relations between workers, unions, employers, and Government in the workplace.

Part VIA has not satisfactorily met the above criteria.

We all recognise just how crucial those factors are for all participants in ensuring that our society grows and develops a capacity for healthy competition in the marketplaces of the world.

Employers would agree that in dealing with general matters relating to employees, it is easier and more efficient to deal with those who can claim fair and proper representation of these employees than disparate *ad hoc* unorganised groups or individuals.

The Government believes that a system of preference is superior in terms of getting uniform and enforceable standards at work with respect to acceptable work practices, the implementation of proper occupational health and safety practices, and industrial democracy and vocational training.

Thankfully, our society has graduated beyond the dark ages when these sorts of issues were ignored in employer-employee relationships, and society now realises the inherent value to society and the individual of a harmonious and meaningful relationship between employers and employees.

Experienced practitioners in industrial relations will tell members opposite that because part VIA is an ill-conceived and bad law it cannot be effectively implemented. As a consequence industry has therefore ignored part VIA.

In short, part VIA has proved a farce. This was predicted by my party at the time of its introduction and I understand caused a genuine concern amongst some Government, now Opposition, members at the time.

It has been demonstrated that since its inception, part VIA has given rise to industrial disputes rather than assisting moves towards better industrial relations. It has not improved relations in the workplace, rather it has, I believe, led to friction and irritation and caused some disputes.

Part VIA is a bad part of law and should be removed from the Act. The Government believes that the question of union membership is better handled by the Industrial Relations Commission in an independent and fair manner.

The effects of the present amendments to the Industrial Relations Act are to remove part VIA and to return to the commission the jurisdiction to deal properly with matters related to membership or non-membership of unions. It was a system put forward by the commission itself in the first instance.

The Government is trying to reflect the situation that applied from 1964 when the commission in Court Session found in the following terms—

The jurisdiction lies with this commission to prescribe conditions relative to the subject matter of employment to unionists or non-unionists.

Following that finding the standard preference clause became a feature of State awards. Those standard clauses contained the checks and balances necessary to ensure that those who did not wish to join unions were accommodated and supported by provisions under section 61B of the then Act.

Under the present Bill it is proposed that the matter of the way in which membership or non-membership of an organisation is provided for, is within the authority of the commission. This will be done by the amendment to section 23 to remove this matter from the list of areas for which the commission may not make provision in its awards and orders.

The Bill is a reflection of industrial reality and relevance and will make for better industrial relations and remove an inconsistency with the Federal Act. It is therefore fundamental to the Government's objectives to enable a rational and sensible approach to union membership in the industrial relations arena, that part VIA of the Industrial Relations Act is removed.

Also, the commission's authority to make regulations contained in section 113 of the Act is modified to enable the commission to make regulations to require the registrar to issue certificates of exemption to individuals not wishing to be union members, and for the recognition of those certificates in industrial places where the commission has issued awards or orders relating to unionism to ensure that certificate holders are not prejudiced.

The issuing of certificates of exemptions will adequately deal with the problems of those people who have objections to joining a union. It is just and proper that these people are given the consideration as proposed in this Bill.

It should be noted here that in 1976, when the Opposition was in Government, it recognised this and amended the Act to allow workers to obtain exemptions as a matter of course and not on any grounds that needed to be proved. The Government's intention is to do exactly that. Put simply, those who do not want to join unions will get a certificate of exemption. Part VIA did not adequately meet

the needs of these people. On the contrary, it intended to put them in the invidious position of being in the centre of disputes when an exemption certificate would have resolved the question of their non-union membership to the satisfaction of all parties.

It is essential also that the commission have the power to award or to take away preference to union members.

Let me make clear that this Bill is part of the package of industrial relations legislation which will be placed before this Parliament both in this session and in the spring session. In this particular case the Government is concerned that the matter of enabling the Industrial Relations Commission to deal with union membership matters is of paramount importance and is therefore proposing to Parliament that it should be dealt with separately and quickly.

The Bill proposes amendments to the Industrial Relations Act which make not only industrial sense but also commonsense and which will enable the Industrial Relations Commission to operate more effectively in matters which are at times the source of irritation in the work force.

The Bill is representative of the approach the Government has taken in industrial relations and reflects the attitude that those in the workplace can properly sort out their own affairs with the assistance of the Industrial Relations Commission where and when necessary.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Thompson.

BUILDING INDUSTRY (CODE OF CONDUCT) BILL

Second Reading

MR PETER DOWDING (Maylands—Minister for Industrial Relations) [3.06 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill represents a further step in initiatives being taken by this Government to encourage better and more efficient operations in the building and construction industry in Western Australia and to ensure fair dealings and relations for those within the industry and for those who depend on it.

The Building Industry (Code of Conduct) Bill provides for procedure whereby a code of conduct will be set out by the Minister and the behaviour of the Builders Labourers Feder-

ation will be measured against that code of conduct.

That behaviour will be the subject of reporting to the Chief Commissioner of the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission, who will in turn be responsible to report to the Minister on a four-monthly basis or as necessary, on matters relevant to this Act and to the code of conduct.

Members in this House would be aware of the background leading up to the Government's decision to institute a code of conduct for the Builders Labourers Federation. Members will recall the moves to deregister the Federal BLF by the Commonwealth Government and the State union by the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria.

There was basic agreement that the behaviour of the BLF and its members in NSW, Victoria, and the ACT was intolerable and outside the realm of normal and proper behaviour in the industrial arena. However, the situation in Western Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, and South Australia was different. Indeed at a national meeting of Ministers which discussed State attitudes to the deregistration of the BLF, my Queensland counterpart, Hon. Vince Lester, was the first to inform the Federal Minister, Hon. Ralph Willis, that the Queensland National Party Government considered the behaviour of the BLF in that State did not warrant the union's deregistration.

This was essentially the attitude of the Tasmanian Liberal Government, the South Australian Labor Government and the Western Australian Labor Government.

However, that is not to say that the behaviour of the State BLF was beyond criticism and the situation in the building industry did not need attention. Members will recall that this Government, at the behest of industry, established the office of the independent arbitrator in the building construction industry to deal expeditiously and effectively with matters that arose and needed speedy resolutions which could not be dealt with by either of the commissions.

We said then that sections of the industry must cooperate within itself and be made to work for the benefit of all parties and for the State and its people.

In determining its policy for the improvement of industrial relations in the building and construction industry and in establishing frameworks and procedures to improve pro-

ductivity, the Government was cognisant of the fact that any revolutionary or draconian measures that lacked logic or empirical evidence to support them would have led only to further ructions and major disruption within the industry.

The Government believed that the immediate deregistration of the State BLF would have led to such ructions and disruption and would not have won the support of the union movement as a whole as had occurred in NSW, and to a lesser extent in Victoria.

The correctness of the State Government's approach has, I believe, been borne out by its broad acceptance reflected in an increased stability within the industry.

The Government firmly believed that industry itself has a responsibility to improve its self-regulation and that some builders and employers have abdicated much of their responsibility to manage and to better communicate with their workers. On any analysis management needed to address these issues. For their part, the unions involved in the building industry had to take stock of their performance and work in cooperation with employers and Government to make the industry more productive, efficient, and competitive.

As for the State Builders Labourers Federation, that union has now been placed on notice that the behaviour of the officials and members in New South Wales, Victoria, and the ACT is not acceptable behaviour in this State. It was, and still is, clearly open to any individual, employer, or employer association, who wished to move for the deregistration of the State body under section 73 of the Industrial Relations Act, to do so. The fact that no employer association moved to cancel the registration of the State BLF is indicative of the acceptance that the situation in Western Australia was sufficiently different from that in other States to warrant proper and independent action.

The package for the improvement of the building industry, a package which I announced earlier this year, reflected the realistic and responsible approach that has been adopted by this Government to industrial relations.

I have referred to our initiative in establishing a dispute settlement procedure embodying the use of a private arbitrator who is not only readily available to industry, but also well-respected by practitioners and the parties. The dispute settling procedure, while

not perfect, has been successful in reducing the number of complaints and minimising disruption on site.

The Government has also prepared a statement of conduct for building industry employers and others in or associated with the industry. Their behaviour will be measured against the code set down. Employers, contractors, builders, and others who fail to heed that code and frustrate the Government's initiative to create a climate in which constructive and rational decisions affecting the building industry can be made will find that the Government will no longer award them contracts, and it will seriously consider other sanctions if necessary.

Furthermore, the Government is presently discussing with the industry the establishment of a consultative council in the building industry along the lines of that which it has established in the iron ore industry. Also, the Government has initiated discussions to establish a better framework for the resolution of demarcation disputes.

The Government will be seeking also to amend the Industrial Relations Act to remove Part VIA and to enhance the jurisdiction of the Industrial Relations Commission so that it can deal with union membership and related matters in its orders, awards, and industrial agreements. This is seen as an essential part of the package to regulate the building industry.

Many of the disputes in the building industry are concerned with union membership matters and by enabling the Industrial Relations Commission to deal with these matters, a positive, credible, and respected method of attending to this issue will be provided.

The Government will be placing before Parliament in this session legislation to upgrade occupational health, safety, and welfare in the industry and to increase penalties for non-compliance with safety regulations and non-compliance with Workers' Compensation and Assistance Act provisions.

This action will clearly make the whole package more acceptable to workers, the union movement, and the industry. It also signals the Government's concern at the lack of adequate self-regulation.

The essential features of this part of the package are—

A substantial increase in the penalties for non-compliance with the building industry safety regulations;

employment of more industrial safety inspectors;

improvement in the training and industrial relations knowledge of industrial safety inspectors; and

the provision of radio-controlled vehicles.

The objectives of this part of the package are to provide for a speedy response to and resolution of safety issues by inspectors.

The Building Industry (Code of Conduct) Act will enhance the overall package and address the question of the behaviour of the Builders Labourers Federation, which, in the Federal area, has been addressed by a report of the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission and legislation which has brought about the cancellation of the registration of that union.

The difficulty of there being both Federal and State jurisdictions means that the State Government's measures are especially pertinent and appropriate following the deregistration of the Federal union.

The Government is moving also before the full bench of the Australian commission to have the Federal BLF award cancelled. This will ensure that there is no Federal coverage to complicate the application of this Act.

The legislation has a sunset clause which provides that it will expire in two years' time or at an earlier date, on the notice of the Minister if the Federal Builders Labourers Federation is reregistered by the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission.

Special provisions are included in the legislation to utilise the cancellation of union registration processes contained in section 73 of the Industrial Relations Act. Those special provisions ensure that when an application is made by the Chief Commissioner or the Minister pursuant to the provisions of this Act and the code of conduct enacted under it, the Full Bench of the Industrial Relations Commission shall call on the union to show cause why its registration should not be cancelled or otherwise dealt with.

The Chief Commissioner will report on a four-monthly basis, or more frequently if necessary. Information will be provided by employers to the Chief Commissioner on the union's behaviour with respect to the code of conduct. Employers will be liable for a penalty of \$500 if they fail to comply with the requirement to provide information.

The Chief Commissioner's report will be made to the Minister. Either the Chief Commissioner or the Minister may initiate proceedings under the Act. Those proceedings will be taken under section 73 of the Industrial Relations Act.

The Act contains provisions which guarantee the immunity and power of the Chief Commissioner and the registrar in the same terms as under the Industrial Relations Act and that Act applies *mutatis mutandis*, as if the functions performed by the registrar and the Chief Commissioner were being performed under the Industrial Relations Act.

The Act addresses in particular the need to impose upon the Builders Labourers Federation a code of conduct and it utilises the existing procedures in the Industrial Relations Act. This legislation is an important part of the initiatives being taken in the industrial relations arena by the Government and it is crucial in assisting the building and construction industry to attend to its problems.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Thompson.

PAY-ROLL TAX ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balgas—Treasurer)
[3.14 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill contains a number of amendments which arise from recommendations by a joint professional committee comprising representatives of the accounting and legal professions.

The proposed amendments are aimed at achieving uniformity in the State's taxing laws in respect of objection and appeal provisions. In particular, the proposed amendments will—

require the commissioner to include his reasons in the written notice currently given on the determination of an objection;

remove the provisions restricting the hearing of an appeal by the court to the same grounds as stated in the objection; and

introduce provisions to allow the payment of interest when tax is refunded following a successful objection, appeal or case stated.

The rate of interest to be paid is to be prescribed by regulation to facilitate adjustments from time to time as the need arises. The amendments are consistent with the Government's policy of achieving three desirable features in the tax system; namely, equity, simplicity, and efficiency.

I commend the Bill to the House.

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

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TREASURY CORPORATION BILL

Second Reading

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balgownie—Treasurer)
[3.18 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The main purpose of this Bill is to establish the Western Australian Treasury Corporation. The Treasury Corporation will replace the Treasurer of Western Australia as the State's central borrowing authority and the Borrowings for Authorities Act 1981-1982 will be repealed.

As members will recall, in the early 1980s, changes in domestic capital markets and developments in the Australian Loan Council borrowing arrangements highlighted a growing need to coordinate and consolidate the borrowing programmes of semi-Government authorities under a central body. This need for a change in our semi-Government borrowing arrangements was later confirmed by the Campbell committee in its report on the Australian financial system which recommended that States should consider the establishment of central borrowing authorities.

Western Australia was the first State to introduce legislation to establish a central approach to semi-Government borrowing under the Borrowings for Authorities Act in 1981. As members of the Opposition are aware, although the central borrowing concept had been recognised at that time, the attitude of the Australian Loan Council was still unclear. Consequently, it was decided at that time to avoid the establishment of a corporate entity and instead simply give the Treasurer borrowing powers enabling him to borrow for the benefit of authorities.

This approach was adopted to prevent the borrowings by a central authority being aggregated and included in the former "larger" authorities' programme which was strictly controlled by the Australian Loan Council.

Since then, however, the Australian Loan Council has moved towards the establishment of a global programme. This global programme was initially introduced on a trial basis in 1984-85 but was adopted on a continuing basis in 1985-86 and reaffirmed for 1986-87.

The global approach broadens the scope of Loan Council oversight of authority borrowings while, at the same time, increasing the authorities' flexibility to borrow in ways best suited to their requirements, including enhanced access to overseas markets. The global approach has therefore brought within agreed limits all forms of borrowings by Commonwealth and State semi-Government authorities and agencies and local authorities.

Over the last few years we have also seen a continuing deregulation of financial markets in Australia. This has meant that governmental as well as private borrowers must now be more receptive to market conditions and be able to access a growing range of sophisticated debt instruments.

These developments, together with the establishment of central borrowing authorities in all the States, have changed the face of semi-Government borrowing in Australia. The other States have, however, adopted a different approach from Western Australia in that they established their central borrowing authorities as separate corporate entities. These are—

New South Wales Treasury Corporation;
Victorian Public Authorities Finance Agency;
Queensland Government Development Authority;
South Australian Government Finance Authority; and
Tasmanian Public Finance Corporation.

As I mentioned earlier, the previous Government acknowledged that it was preferable to establish a corporate entity, but was concerned that the Australian Loan Council arrangements applying at the time would disadvantage the State. Since that time, as members are aware, the central borrowing authority concept has been sanctioned by the Australian Loan Council and widely accepted by lenders both domestically and overseas.

Over the last four years, as capital markets have developed and changed, Treasury has had the opportunity to assess its operations under the Borrowings for Authorities Act. It has identified that certain amendments are needed in the current Act to provide for a more flexible

and equitable means of managing the debt of semi-Government authorities.

In view of the need for these changes and the developments in the other States in the establishment of separate corporate entities as central borrowing authorities, it is considered opportune that the Borrowings for Authorities Act be revamped to establish an authority similar in status to those in the other States.

Hence, this Bill proposes to establish the Western Australian Treasury Corporation as a body corporate which will be able to borrow moneys to be on-lent to certain statutory authorities and others.

As members will note from the following description of various aspects of this Bill, the Treasury Corporation continues the theme of the Borrowings for Authorities Act, and takes up a substantial part of its provisions, but at the same time enables it to adopt a more flexible approach to its borrowing and on-lending activities in streamlining the administration of the central borrowing arrangements.

The main features of the Bill are as follows: Part I deals with the preliminary requirements of the legislation including interpretation of terms and procedures for amendments to the schedule, and the relationship to other Acts. Part II of the Bill establishes the Western Australian Treasury Corporation by constituting the Under Treasurer as a corporate body.

As with the Borrowings for Authorities Act clause 8 of the Bill continues the existing arrangements whereby Treasury officers will administer the central borrowing arrangements.

Provision is made, however, for the corporation to appoint an agent or attorney to represent it when it is impractical for the Under Treasurer to attend the signing of loan agreements interstate or overseas.

Part III identifies the functions and general powers of the corporation. It is in this part of the Bill that a fundamental difference from the existing legislation arises. The Bill gives the new corporation greater flexibility in the management of its borrowing and on-lending activities by removing its obligation to on-lend its funds on a back-to-back basis. This will enable the corporation to be more receptive to market conditions and practice and allow it to access a greater range of debt instruments.

As a contingency measure, the Bill makes provision in clause 12 for the corporation to have access to Treasurer's advance.

As with the Borrowings for Authorities Act, clause 13 provides that the financial liabilities of the corporation will be guaranteed by the State.

It is proposed also that the corporation will be able to levy fees recouping any costs it incurs in carrying out its functions as well as any fees it is required to pay to the Treasurer arising from a guarantee under clause 13.

Clause 15 imposes the liability on borrowers to repay principal and to pay interest and other costs in accordance with terms and conditions determined by the corporation.

The accounting provisions under part IV are, in essence, the same as those of the Borrowings for Authorities Act. However, with the implementation of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985, the corporation will be required to comply with the financial administration and audit and reporting provisions of that Act which apply to statutory authorities.

Clause 22 provides for regulations to be made governing the corporation's borrowing activities. However, in those cases where the regulations may not be appropriate to the type of borrowing being entered into, this clause allows the corporation to stipulate in a loan agreement that the regulations do not apply. Such a case would be an overseas loan arrangement whereby the corporation could not impose its domestic regulations on an international debt instrument.

Part V of the Bill covers transition from the Borrowings for Authorities Act and deems all moneys borrowed, debt paper issued, and funds on-lent under the Borrowings for Authorities Act, to have been issued and on-lent in accordance with the provisions of this Bill.

The schedule has been amended clearing the way for local authorities to borrow from the corporation if this was considered to be a mutually acceptable proposition.

I commend the Bill to the House.

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

EXPLOSIVES AND DANGEROUS GOODS AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR PARKER (Fremantle—Minister for Minerals and Energy) [3.26 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The principal Act which this Bill proposes to amend relates to the packing and marking of dangerous goods.

The packing of dangerous goods in approved containers is prescribed by regulations for the transport of dangerous goods. Similarly the correct marking of these containers to identify the contents is also prescribed.

Although dangerous goods may be packed and marked in accordance with the regulations, the fact that dangerous goods are in a container cannot be presumed for evidentiary requirements under the current legislation unless a sample of the dangerous goods is taken and analysed and is thereby proved to be dangerous goods.

The taking of samples from a dangerous goods container is not always practicable, especially in emergent circumstances, for the following reasons—

The dangerous goods may be contained in a chlorine cylinder or LPG bulk pressure vessel.

Sampling could interfere with the activities of the emergency services.

The life of the person taking the sample and any surrounding personnel could be endangered.

Analytical identification would increase the time and cost of administering the regulations.

The proposed amendment to section 61(2) provides an additional clause, paragraph (b), which will resolve the difficulty of identifying dangerous goods when they are packed and marked as required by the regulations. The proposed amendment has the support of industry. It will enhance safety and reduce administration costs.

I commend the Bill to the House.

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

WHEAT MARKETING AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR GRILL (Esperance-Dundas—Minister for Agriculture) [3.28 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Under the Wheat Marketing Act, 1984, a Western Australian Wheat Board is established for the primary aim of nominating wheat grower representatives to the Australian Wheat Board.

The Commonwealth Government has recently passed amendments to its legislation which authorise a new structure and method of selection for the Australian Wheat Board. These changes mean that the State board no longer has the sole responsibility for selection of grower representatives. As a consequence, the State Board no longer has a legislative function and I recommend that the board be disbanded.

The Primary Industry Association, the Pastoralists and Graziers Association, and the Western Australian Wheat Board support this view.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Crane.

PEARLING AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR GRILL (Esperance-Dundas—Minister for Fisheries) [3.29 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Pearling Act is an old Act (1912) and contains various provisions for the charging of fees. To amend those fees requires that an amending Act must be enacted. This is a cumbersome process for what is generally accepted as being an action to be taken administratively.

The last review and increase in fees was in 1965. Such a long lapse between reviews was no doubt caused by the necessity for any change to be by way of Act amendment.

Very simply this Bill provides that fees may be prescribed by regulation. It will enable fees to then be reviewed on a regular basis.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Tubby.

LITTER AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR CARR (Geraldton—Minister for Local Government) [3.30 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill seeks to amend the Litter Act by increasing the membership of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council from 12 to 15 and by providing two amendments to the enforcement powers of the KABC.

The Government is of the view that the membership of the KABC should be increased to provide for a wider representation from the community as well as from industry, local government and departmental sectors.

To achieve this, the Bill provides for the replacement of a nominee of the Tourism Commission by a person nominated from the Department of Conservation and Land Management, and the addition of members from the Trades and Labor Council, the Conservation Council of Western Australia and a person representing the interests of persons as consumers. All other industry, local government and departmental representation will remain unchanged.

The Bill also includes an additional power for an authorised officer to require the owner of a vehicle to identify who the driver of a vehicle may have been at the time a littering offence has been committed. This new power will assist the KABC in carrying out enforcement action where litter is seen to be ejected from motor vehicles.

A further minor amendment is to extend the period in which the KABC can take action to issue an infringement notice. At present the council has only 14 days from the time an offence is alleged to have occurred to carry out its investigations and issue an infringement notice. A period of 30 days is considered more reasonable, which is in line with the present time period for the issue of parking infringement notices.

The final amendment is a small change to the definition of "litter" to improve its application. This makes it clear that litter includes any material abandoned or unwanted by the owner or person in possession of it, and that litter can also include products which are produced as a result of industrial operations.

Members may remember previous statements I have made in relation to the controlling of "junk mail" deposited in letter boxes. It had been the Government's intention to legislate this session to give some protection to persons who erect "No Junk Mail" signs. This action has now been deferred as it has proved difficult to draft satisfactory legislation. It would also appear that distributors are now generally refraining from putting this type of material in letter boxes where they see these signs. I am hopeful that the distribution industry will continue to respect the right of individuals who do not want this material and I will be continuing to monitor very closely the success of this self-regulation.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Williams.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FOURTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from 12 June.

MR SCHELL (Mt Marshall) [3.33 p.m.]: Firstly I wish to formally congratulate the Speaker, in his absence, on his appointment as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. It was a great privilege to accompany him on his presentation to the Governor at Government House. I understand the duties of his position are to ensure that fairness and impartiality are shown in this House at all times. I wish him every success in this endeavour and look forward to his showing tolerance and encouragement towards the new members.

The **DEPUTY SPEAKER**: I will pass on your remarks to the Speaker when he returns from the Eastern States tomorrow.

Mr SCHELL: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

I take this opportunity to thank the electors in the electoral district of Mt Marshall for their confidence in electing me to this Parliament. I assure them that I will do all in my power to justify their support as long as I hold this seat. I will fairly represent all electors at all times.

Because of the rural crisis and the general downturn in the economy, the coming years will not be easy ones for the people in my electorate, so the job they have entrusted in me will be one of considerable pressure. I accept this challenge and look forward to joining with my colleagues in easing the burdens faced by my constituents and the many other country people.

Mr Deputy Speaker, before bringing to your notice some of the major problems and needs in my electorate I pay tribute to two previous members for Mt Marshall, Ray McPharlin and Bill McNee. These gentlemen set an extremely high standard of representation and were renowned for their tireless work and ability to spread themselves over such a large electorate. It is a privilege to be elected into this position to carry on their good work and to introduce the new vitality and strength of the political party of which I am a part.

As members are no doubt aware, the electorate I represent is totally dependent on agriculture, except for a recent increase in mining activities in the Yilgarn and Westonia Shires. The electorate contains no large regional centre, but a number of small towns that are totally dependent on agriculture, with the exception of Southern Cross and Westonia

where mining is becoming a larger industry and employing many locals.

The crisis caused by high interest rates, increased indirect taxation and spiraling wages currently affecting agriculture and associated industries is having a devastating effect on many of these communities. Normally this region has a great resilience to drought and poor seasons; the dry weather conditions experienced in recent years are nothing new to these people. As members know, our agriculture depends heavily on a fickle export market with many ups and downs. My constituents are prepared for this as well as for the bad seasons; they know they must adapt to the problems that are beyond their control. But they also expect from Government and their fellow countrymen what is called in this country "a fair go".

In recent years poor seasons and weak overseas markets have placed a good deal of pressure on primary producers, country business people and associated industries, yet we have seen an unparalleled rise in indirect taxation, continued Government dependence on fuel excise, a continuation of high tariffs, large rises in labour costs, and worst of all, when there is a need to borrow more money than usual, the greatest hike in interest charges ever experienced by this country. These factors can be controlled, to a degree, by Government policy, yet very little has been done to curb these costs by successive State and Federal Governments.

In fact our present Federal Government made a mockery of the farming industry by, firstly, offering through Kerin's rural statement in April, assistance to the value of \$108 million—\$35 million of which would be spent over five to 10 years—then imposing the cowardly fringe benefits tax, which will snatch \$150 million a year back from the farmers. This is somewhere near a net loss of \$70 million in the first year to farmers, whose average income is already below the poverty line.

I do not consider this "a fair go"; in fact it could be more aptly described as "kicking a man while he is down"—not particularly in line with the traditional Australian image.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Rural Adjustment and Finance Corporation and its predecessors were created as financial lenders of last resort. When primary producers have exhausted all other avenues of finance, this organisation's role is to lend, at lower than the market interest rates, to those who can still show some long-term viability, at these lower interest rates. For

the 1986 season RAFCO's success rate could be described as dismal. It began its run up to the current season understaffed and unprepared for the number of applications, although the drought conditions of 1985 and the sudden rise in interest rates gave plenty of warning that this situation would exist.

Although extra staff have been employed, the bulk of the money available for this relief will not reach the ailing producers in time for this season. I only hope that the weather will continue to be kind so above-average crops can give some relief, because we cannot expect any form of major assistance from RAFCO this year.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I assure you that my colleagues and I will continue to fight for "a fair go" for country people and for changes in RAFCO to achieve an efficient financial assistance organisation, as it was originally intended. On a *per capita* basis Western Australia's contribution to the export income of this nation is by far the highest. It is important that all Western Australians realise that the biggest part of this export dollar comes from farming, and that their jobs and standard of living are eventually determined by the success or failure of our primary industries. Therefore it is in the interest of all Western Australians that farmers are kept in business.

My next topic is about a problem as old as life on this planet, and the element more essential to the existence of life than any other. I refer to an adequate water supply. Western Australia is the driest one-third of the driest continent on earth, so it is not unusual when reading our history to discover that water had a great bearing on the success and failure of our pioneers.

Although Western Australia is such a dry place, it still has the potential to adequately water its dry hinterland. Many fast-flowing seasonal rivers from Kimberley to the south coast and several large sedimentary basins can be tapped. It became very clear to our pioneers that getting this water to the hinterland was the key to the successful development of this State, and the first step in this direction became a reality in 1902 on the completion of the then world famous goldfields water supply scheme. This scheme was later expanded to supply towns along the pipe route, and so far as the capacity of the scheme would allow, water was reticulated to agricultural areas adjacent to the pipeline.

Throughout the wheat belt, during the developing years, district water supplies from locally constructed storages were developed. These proved to be unreliable, and frequently failed completely. When the storage at Mundaring was increased the water supply scheme was extended to many of these areas, providing the opportunity for people to obtain the desired standard of living.

In all areas serviced by the comprehensive water supply scheme, the prosperity of country towns has increased, there has been some decentralisation of industry and the farmlands serviced have enjoyed the security of reliable water.

Unfortunately, the capital costs of this kind of public works are very high and Governments have been reluctant to fund extensions in recent years, especially when the extension is to reticulate farm land only.

In December 1973, the Department of Agriculture prepared a report which listed in order of priority, 16 areas with water problems greater than the remainder of the agricultural area. Although the Public Works Department drew up reticulation programmes for some of these areas—including the proposed Agaton water scheme—to this date no extension has been made to the scheme since the construction of the main to Lake Grace in 1975.

The development of large earth moving equipment has revolutionised the construction of dams and catchment areas, and has had a great bearing on whether water reticulation schemes proceeded. The provision of adequate on-farm water supplies would save the major capital cost of reticulation schemes, and for this reason in recent years Government policy has shifted to the development of on-farm supplies. On-farm conservation methods have increased farm supplies and provided a large source of water but, like the earlier country town supplies, still fall short of providing a reliable source of water. Dry seasons, unsuitable subsoils and the need for high quality, free of sediment water for household use have highlighted the inefficiencies of this plan. It became very apparent this summer and autumn that water shortages were serious and widespread over large areas of the wheat belt, resulting in water carting becoming a costly and time-consuming exercise for many people.

Bearing in mind the adverse balance of trade, the national deficit, and our poor progress with industrial development, Australia will be as dependent on the primary industries in the fu-

ture as it has been in the past. It is essential that all agricultural areas be encouraged to overcome their economic problems and increase productivity rapidly, for the welfare of the whole nation. In water-deficient areas, any long-term progress will be seriously impeded unless reliable and adequate water supplies are made available during the next decade. The Government must be fully aware that capital expenditure in this direction is not solely for the benefit of the small number of people living in water-deficient areas, but is of great importance to all Australians.

Recent expansion of mining activities in the eastern goldfields will lead to an increased consumption of water from the goldfields and agricultural water supply. Modern methods of gold treatment have resulted in less reliance on the need for fresh water in this industry, but the associated population increase with people expecting an acceptably high standard of living will increase the draw on this supply. Shortages that may develop because of lack of planning caused by Government reluctance to address the problem, will have far-reaching effects on the future of the mining industry in this region.

The following points should be given consideration when implementing changes to the rural water supply policy—

- (1) An overall appraisal should be carried out of the future water needs of all rural, pastoral and mining areas of Western Australia, with the aim of formulating an ongoing programme of upgrading present supplies, and extending reticulated and local supplies to designated water deficient areas, and the wise development of new supplies to meet these future needs.
- (2) The high capital cost of farmland reticulation is justified because—
 - (a) on-farm water supply trials and developments have not proved to be a solution to the problem because of light rainfall insufficient in dry years to ensure a continuous supply, poor holding soils for dam construction and water below standard for household and garden use;
 - (b) to ensure people living in water-deficient areas have a standard of living which is acceptable by Australian standards, a continu-

ous supply of fresh, clean water is essential;

- (c) contrary to the Department of Agriculture's findings in 1983, "that livestock numbers will not significantly change in the next 20 years due to increased cropping", recent developments in agriculture have shown that livestock, both broadacre, and intensive will play a large role in the viability of these areas; so if this alternative is to be available, a reliable water supply is essential.
- (3) Further farmland reticulation will have a long-term value to the Australian economy in ensuring continued high levels of agricultural production, thus justifying the cost.
- (4) The potential of on-farm and local water supplies must continue to be investigated and developed, with farmers given substantial incentives to improve their on-farm water supplies.
- (5) We must be assured of adequate water supplies to promote recent and future expansions of the mining industry.
- (6) The Agaton water supply must be developed as an additional source of water to an extended agricultural and goldfields water scheme being integrated into the present scheme; it would allow for the continued upgrading and extensions necessary, both in the agricultural and mining areas.

It is essential, because of the unreliable water supplies in many rural areas, that a more aggressive rural water policy be developed to address today's problems and assure a supply adequate for the needs of tomorrow.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I look forward to my time in the Western Australian Parliament, and to stimulating debate within this House. I thank you.

[Applause.]

DR WATSON (Canning) [3.48 p.m.]: It is my pleasure and also my privilege to represent the people of Canning in this House and to join the Government at the beginning of what promises to be a very long term in office which will see many more fine achievements.

In Canning few people are employers, self-employed or professionals, and few have a tertiary education. Most post-school qualifi-

cations are associated with trades. The electors are, on the whole, working people who may or may not be employed. Those men and women who do have work are predominantly in trades, services and labouring occupations. Whether in employment or not, incomes are low.

There is increasing evidence of the multicultural nature of Australian life, and while a large proportion of the constituents of Canning originated in Britain, migrants from Indian Ocean islands, South-East Asian and South American countries, for instance, now are settling in the suburbs of Canning.

As with other communities an increasingly larger proportion is becoming older. However, spread throughout the electorate is a higher-than-average population of families with four or more children under the age of 16 years. In 1981, 31 per cent of our population was less than 15 years of age.

Canning has the two largest Homeswest housing areas, many of the occupiers being families headed by women. Children are often a significant economic burden, and those families in which the head is unemployed, especially where that head is a woman, are likely to be abjectly poor.

Changes in the economic and industrial sectors have produced large and rapid changes in social and family relations throughout Australia. Different Government departments are charged with trying to do the kinds of things that families used to do, and people who live in the electorate of Canning and who are without family support and other resources are often reliant on numerous, rather impersonal agencies.

I now want to set this picture in the context of wider Australia. Australian social structure is one in which enduring inequalities are related to social class origins, gender, ethnic background, and disability. Whole categories of people are overrepresented among the poor and the unemployed, and in health and welfare organisations and services, and underrepresented in higher education and decision-making.

In 1978 it was calculated that five per cent of Australians owned more wealth than the other 95 per cent put together. In 1981-82, 10 per cent of males earned 24.5 per cent of the country's income, and 40 per cent earned 14.6 per cent of that income.

However, ideologies associated with a classless Australia persist. A recent Western Australian Council of Social Services report re-

veals that almost half the people who are poor here are children. This is because 40 per cent of married couples with more than four children are poor, and 82 per cent of single parents with three or more children are poor. I have already said that we have a high average population of children in the Canning electorate.

Professor Henderson noted: "Poverty is not only a condition of economic insufficiency, it is also social and political exclusion"; that is, absence of wealth and low income are reinforced by unequal health standards, by employment conditions and prospects, and by inadequate access to key pieces of information.

Such inequality is also reflected in inequalities of power between classes and sexes, and between providers and users of services, and between employees. These relationships are a pervasive aspect of our society, in which things are done for, and to, and at those who are in the more subordinate position, and not with them.

Inequalities are sustained and transmitted in complex ways across generations, so if we are to build an optimistic future for our children and for their children, some attention must be paid to certain aspects of this structure.

The Australian Labor Party is committed to a more just society through reforming the institutions and values that shape it. Indeed, the Australian Labor Party, as with other social democratic parties, distinguishes itself from conservative parties by its ideological and policy commitment to redressing inequalities. Such commitments are underlined by a philosophy of fairness and equity inherent in those policies.

Committed Labor voters have very high expectations of what a Labor Government will and should do. The party has a history of and a commitment to participatory decision-making in its own structure. The practical importance of these processes has been learned.

Two of the policy areas which I contend make a difference between Labor and Liberal Administrations are the ways that industrial relations and community services are approached. These matters are significant ones for people resident in the Canning electorate. Working class people, employed or unemployed, hold hopes that their experience of inequality will be redressed.

But a Labor Government cannot be a force for justice if paternalism or authoritarianism towards many diverse groups such as low income people, non-English speakers, women

and disabled people, for instance, is its motivation, for these are imposing measures that they have come to expect.

In a truly democratic organisation, whether it be a political party, a workplace, or Government agency, consultative decision-making will embrace not only policy formulation, but consideration of options and timetables for implementation. Participants should be included in the setting of objectives for the plan of implementation, and should assist in its monitoring and evaluation. At all stages, access to information is crucial for all parties.

I turn now to two participatory programmes in those key areas of industrial relations and community services; one to do with involving workers and their employers in making their working environment safe; the other to do with inducing well-being and autonomy within neighbourhoods as a preventive welfare measure.

Participation by workers is a prerequisite for careful decision-making procedures about workplace health and safety. Most hazards do not require high levels of expenditure for their reduction, but rather an evaluation of workplace organisation. This entails encouraging workers to identify hazards and consulting them, especially about change. It entails setting up mechanisms for their involvement in decision-making. An informed and participatory work force may be the best safeguard against injury and disease.

The promotion of health and safety at work and the prevention of injury and disease are appropriate and concrete issues in which workers should participate, for they bear the risks of unsafe working environments.

The tradition of workers' participation in Scandinavia and the benefits accruing to all parties is widely acknowledged. The principle is upheld in Swedish and Norwegian working environment legislation where workers' representatives have been granted extensive rights to information, to investigate, to participate in planning, and to be trained.

Almost all EEC countries, including Britain, have legislated for workers' participation at plant level, though a variety of mechanisms for this exist, as well as a variety of powers and rights.

In all Australian States except Queensland, the Northern Territory, and Western Australia, there is some form of statutory provision for the involvement of workers in the creation and maintenance of safe working environments.

During its last term the Government circulated its policy on occupational health and safety, inviting submissions in response. We are now in the fortunate position of being able to elaborate on the advantages of experiences of other countries and other Australian States, and of being able to avoid various problems. We also now know through the submissions and through continuing consultations what may and may not be appropriate for Western Australian workplaces.

Our local experience with progressive employers also confirms the findings of British and Canadian researchers that the single most effective factor in reducing workplace hazards and consequent injuries and harmful exposure is the participation of workers with managements in making environments safe. Joint management-worker health and safety committees complemented by workplace health and safety representatives will play a major role in achieving the key objective—that of prevention of injuries and compensation claims, rather than a *post facto* response to them.

Secondly, we can look to two measurable dimensions of the quality of life that we experience. One is to do with income and its security, and the material things that flow from it; the other is to do with self-esteem which is often linked to these material standards. On page 17 of the recent *Community Services Review* the author argues that "those conditions in our community which promote a sense of self esteem or self regard promote health and well-being. In contrast, those conditions which reduce a person's self regard hazard their health, not only in a mental, but also in a physical sense."

The theme through the submissions, evidence, and hearings in the welfare review was that welfare policies and practices need to enhance well-being rather than to solve problems. No-one wants to be defined as a welfare recipient. People say they want to define their own needs, make their own decisions, and have locally-based services. They want these services to be preventive, accessible, non-coercive, and locally based, rather than reactive and centralised with limited access.

There are severe limits on what a State Government can do to reduce poverty, given the constraints of centralised taxation and social security systems. Welfare services themselves have not in any case reversed poverty; jobs and housing can.

In its first term of office the Burke Government achieved tremendous gains in jobs and housing programmes. More than 72 000 jobs were created, and over 6 000 units of public housing were established, and innovative schemes established to free-up the private housing market to low income earners. These are only two of the many measures taken to extend the distribution of basic material needs and to build a more just Western Australia. Some aspects of the powerlessness that accompanies the consequences of having a low income can be alleviated.

I want to briefly describe a joint Commonwealth-State funded venture in Langford—the community house. It is a marvellous example of a locally based preventive service in which its users define their needs and make their own decisions about meeting those needs and those of their neighbourhood. One-half of the house is a child-care centre, the other functions as a meeting place with child-care facilities and a resource centre. A steering committee was formed to get some background work done before the house was built and occupied and a management committee of local people has now been elected.

Local people have interviewed and appointed the staff they want. They do and will decide who can use the house. So far a women's learning centre and English classes are held regularly, nutrition and budget discussions take place, a public meeting to try to attract pharmacists to the area was held, and gardening busy bees have been held regularly. Increasingly, individuals call in to see what they and the house can offer each other. The house is still not yet officially open, such is the recognised need of locals and such is the recognition that their well-being can be and has been enhanced by participating in a wide range of matters that affect them. Contact with Government agencies is on their terms. The community house activities are a testament to community needs for individuals to develop and maintain personal responsibility, self-reliance and independence. Such early success augurs well for extending services locally in an accessible, informal and participatory setting.

The key is participation but I must emphasise that I am not proposing these processes are any substitute for material security and assistance. What they do do is restore and enhance dignity that has so often receded.

I hope that I have done some justice to the notion of participatory processes for people who, in my examples, are the bearers of risks of injury or users of sometimes coercive and

sometimes judgmental services. Such decision-making emphasises equity.

The goal of a preventative welfare policy is to improve the well-being of categories of people who, for many reasons, are actual or potential users of Government health, welfare and social service agencies. The goal of a preventive safety policy is to create and maintain a safe working environment so as to minimise injuries. Both such goals are underlined by a commitment to social justice. The processes of achieving such justice are to do with equity.

Equity is closely related to notions of fairness and justice. If all interested parties make the rules and determine how they will be administered they will be seen as fair and acceptable to all parties. Fair rules will produce the benefits of reducing injuries and improving well-being. They benefit the community.

Equity is not an event but a process with the potential for far-reaching change, not the least of which is an increasing community commitment to that process.

Equity then is a means to an end; the end continually being redefined in terms of current definitions of social justice. The Utopian view of social justice is probably consequent on the redistribution of income and wealth which, in turn, should result in a classless and egalitarian society. This is just not possible within the framework of our economy. Some of the components of unequal distribution, however, can be reduced. Increasing opportunities by increasing access through a commitment to equity is one means. Its cost is to do with values. The monetary values will logically be reduced. The nettles to be grasped are the cultural costs, for it means that people formerly without a say in matters that affect them will have a voice in their health, safety and welfare. The attitudes that have prevented that must be changed. These kinds of reforms will demonstrate the collective benefits to the community, for instance, improved working conditions and the promotion of well-being in workplaces and neighbourhoods alike. The well-being of a society is contingent on the well-being of its people. The well-being of this generation will influence in positive—or negative—ways the well-being of the next generation.

The achievements of our long-term State Labor Government will not only be concrete and legislative ones, but also there will be changed expectations of Government as more and more people are consulted and are able to participate in decisions that affect them. In-

deed, there will be a community commitment to those processes and expectations that will be hard to budge. There will be an expectation of equity.

Gough Whitlam said words to the effect that people should be participants and partners in Government and fair and equal sharers in the wealth and opportunities that this nation can offer.

In conclusion, I want to thank the women and men who worked to have me elected, not the least of whom was Tom Bateman, the former member. I owe much to the 18 years that Tom spent in representing Canning so well. I feel an onerous responsibility in being the representative now and I will continue to work to meet the needs, hopes, and expectations of the constituents and my colleagues.

[Applause.]

MR CRANE (Moore) [4.07 p.m.]: I would like to add my congratulations to a few people in this Chamber and to the elevation of certain other members. While the Speaker is not here today I am sure you, Sir, as his deputy, will convey my remarks to him. I congratulate him on his elevation to the office of Speaker and record that I was pleased to note his attitude in the Chamber, particularly last week during question time.

I have been concerned that question time has developed into a period where Dorothy Dix questions have taken over the business of the day. I did note that the Speaker correctly pointed out that some Ministers were taking an exceptionally long time to answer some questions. I point out that the present Government did not necessarily invent that system. I believe the system was in operation before it took over but I will say that this Government is ever so much better at it than we were when in Government.

I am also sure that the Speaker will concern himself with the conduct of this House. I recall that he said, in the newspaper, something to the effect that he used to be a rebel or a maverick. Those of us who have, from time to time, taken control of the Chair will well remember that on both sides of the House there are some members who are difficult to control, some who wish to be a little more naughty than is necessary and others who consistently remain gentlemen.

The Speaker will not mind my saying that once or twice he may have been a little naughty himself and occasionally would mumble between his teeth and chat back. Knowing what it

is all about, I am sure he will wake up to those who emulate his former habits. I have every confidence that he will conduct this House in the manner it deserves.

I congratulate the new members of the Parliament on their success at the last election. When I was elected to this place Hon. John Tonkin was the Leader of the Opposition. Upon congratulating us he made the remark, "Some of you will be birds of passage".

He looked straight at me when he said it. I do not know whether it is because I am a Crane or not. However, of all the members who were elected at that time I am still here.

Mr Watt: I am still here.

Mr CRANE: Yes, the member for Albany is still here, with one or two others.

While new members will be birds of passage—we all are—I am sure they will make a great contribution to this place. There will be times when they will become very disillusioned and when they will question their own sanity. However, there will be other times when they will be able to remind themselves that statements they made many years ago and of which no-one took any notice were accurate and that, had someone taken a little more notice when those things were said, this country may not be in the trouble it is in today. There will be disappointments, but I ask those members not to give in. They should remember Bruce and the spider: If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. I say to new members: Congratulations and good work.

I was particularly pleased to hear the member for Mt Marshall refer to many of the problems facing his constituents and particularly the rural crisis on which I will touch in a moment. He referred also to a matter which has always been close to my heart and that is the Agaton water supply. We have tried, for many years, to get the right people to take notice of the needs of that area as they relate to water. The member for Mt Marshall was correct when he referred to it as being the driest third of the driest continent in the world. The problem of the lack of water is very real. However, at last we have had a breakthrough. Just the other night I spoke to a former chairman of the rural water council, Mr Doug Tierney, of Bindi Bindi, and he said that we have made progress because we received a commitment during the last election from the Liberal Party of Western Australia recognising that the Agaton water scheme must proceed and that the Liberal Party has given an undertaking that, when

elected to Government, it will press for assistance from the Federal Government to proceed with that scheme. I am therefore sure that we who have fought for that scheme, have been successful.

I have mentioned the rural crisis in this place so many times that it must bore people. However, I was concerned to read only last week in *The Western Mail* that Paul May, an economist, found it politic to support something that was said by Dr Clarke on the television programme "60 Minutes" a couple of weeks ago.

Mr Brian Burke: Dr May is from the Confederation of Western Australian Industry. That organisation is always chipping us as well. It does not seem to be happy with either political party.

Mr CRANE: I could not agree more. I would be happy to join forces with the Premier in denigrating an idiot who makes remarks such as those accredited to this man in this paper.

Mr Brian Burke: I do not know him personally.

Mr CRANE: I do not, either. He said that farmers in the worst trouble had very high debt levels. What a remarkable deduction! That is the very reason that they are in trouble. He has told us something we already know. He uses words to cover up what he does not know. The learned Dr Schapper has been an enemy of the rural industry for many years. He subscribed to the philosophy of "get big or get out" many years ago. He has also come out of the woodwork once more. It is a pity he did not stay in hibernation because every time he comes out we are subjected to utterances which leave much to be desired.

Unfortunately, the Minister for Agriculture has left the Chamber. I suggest that he put Dr May, the learned Dr Schapper, and others under the control of the Agriculture Protection Board because they have done more damage to agriculture than all the other varmints and vermin I can think of. I hope that someone will remind the Minister for Agriculture, when he returns, that I had a very pertinent message for him today.

It is sad that these people should use the misfortunes of the rural industry, which includes not only the farmers, but also the businessmen in country towns and the people who work in those towns, for their own advancement or to get their pictures in the paper or their names before the public, because the people in rural areas are in real trouble. They

have not brought that trouble on themselves. Those troubles have been forced on them.

It is a relatively simple matter to understand why they are in trouble. Costs have gone up and prices have come down.

Mr Brian Burke: And land values have fallen.

Mr CRANE: Yes, and that has eroded their securities as far as the banks are concerned.

Mr Watt: Especially for those at the top end of the market when it was artificially inflated.

Mr CRANE: Yes, some people did buy at that time but they had confidence. This country was developed through confidence. It was developed by people who were prepared to put their futures on the line, not only for this country's sake, but also for the sake of their own and their families' future.

I have been associated with the land for almost 60 years. It will be 60 years on 16 September this year that I first went to Bindi Bindi. It is a long time ago and a time which many members would not remember. That is a long association with the land. I sold the farm because my family felt they did not want to carry on farming any longer, but it was a sad moment for me. I am afraid my heart is still there and my determination will help support those people. I am now one of those parasites, I suppose one would call me, who makes money out of other people. I do not feel very proud of it at all. I would much prefer to be tilling the soil and producing the grain and the wool to feed and clothe the hungry and cold people of the world. I believe that is a far more honourable commitment.

Mr Brian Burke: Have you offered to give the money back.

Mr CRANE: I have not yet, but no doubt the Premier's colleagues in Canberra will work out devious ways to get it off me.

Mr Court interjected.

Mr CRANE: My colleague may have ended up with a very good tractor at a very reasonable price.

I leave the rural crisis because so much has been said about it and I do not wish to delay the House any further. I know that the Premier understands that the problems are real. These economists do not fool him or other members and they most certainly do not fool me.

In his address the Governor referred to the introduction of legislation to alter a member of Parliament's term of office from three years to four years. I am not in disagreement with this proposal because a four year term will not do

any harm. Instead, it will lead to more stable Governments which will have a longer time to put into effect the policies they believe should be instituted.

I noticed also in the Governor's speech that he referred to a primary produce promotions unit. This unit would be of great benefit to the rural industry, and particularly to the farmers. There is not much point in growing produce if it cannot be marketed profitably. The Government is moving in the right direction with regard to this proposed unit and I will watch its progress closely.

I have my own ideas about marketing overseas. On several occasions I have been overseas to try to do that, particularly to market meat in the Middle East. It is unfortunate that such an instrumentality was not operational at that time. I visited Dubai in an attempt to establish a cold store in that country and I believe that if I had received more assistance from the Government at that time it would have done well.

The previous Minister for Agriculture, who has just walked into the House, will remember my efforts in this regard because he accompanied me on one of my visits to Dubai. He spoke with representatives in Bahrain and Dubai and he knows what I am talking about. If we had received more sympathy from the Government of the day the cold store would have been established in Dubai and it would have been of great benefit to Western Australian producers.

Mr Evans: It was your Government which knocked it back.

Mr CRANE: If the member cares to read what I have said in *Hansard* he will be aware that I said as much without actually saying that.

Mr Brian Burke: You said as much, but you did leave out the identity of the Government.

Mr CRANE: The Government was certainly identified—it certainly was not this Government.

Mr Brian Burke: Thank you.

Mr CRANE: I will move on to one area of the Governor's address with which I do not agree; that is, the expansion of the Cabinet. During these difficult times the Government must take stock and cut its costs drastically.

I know the Premier attended the Premiers' Conference the other day and I wonder whether he or his department researched the so-called Premier's plan of the early 1930s and

whether he took a copy of that plan to the Premiers' Conference because that is what is probably required now. In essence that plan called for a reduction in all costs of about 22.5 per cent across the board.

I hope the Premier will have his department research that plan because parts of it—perhaps most of it—could be revamped and applied during these difficult times. I cannot support any legislation that will be brought into this House to increase the size of the Cabinet.

While the Government is looking to cut costs wherever it can, I suggest that the Government garage is an area that could be looked at. It appears that most members, with the possible exception of me, have a motor vehicle available to them. The costs incurred in this area are unnecessary. If the so-called perks tax legislation is introduced in Canberra I am afraid that every car which the Government makes available to someone will incur a cost to it.

Mr Brian Burke: Do you think people who get a car should pay the tax?

Mr CRANE: I do not believe they should be given a car in the first place. I do not deny the use of a Government vehicle by a member of the Cabinet when it is required, but it is not necessary that a vehicle should be available in each Cabinet member's backyard.

Mr Clarko: No-one can justify the Deputy Speaker's having a car. It was a simple pay-off.

Mr CRANE: I did not know that. If the Deputy Speaker does have a car provided for his use, I recommend it be taken from him.

I am simply making a point; that is, we are living in difficult times and the Government must cut its costs.

Last Saturday it was my privilege to attend the annual meeting of the Muscular Dystrophy Research Association of WA (Inc) which was held at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Following that meeting I visited the Rocky Bay Village and I was impressed with the work that is being undertaken. However, I was not impressed with the lack of assistance which has been forthcoming for the research premises.

The disease, muscular dystrophy, is close to my heart because many years ago one of my neighbours at Bindi Bindi had a son who frequently rode his bike to my farm to play with my children. Gary Ellis developed muscular dystrophy and we watched him suffer and eventually we lost him at the age of 16 years. He attended the Lucy Creeth Hospital for

many years—he was a lovely boy and had a lovely family.

At first hand I saw the ravage caused by muscular dystrophy and for this reason I am concerned that the establishment of research facilities which will help sufferers of neuromuscular diseases will be retarded because of lack of consideration by this Government. I do not know whether the association received very much co-operation from the previous Government. I am not trying to draw comparisons in this instance, but the association is certainly in need of help.

The "A" block at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital has been allocated to the association for its research, but I was concerned about the red tape involved to allow this to occur. The whole bureaucratic system, to coin a phrase, is bureaucratically constipated and research is required for an effective laxative to loosen it up.

It appears that as a result in the change of direction of the previous Public Works Department, many private consultants are being used to prepare drawings, etc. instead of the Building Management Authority. As a result, the consultants are costing this Government a great deal of money and, in turn, they are recommending that the Government does not take action in most cases in order to allow it to save money.

I believe that the Muscular Dystrophy Research Association is a worthy cause. The research it will undertake will affect many people and will improve their lives. When one considers the number of persons who suffer brain damage as a result of motor vehicle accidents one realises how important this research is. I understand that the association needs \$2 million to complete the buildings to allow the necessary research to be undertaken. The Minister for Health visited the buildings only recently. I understand that it is the first time in years that a Minister for Health has visited the association and now knows exactly what is happening.

I asked the association for a short resume of what is required and I hope that the Government will initiate proposals to accede to its wishes and that we, as a Parliament, will encourage the Government in its actions. The resume reads as follows—

The Government is ONLY responsible for the capital cost of remodelling of the space allocated to the NRI. THIS IS A

ONCE ONLY COMPARATIVELY SMALL SUM.

So why could not we do it? The resume continues as follows—

The necessary laboratory space is URGENTLY required. MANY WEST AUSTRALIAN SCIENTISTS ARE WAITING TO JOIN the NRI staff. Prevented by lack of facilities.

And so it goes on—just a few things which are needed. I hope the Premier, in the absence of the Minister for Health, will offer him the heartfelt thanks of that organisation for the fact that he did visit it. Even in that organisation's annual report there is a picture of the Minister for Health with Professor Kakulas, who is the director of the organisation. The Minister on that occasion said—

"I have no doubt that you have shown a number of Ministers and others in influential positions around the Institute and that most would have left promising the 'world'. Whilst I have no intention of promising the 'world' I would like to assure you that I will endeavour to the best of my ability to try to overcome the capital works funding problems that face the Institute."

The Minister is to be commended for that statement. Again I would hope that we, as a Parliament, will support him during the next six months when he finds the money to do the work so that the institute may carry on.

As I have said before, and as I have said on other occasions, there have been eight cases of AIDS in Australia, and these cases caused headlines in every newspaper. How many car accidents are there in which people suffer brain damage and need this institute? Let the Press worry about the romanticism of the AIDS scandal, but let it also report something which is useful, such as the research which could be done if this institute were given the \$2 million to carry out its work. Let us put our priorities in the right place.

There are a couple of other matters which I must quickly cover. One concerns the fishing industry. Fishermen are still concerned about the prospect of losing 10 per cent of their pots. While the Minister is not in the Chamber, I would like to remind him, in his absence, that this matter is of real concern to the fishing industry and I hope that he can give an assurance in the very near future that there will be no pots taken away from the fishermen.

The Minister for Education is present in the Chamber and I would again remind him of the problems facing rural people in the school bus crisis. There seems to be an unwritten rule somewhere that there will be a redundancy in the school bus services and there will be a closing down of some of the smaller, outlying schools so that only the larger centres will operate. One cannot find this rule written anywhere but judging from the way in which the school buses operate and the way in which the Education Department treats the problems which are brought to it—and I suggest that there are very real problems—I am sure such a law exists. I would remind the Minister for Education that the rural people are concerned. That is something he would know already because I have recently approached him on behalf of one family whose children cannot go to school because they cannot get there. They are on the Orange Springs Road, not very far from Gingin. I had a letter from the Minister the other day. I emphasise that I am not blaming him for this, but I am blaming the system which allows this situation to occur. If we can afford to build more marinas which cost \$10 million, \$12 million or \$15 million, and if we can afford to propagate work programmes for the America's Cup and all these other romantic things, we can concern ourselves with the difficulty our children in rural areas experience in getting to school.

I would hope, Mr Deputy Speaker, that something will be done in the near future. A few years ago, when Mr Leo Harris was in charge of school buses, it was a relatively simple matter to talk to him about these problems, but now nobody seems to want to know what they are about, and nobody seems to appreciate that they are very real.

I refer briefly to the economy. I am concerned, and I would like to support what has been said in the papers recently about the cost of the four weeks' leave which we enjoy in Australia, the 17½ per cent holiday loading, which this country cannot afford, and long service leave, which was instigated many years ago when people had to catch the boat to go back to England. It took three months to do that—one month to get there, one month to stay, and one month to return. Nowadays we do not do that, so we do not need to have this long service leave, which is just one of those things which has been carried on. We should not continue to ride around in a horse-and-buggy simply because that method of transport was very effective. It is time we brought our-

selves up to date, and did away with long service leave, which we cannot afford.

I would now direct a few remarks to the subject of RSI, which is a matter causing great concern. Because I am very ignorant of these matters, I pose a question: Why is there RSI in Australia but none in the USA? I think that is a fair, legitimate question, and I would like it to be answered by someone. I know that it is called "Repetition Strain Injury", and it seems to me that it is a funny thing that no members of Parliament have ever claimed to have RSI of the tongue. One would expect that that would be the part of the body likely to be most affected by RSI in politicians. With those remarks, I feel I must conclude.

Amendment to Motion

However, sadly I must say that I cannot agree entirely with the Governor's Address-in-Reply and I feel forced to move the following amendment—

That the following words be added to the motion—

But regret to advise Your Excellency that in breach of its promises to the electorate only 18 weeks ago prior to the State election, the Government has increased charges above the rate of inflation, and well above the reasonable expectation for pay increases for working people, to the great detriment of the people of Western Australia.

Points of Order

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Mr Deputy Speaker, without wanting to pre-empt any consideration you might give to the matter and not having a copy of the amendment before me, it nevertheless seems to me to be the case that this amendment is very similar, if not identical, in substance to the amendment moved on the first day of the new Parliament by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr HASSELL: On the same point of order I point out that the amendment proposed relates to an announcement made yesterday of increases in charges, and therefore could hardly cover what might have been speculated about on the first day. This amendment is very clearly directed to what the Government announced yesterday, and it clearly relates directly to those matters which arose yesterday.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to suspend the sitting for a minute or so to examine both amendments.

Sitting suspended from 4.38 to 4.46 p.m.

Deputy Speaker's Ruling

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is there a seconder to the amendment?

Mr HASSELL: I second the amendment. I presume, Mr Deputy Speaker, from your asking for a seconder that you have ruled that the amendment is in order?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I advise the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition that if I did not believe the amendment was in order I would not have called for a seconder.

Debate Resumed

MR HASSELL (Cottesloe—Leader of the Opposition) [4.47 p.m.]: If ever there was an issue on which the credibility and integrity of the Government was in issue, it is in relation to the increases in State charges announced yesterday. It is not that the Government has simply broken its word and broken its promises made prior to an election about 18 weeks ago, but it has broken its word completely and utterly to the people of this State when no circumstances have changed which would justify that breach of promise.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There are three private meetings going on in this Chamber at the same time as the Leader of the Opposition is speaking. There are two meetings being held to my right and one and a half to my left. I advise members that there are plenty of places in which they may hold private meetings if they wish to do so.

Mr HASSELL: Just prior to the election three senior journalists from West Australian Newspapers Ltd successively interviewed me as Leader of the Opposition and the Premier as leader of the Government to inform the public about attitudes to issues. An interview with the Premier and Treasurer was published on page 16 of *The West Australian* on 23 January 1986, approximately two weeks before the election. The Premier was asked—

Would you expect to be able to keep the lid on government taxes and charges in the first year after this election?

I ask members to note the precise wording of the question, "Would you expect to be able to keep the lid on government taxes and charges in the first year. . ." It does not refer to the Government's term of office, but to the first year.

Mr Peter Dowding: Read the question again.

Mr HASSELL: That was the question.

Mr Peter Dowding: That is not the question. You read it out again. You have a look and see what it says.

Mr HASSELL: The Minister should come to order and I shall then read out what I read previously. I first read the whole question. I then commented on the question. I will not have the Minister misrepresenting the position, nor will I respond to his demands.

Mr Peter Dowding: Read it out.

Mr HASSELL: I point out again that the question was whether the lid would be kept on taxes and charges in the first year after the election. This was the Premier's reply—

I think we would continue our policy of increases that did not exceed the inflation rate. Remember that we have adhered to that for two successive Budgets.

Is that not interesting? The Government was claiming the credit for having adhered to that policy for two successive Budgets, and the Premier, in giving that answer, was deliberately distinguishing between his 1983 Budget and the two following Budgets of 1984 and 1985. He did that, because in 1983 he jacked up taxes and charges to an enormous extent, on that occasion having trumped up the excuse that there was a deficit in the State arena.

Then we saw the accumulated earnings built up on the short-term money market, earnings which provided a very convenient and happy fund for the Government to use prior to the 1986 election.

Let members be clear: The Premier's promise was not made on the basis that he would keep those increases below the inflation rate over the three years, but rather that he would be able to control increases in taxes and charges in the year after the election—in other words, in this Budget.

That commitment given in the very deliberate interview undertaken by Mr Peter Kennedy, Mr John Hamilton, and Mr Ted Barker was, of course, mirrored in the statement by the Government in the ALP policy document titled "People in Business" and released prior to the 1986 election. Under the heading "The Next Three Years", the first sub-heading is "Taxation and Charges" where we see the statement—

Central to this Government's policies is the belief that taxes and charges must be kept to an absolute minimum. Govern-

ments must firstly manage the public's assets more productively and then seek alternative forms of revenue through initiatives like the Western Australian Development Corporation, if it is to moderate the burden of taxes and charges on individuals and businesses.

Accordingly, Labor will ensure the economic strategy of the last two State Budgets of minimising taxes and charges is maintained.

In other words, it is not the 1983 Budget strategy that is to be maintained, but rather the Budget strategies of 1984 and 1985. I quote again—

This stringent policy has meant that most State Government taxes and charges have risen by less than the rate of inflation—they have actually fallen in real terms over the past two to three years.

That is the basis on which the public and the Parliament are entitled to approach a consideration of the Government's action in jacking up charges to a level above the rate of inflation as indicated in the announcement made by the Premier yesterday.

I ask members: What changes have occurred in the time which has elapsed between the last election and now? When the Premier seeks to justify a 12 per cent increase in the cost of one of the most basic commodities in the community, fuel—in other words, electricity and gas, or power—he says, "That increase is necessary because of a contract entered into by the last Liberal Government." Is the Premier prepared to tell the House that he did not know about that contract when he had his interview with the reporters from *The West Australian* prior to the publication of this article on 23 January?

Is the Premier prepared to tell the House that he did not know about that contract when he issued a policy document which promised to continue the strategy of 1984 and 1985 and deliberately excluded the strategy of 1983? Of course not. The Premier knew precisely the nature of the obligations. Controversy surrounded those obligations and accusations had been made by the Government with counter-accusations by the Opposition. The issue of those contracts had been dealt with.

Why did not the Premier tell the public before the election that he would be increasing State electricity and gas charges by 12 per cent? Let members in this Chamber ask themselves and their constituents what their expectations

are for a salary increase in the next 12 months. In the case of pensioners, what are their expectations for a pension increase in the next 12 months? Does any member of this House believe that his benefits will rise by even seven per cent in the next 12 months? Of course he does not. Members do not expect to receive increases of that order for themselves, for the working people in the community earning salaries and wages, or, indeed, for pensioners.

People do not expect to receive increases of that nature, because the Federal Government has made it clear that, for the economic survival of this country, we must moderate wage demands; and rightly so. The Government has increased these charges by significant, if not substantial, percentages. In the case of electricity and gas, the increase has been substantial. The Government has done that knowing full well that the very people who must pay those increased charges will not receive a salary or pension increase of an amount anything like those increases in the next 12 months.

Was it not incumbent on the Government itself to exercise the same discipline and restraint as it expects to be exercised by salary and wage earners and pensioners in relation to their benefits? Let it not be said by the Government in response to this issue, "We have to put up the charges by 12 per cent because of the contract." I am challenging the Government as to its honesty in using that excuse, bearing in mind that prior to the election it made the statements to which I have referred and has so easily and lightly put those promises aside and ignored them.

Let us look at the other excuse which has been proffered and built up by the media in the past few days as a result of a deliberate campaign on the part of the Government—a campaign designed to try to link the increases in charges with what happened at the Premiers' Conference on Friday.

Firstly, it must be clear to everyone who knows anything about the structure of Governments that most of the charges are put up by independent statutory authorities, admittedly with the approval of the Government, and are the responsibility of the Government, but not in relation to the Consolidated Revenue Fund, except in respect of country water supplies which are subsidised from the CRF.

Mr Brian Burke: That is not right. You just don't understand.

Mr HASSELL: In terms of gas and electricity and metropolitan sewerage and water, the charges are put up by the independent authorities—the State Energy Commission, etc.

Mr Brian Burke: You don't understand the position, so I shall explain it. The SEC funds its capital requirements in two ways. The first is by internally generated funds and the second is by borrowings. Its capacity to borrow may be circumscribed by the Loan Council at the Premiers' Conference. If its capacity to borrow is indeed circumscribed, its dependence on internally generated funds, if you like, to cover the gas surplus, increases.

Mr HASSELL: That all depends on how much money the Government will allow the SEC to spend. The Treasurer has made the point I have been trying to get across and he has underlined it. The Government has not been prepared to impose on its own statutory authorities the discipline of expenditure which ought to be applied.

Mr Brian Burke: Could I just reiterate that no matter how you put it now, you have neglected that link to the Loan Council at the Premiers' Conference. It may be that we are culpable in not telling the SEC not to borrow a cent, but that is a separate argument. You have neglected or overlooked that link to the Premiers' Conference.

Mr HASSELL: Even in the limited time I have available, and even though the Premier has tried to avoid this debate twice, having gagged it on opening day and having attempted to have it ruled out of order this afternoon—

Mr Brian Burke: You were even bollocked by your own party at a party meeting for what you did on opening day.

Mr HASSELL: Let the Premier be reminded that if he wanted to allocate amongst the priorities of his borrowings more money to the SEC, that too would be in his control as well as the control he has over the total SEC expenditure, both capital and revenue.

Let it be pointed out that the charges of the SEC and of the Water Authority are quite separately determined from what happened at the Premiers' Conference. Let us put on the record what happened at the Premiers' Conference, but do not forget that the Government's big announcement about how we would have massive increases in charges came out of the Premiers' Conference as though it were in some way tied up with it.

Let us look at it. The Premiers' Conference annually determines two areas of revenue from the State Government. The first is revenue to help the State pay for its capital works projects as planned in its annual borrowing programme; the second is revenue to help the State meet its recurrent expenditure commitments as planned in the State Budget. That, of course, is the income tax reimbursement, to which the Premier referred twice on Wednesday last week as being 25 per cent of the Budget, first in the debate on the amendment to the Address-in-Reply and, secondly, during question time, when the Premier referred to it as being 25 per cent of the Budget. The reality is it is 36 per cent of the Budget. The difference between the two is some \$300 million or more. That is the extent of the Premier's own understanding two days prior to the Premiers' Conference of the structure of his own Budget.

Let us look at what happened in those two areas at the Premiers' Conference. The State Government lost \$34 million in funding for capital works projects, as the table I have here demonstrates. These are, of course, preliminary figures and are subject to minor errors in calculation, especially due to the use of preliminary estimates for 1985-86 and the conflicting estimates of the inflation level used by the Federal and State Governments.

In respect of loans, the allocation for 1985-86 was \$96 million; in 1986-87 it will be \$74 million. Export grants for 1985-86 were \$48 million and for 1986-87 the figure will be \$36 million, making a total for 1985-86 of \$144 million and for 1986-87, \$110 million, a net loss to the State in capital funds of \$34 million out of a total capital programme last year of the order of \$1 100 million. Bear in mind that the Premier himself made an offer prior to the Premiers' Conference to reduce the capital borrowings, I think, by 20 per cent. Is that an exaggeration, Mr Premier? Did you offer 20 per cent?

Mr Brian Burke: It was a substantial reduction.

Mr HASSELL: A substantial reduction. So to say that this \$34 million less out of a total Budget of \$1 100 million last year will force up all these charges and do all these diabolical things which have been referred to is just nonsense.

Let us look now at the expenditure side. My time is very short and it is important that we get onto the record the realities of what has happened. Of course it is the Budget that deter-

mines the State's recurrent expenditure programme. The Commonwealth provides 46 per cent of the State Budget revenue and there are three components of Commonwealth funds under that category.

The allocations for recurrent expenditure were these: In 1985-86 the tax sharing entitlement was \$1 120 million; in 1986-87 it will be \$1 226 million. Other grants in 1985-86 were \$176 million; in 1986-87 they will be \$195 million, a substantial increase in both areas.

In 1985-86 \$127 million was provided for specific performance grants; in 1986-87 that will be reduced to \$116 million—a reduction in that area. However, that is a pretty small reduction in the overall scene because the totals are as follows: In 1985-86 the total allocation from the Commonwealth for recurrent expenditure was \$1 422 million and in 1986-87 it will be \$1 537 million; in other words, a net gain to the State of \$115 million.

The story that is being put out by the Government does not stand up. Unfortunately time does not permit a full analysis of the whole situation, but perhaps in due course my colleagues will add to the aspects that I have dealt with, if time permits them to do so. The fact is that the Government has broken its most basic promises to the electorate, promises which were made with a full knowledge of the facts only a few months ago. The situation has not changed materially and now the Government, as it did in 1983, has trumped up a series of excuses which are not founded in reality in order to explain increasing taxes and charges in some cases way beyond the rate of inflation, and on grounds which existed prior to the election when promises were made that those taxes and charges would be kept at or below the rate of inflation.

MR BRIAN BURKE (Balga—Premier) [5.07 p.m.]: The Government rejects the amendment moved by the member for Moore and seconded by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Laurance: The taxpayers will reject you 100.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I accorded the Leader of the Opposition silence when he spoke and I expect no less for the Premier.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The Leader of the Opposition in that rejection takes the opportunity to inform the House that on Tuesday next a statement of significance will be made which will touch upon the economy and upon the policies and decisions that the Government

will adopt to meet the challenges that we previously identified as confronting our economy. We believe that the Western Australian economy is substantially healthy and is on track, but that it is necessary to make a number of decisions which fall into several broad categories to ensure that we continue to outperform the rest of the nation in terms of job creation and in terms of the objective economic indicators by which we judge the comparative performance of the different States.

In broad terms, Tuesday's statement will deal with the way in which we will curtail expenditure related directly to Government employment, to the number of Government employees, and to the terms and conditions that they presently enjoy. It will deal with the capital works programme that the State has embarked upon and is likely to continue with during the remainder of this financial year and into the financial year of 1986-87. Tuesday's statement will also list the expenditure cuts in specific areas that we will be making in an effort to close the gap that is widening between the predicted revenue and expenditure for the next financial year. It will also talk about the election promises that we chose to either delay or defer on the basis that it is not sensible in the present economic situation to proceed to implement them during the first year of the Government's period in office.

It will also deal with the general reductions across all departmental budgets that will be necessary if we are to close the gap between revenue and expenditure and ensure that we frame a balanced Budget for 1986-87.

We will be outlining also the philosophical approach that the Government has to the expenditure cuts and revenue-raising decisions that we will outline on Tuesday. We will try to convince the Opposition that if it takes an unblinkered view of some of the changes we propose, it will accord those changes a measure of good sense.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BRIAN BURKE: As I have consistently said—and perhaps this will explain to the member for Vasse and other members some of the reasons for the decisions made in the past week and those which will be announced during the next week—the terms of trade have deteriorated, according to the national Government, by some nine per cent during the past year or so. If that is something of great disadvantage to the nation generally, in Western

Australia's case it is a much greater disadvantage.

Western Australia is essentially export-orientated and if commodity prices languish it is true that the effect on our revenue is much greater than it is, for example, on South Australia's revenue. The Treasury's advice to Government is that in recent weeks Treasury estimates of territorial—that is, royalty revenues—have been marked back by some \$40 million. That is a significant reduction in revenue expected to be taken into the State's Budget.

In general terms, resource revenue from the minerals resource section of the territorial part of the Budget will fall by about 17 per cent. That is mainly as a result of a reduction in iron ore and nickel royalties in addition to which resources expressed in petroleum terms will see royalties fall in real terms by something like 46 per cent.

They are some of the very real reductions in revenue that the State Government expects to take into its Budget as a result of the declining terms of trade.

Let me go on to deal with some of the points raised by the Leader of the Opposition. I point out to him and to other members of the Parliament that in many cases the increased charges announced on Monday were at or below the inflation rate. After dealing with those increases I will take a quick look at the performance of the Opposition party when in Government. We will then see the credibility and the genuineness that we can attach to the arguments of the Leader of the Opposition.

Firstly, let us look at the question of the Metropolitan Transport Trust and the increase of 10.5 per cent in fares. That is two per cent above the inflation rate but it is distorted, because in many cases the nearest whole coin to which the rise may proceed is a 5c coin. I am informed by the MTT that that will mean from time to time an increase from, say, 50c to 55c. While it is true to say it is a 10 per cent rise, it is also the smallest rise the MTT can accommodate. There were no increases in MTT fares last year and only very minor fare increases the year before.

Let us look at Westrail. The intra-State passenger fares will rise by an average of 7.5 per cent. The inflation rate last year was eight per cent, and it is expected, in the Leader of the Opposition's own terms, to be 7.5 per cent this year. I guess he is not arguing about those increases. We have an increase of 10 per cent on

third party motor vehicle insurance. That rise is the first in four years and it is an increase of 10 per cent. It is a fairly mean criticism that attempts to transfix the Government on the charge of exorbitant increases in charges if we use the Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust as an example because, for the first time in four years, there is to be a rise. That is effectively a rise of 2.5 per cent a year. Now we are brought to book by the Leader of the Opposition who flounced as he did in his ignorance, about the dealings of the Premiers' Conference and the Loan Council for an increase in MVIT charges of 10 per cent, the first increase in 10 years.

Homeswest rents have not been increased. Those rents will be reviewed in September. Surely the Government is not found guilty of exorbitant increased charges on that basis.

I now move on to Stateships. The increase in freight cargo rates will be five per cent from July and another five per cent from 1 January. That is hardly much above the inflation rate. Of all the charges I have referred to, where are the ones where the increases are so outlandishly above the inflation rate? Where are the ones that justify the Leader of the Opposition's jumping up and down and saying that the Premier's Conference has nothing to do with current expenditure? He does not know the truth of the situation and then proceeds to accuse us of increasing charges marvellously above the inflation rate. He does not have his facts straight. He does not understand the workings of the Commonwealth/State financial system and he cannot read the size of the increases. In each of the increases I have referred to, including water rates—which I have not touched upon—the increases have been in line with the inflation rate.

The one increase to which the Leader of the Opposition nails his standard is the State Energy Commission increase of 12 per cent. That increase follows two annual increases of 3.8 per cent in the last two years. It is the one increase to which the Leader of the Opposition clings in his efforts to gain strength for his argument. It is a weak old reed to which he clings. It is particularly weak when one looks at the performance of the Liberal Party when in Government and when it was responsible for increasing SEC charges. This is the responsibility that the Liberal Party exercised when in Government.

In 1974 the increase in SEC charges was 17.7 per cent under a Liberal Government. In 1975 the increase in SEC charges, still under a Liberal Government, was 25.7 per cent; these

paragons of low charging! One would have to twist one's socks off. The Liberal Party now complains about a 12 per cent increase that follows two increases of 3.8 per cent.

Several members interjected.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: The member for Nedlands should not start to yell because it was his father who was responsible.

Mr Court: At least when he was Premier there was a good standard of living in this country.

Mr Bryce: If you lived in Circe Circle in Nedlands.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I did not move the amendment. Members opposite seem to be complaining too volubly. We are allowed to state our case. I did not interrupt the speaker opposite. I thought he did a good job for us. I tried to encourage him but members opposite seemed to want to yell and shout. I refer to the following increases in SEC charges—

1975	25.7 per cent
1976	12.7 per cent
1977	19.3 per cent
1978	7.0 per cent
1979	3.4 per cent

1979 was the year before the election of 1980. Then in 1980, after the election, the increase was 17 per cent. In 1982 it was 16.1 per cent. In 1982 the Liberal Government did not use its brains because it was the year before the election; the increase was 13 per cent and it lost the election. Using the inverted logic for which the Liberal Party has become quite renowned, it attempted to divert attention from itself by increasing gas charges in the following manner—

1975	20.0 per cent
1977	22.0 per cent
1980	24.8 per cent

I am referring to the larger increases. We then had a trio of moderate increases as follows—

16.1 per cent
14.8 per cent
15.0 per cent

What genuine claim to honest representation has any Liberal leader when he can stand up in this place and attempt to blackball the Government for increasing charges in the way in which this Government has increased charges in all areas except the charges for power by roughly the inflation rate? Then, in the case of the SEC it increases charges by something more than the inflation rate after two years in which the increases were 3.8 per cent annually.

What credibility has the Leader of the Opposition when his Government, when in office, increased charges in the way I have outlined them to the Parliament this evening? The Leader of the Opposition knows the truth of the situation because I have been quoting to this House from a letter I wrote to him. He wanted to know the charges which had been increased during the last few years. I wrote to him and the figures I gave him are the figures I have been quoting tonight, yet he did not quote from that letter. He asked for the information and presumably received the information, but has decided not to quote from it. I do not know why. An honest representation shows that this Opposition, when in Government, increased charges until people bled from their ears.

Let us look at the more recent example of the Court-O'Connor Government's increases in charges from 1981-82 to 1982-83—the last three years it was in Government. Electricity charges in that period increased by 50 per cent. In the three years of the present Government's first period in office electricity charges increased by 23.8 per cent. Therefore, slightly less than half the total increase can be accorded to this Government.

Let us look at gas. Under the Liberal Government—the economic miracle of management—the increase was 58.2 per cent. Under the Burke Government the increase was 24.7 per cent. Under the Liberal Party the Metropolitan Water Authority charges increased in three years by 90 per cent and under the Labor Party the increase has been 10.5 per cent. The consumption charge—the fixed charge—increased by 63 per cent under the Liberal Party and 22.6 per cent under the Labor Party.

Under the Liberal Party the sewerage charge increased by 90 per cent and under the Labor Party it increased by between 16.6 per cent to 18 per cent. Metropolitan drainage increased by 21 per cent under the Liberal Government and 10.3 per cent under the Labor Government.

The country water charges—those white knights moved by the member for Moore who is always looking after the country folk and who longs to be back pitching the hay at Bindi Bindi—increased by 101 per cent under the Liberal Government and under the Labor Government by 24 per cent. Where does the member for Moore get off by moving such an amendment?

Homeswest rents under the Liberal Party increased by 41.4 per cent and under the Labor Government by 18.6 per cent. It is the member for Moore's amendment and we should send it to everyone at Bindi Bindi because I am sure they would not believe it. The member for Moore will be wanting to pitch the hay in future, but it will not be at Bindi Bindi—it will be at Dalwallinu.

Motor drivers' licence fees increased by 16.1 per cent under the Liberal Government and by 10.7 per cent under the Labor Government. Motor vehicle third party insurance charges involved the greatest con job one has ever seen. The Motor Vehicle Insurance Trust would send a recommendation to the former Treasurer under the Liberal Party Government and he would sign it as though he was Pavlov's dog. The result of his gross indiscretions was that in three years under the Liberal Government third party insurance rose by 176 per cent. People did not have to worry about licence fees because they could not afford a car. Under the Labor Government, in three years, the charges did not rise at all. Where does this Leader of the Opposition get off by moving or seconding amendments about Government charges? The Leader of the Opposition has very little to cling to by way of a reputation.

As a final point, under a Liberal Government Stateships freight rates increased by 40 per cent while under a Labor Government the increase has been 16.5 per cent. What have we seen? We have seen the Leader of the Opposition not understanding the connection between the Loan Council, the Premiers' Conference and the State Budget. Remember the Leader of the Opposition said there was no connection between the three, but tonight he said that there was no connection except in the country water supply. Now, he says there is no connection provided we do not let the State Energy Commission borrow money because in that case we can restrict its need to generate internal funds. That is how much he knows. He starts off from that base of ignorance to move on to the proposition that we have somehow or other increased charges by much more than the inflation rate. That is not true.

If members look at every charge that was announced on Monday as being increased the one area in which members can say increases are beyond the inflation rate is the SEC. I admit that that is the case, but if we are to assign credibility to the Leader of the Opposition we should look at his party's charging record—

increases of between 25.5 per cent and 26 per cent.

Mr Hassell: What about your promise?

Mr BRIAN BURKE: I can tell members about a Liberal Party Premier who said he would solve the inflation rate State by State and that it would take six months to get on top of the crisis.

Mr Parker: And unemployment.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Yes, and that unemployment would take six months to solve. We have demonstrated that the Leader of the Opposition and his stalking horse from Bindi Bindi have no idea of the connection between the Loan Council, the Premier's Conference and the State Budget. He cannot understand the size of the increases because in every one that I have read to this House, except the SEC, the increases are roughly at the inflation rate. The SEC must be referred not only to the indiscretions of the previous Government signing away the State's life, reputation and credibility for all time with its North-West Shelf contract—

Mr Court: You said it was the greatest thing of all time.

Several members interjected.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: Members opposite are using all my time to try to keep me quiet.

In conclusion, when members opposite look at the three-year performance of the previous Government and compare it with the three-year performance of this Government I can tell them one thing—they will not be in Government for a long time to come.

MR COURT (Nedlands) [5.28 p.m.]: I seek leave to commence my remarks at a later stage of this day's sitting.

Leave granted.

Debate thus adjourned.

BILLS (2): MESSAGES

Appropriations

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

1. Treasurer's Advance Authorization Bill.
2. State Government Insurance Commission Bill.

[Questions taken.]

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.15 p.m.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FOURTH DAY

Amendment to Motion

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR COURT (Nedlands) [7.15 p.m.]: The Government seems to be up to its old tricks again. Today we have witnessed members opposite performing and trying to play up to the Premier to impress him. However, the business community and its employees are in no mood for tricks. They have already seen a major trick performed by the Premier at this time in 1983 when there were big increases in taxes and charges. This time around when the Government tried to stage-manage the same exercise, the business community including its employees, and fortunately the media, can see through the tactics the Government is using.

Labor Governments really have been caught out. They can no longer hide the fact that they are big-spending Governments; they cannot disguise it. The image they have spent millions of dollars trying to create—that they are responsible managers—went down the gurgler a few weeks ago when the Federal Treasurer, Mr Keating, said the country was well down the road to becoming a banana republic.

In 1983 the Premier came out with a stage-managed performance to introduce some big increases in taxes and charges. I refer now to *The West Australian* of 24 June 1983 which stated—

On Monday, Mr Burke set the scene with his "State of the State" address.

On Tuesday, he announced increases to a wide range of government charges. The next day he released details of pay cuts for MPs, judges, magistrates and senior public servants.

Yesterday he concluded the package with relief measures for those suffering hardship.

We all remember what happened three years ago. The business community complained, but that was still part of the honeymoon period. Labor had been in Government only four months at the time, and everything was seen to be good under Labor. However, in the last three years we have seen deficits treble and what has turned out to be a false world for Australia. Reality is catching up quickly with this country.

If members cast their minds back a few months to before the election they will recall the Premier and the Prime Minister saying in

January what great shape the country was in and how well we were going. Members will recall that the Premier's campaign slogan was, "We're showing Australia how". He said how remarkably well the country was performing under Labor Governments. On 4 February, only a matter of months ago *The West Australian* reported that—

THE PREMIER, Mr Burke, threw his full support yesterday behind the Federal Government's monetary policies, which have been responsible for record-high interest rates.

The Premier was still saying that what Mr Keating was doing was great. We all know the sorts of reports that came out—the economy was in good shape and everything was rosy.

This morning we heard the Premier on radio, and what a turnaround there has been. He was telling Western Australians that they faced a difficult and uncertain future. Where is the great future he said the State had only a few months ago? The Premier said today that it was a serious situation and that people had lived beyond their means. Then he referred to the abject failure of the business community to invest in Australia. He resorted to what he did in Canberra last week at the Premiers' Conference when he did some business bashing. Away he went! He said all the problems we had were as a result of the business community's not investing. One would have to be blind Freddie not to know why the business community is not investing.

I am sure many people at the meeting the new member for Maylands attended last night would have given him the message as to why the business community is not investing.

What a turnaround there has been. Everything was beaut a few months ago, and now the Premier says we faced a difficult and uncertain future. He pulled off a trick three years ago when he used all the razzamatazz to get the public to accept the increased taxes and charges. Now he is doing the same thing again. Last time he made a "State of the State" address; I do not know what it will be called next Tuesday.

The working people out there whom members opposite supposedly represent are feeling the pinch. The Premier made great play about charges earlier tonight. He did not talk about the increase in taxes over the last three years. He did not look at a comparison between the increase under the Liberal Party to the end of 1982. The increase in real terms in our last

three years was 14.3 per cent; the increase under the Labor Government in 1984-85 alone was 28.8 per cent.

The people at the rally last Thursday, the rally about which members opposite laughed when we said 4 000 attended, were concerned about what is happening to their industries. Who cares whether 4 000 or 2 000 people attended that rally! They have had enough. Not only the employers, but also employees have had enough. The extravagances of this Government in its spending programmes are starting to take effect.

The other area dealt with by the amendment is the question of prices. I recall one of the first things that this Government did when it came to office was to call the House back early and to pass legislation to try to control prices of products. I can recall the member for Pilbara in her maiden speech saying that the Government would do something about controlling prices. How would members like to be in the Pilbara now when the people in that electorate are facing the price increases associated with the taxation package which members opposite supported last year? They are now trying to worm their way out of the fact that they supported that package. It is too late; the Government passed legislation and the people living in the Pilbara will now pay the price for those price increases.

The Government is preaching that businesses will have to restrain prices. How can business restrain prices when the Government sets an example by putting its prices up well above the level of inflation? When one takes into consideration the increases in the taxes and charges, businesses will have no choice but to put their prices up. What an example this Government has set. Is this a repeat of the 1983 debacle? In 1983 a wage freeze was in operation. It was introduced by Federal and State Governments and supported, by all salary and wage earners, and by businesses. At that time the Premier came up with the strategy, as I mentioned earlier, to increase charges and taxes considerably. This Government does not practise what it preaches.

If we are to set an example for the control of inflation levels, the Government has to set the example first. If it does not have sufficient revenue, instead of just whacking up taxes and charges, it should be thinking of ways to make government more efficient.

This Government is now building the public up for the Premier's statement next Tuesday. After the Premier's Conference last week, the Premier returned to Perth saying that he would have no option but to put up taxes and charges. Yet, Mr Wran ruled out any prospect of an increase in his State's taxes and charges as a direct result of the cuts announced at the conference. Our Premier is trying to hoodwink the public. The Government is increasing the prices of its goods and services at a time when it is asking wage earners to continue accepting restraint.

Members opposite would have to agree that the standard of living of the average wage earner in this country is declining.

Mr Pearce: That is rubbish.

Mr COURT: The Premier has said that the standard of living is declining. He said on radio this morning that the situation is serious and we have all been living beyond our means. The Government cannot have it both ways.

Mr Pearce: He did not say our individual standard of living is declining. He said we have to accept a reduction in public services which is a very different matter altogether.

Mr COURT: Does the Minister think that our standards increase when we close our libraries for one day a week and when we start to increase class size? That is not exactly the right trend for improving the standard of living. The Minister is out of touch if he does not know that the average working family in this State is really feeling the pinch right now.

Mr Pearce: There are not too many working families in Nedlands. You would be worried if you could not afford to take your Jaguar to the car wash twice a week.

Mr COURT: That is typical. The Minister is following the member for Maylands' line that everybody living in Nedlands has a Jaguar or a Mercedes. I think the Minister would find the exact opposite is the case. He might find that there are some normal, working-class families in that electorate. Why is he resorting to that sort of abuse of the people who live in my electorate? He made a fool of himself over the Swan Brewery site when he made the comment that the only people criticising his proposal were the elderly from Nedlands.

Mr Pearce: That is right.

Mr COURT: What is wrong with people criticising the Minister's decisions? I will defend the people who live in my electorate as being normal, typical Western Australians.

Mr Pearce: Elderly rich people; good luck to them. I have nothing against that.

Mr COURT: That shows how much the Minister knows about that electorate. If he wants to keep on abusing elderly people in my electorate, that is up to him. They were not particularly impressed with his performance in relation to the Swan Brewery site.

Mr Pearce: I am not fussed by that.

Mr COURT: It is very easy for the Minister to be demeaning to those people.

Mr Pearce: You would have knocked down the Swanbourne hospital.

Mr COURT: What a stupid thing to say. The next thing we will move on to is what the Government is going to do with the hospital. It has already knocked most of it down. The Minister refused to attend a meeting at the hospital when people wanted to put a case to him about why the demolition should not continue.

Mr Pearce: They sent me a rudely worded invitation two days before the event. I had already arranged to attend a very important meeting in the north-west. I, like your father, place great value on those sorts of meetings. That invitation came to me three days after they put it through the Press.

Mr COURT: The Minister's representative was conspicuous by his absence.

This Government has been caught out as a mismanager. It is all very well for it to spend money to inform people that it is a good manager of the economy. However, the truth is that the country is going backwards.

That is not acceptable and that is the reason that I certainly support the amendment before the House. The Government is increasing its taxes and charges and it is not concentrating on those things that it could do to try to reduce the level of spending.

The classic I heard tonight was the Premier saying that the Government will lose \$40 million from mineral royalties and that that will cause a problem. One problem we have is that \$70 million will be the cost to the Government in supporting the superannuation proposals in the Arbitration Commission.

Mr Grill: With all this tirade you have five colleagues on your side and one is asleep. They are totally disinterested and no-one wants to hear you.

Mr COURT: I have limited time.

I suggest to the Government that it endeavours to stop the last minute spending in all Government departments before the end of this financial year. We all know what is happening. Only a few weeks are left of this financial year and departments are trying to spend what is left of their budget entitlements even though they do not want to buy certain items. It is about time the Government attacked this issue and introduced a policy which would provide incentives to Government departments not to spend their entitlements if goods are not required. The current system is that they spend their entitlements before the end of the financial year because if they do not they believe they will lose their entitlement for the following year.

Mr Peter Dowding: How long has that been going on?

Mr COURT: It is this Government's fourth year in office and on the one hand it pleads poor, yet it does nothing to cut out the waste in expenditure.

Mr Grill: How long has it been in place?

Mr COURT: I am advising members opposite that one way in which this Government can help control Government expenditure is to make sure that there is no wasteful expenditure by Government departments in the last few weeks of the financial year. The system is structured in such a way that it does not provide an incentive for public servants to cut spending.

I am sure that those Ministers who are in charge of large departments, such as the Health Department and the Education Department, know only too well what is taking place.

The Premier has gone back on one of his major election promises which he made only a few months ago. Members opposite think it is smart and it is great to play little tricks in order to get back into Government. The first year in which it was in Government the community was faced with large increases in taxes and charges. The Government thinks the public will forget about it when election time comes around again. The Premier admitted this tonight with his frivolous comments about the increases in charges. The business community has not forgotten the large increases in 1983 and it will not forget these current increases.

Mr Peter Dowding: It is still recovering from the increases in 1980.

Mr COURT: The Minister for Industrial Relations can laugh. He knows what the feeling is in the community. Members opposite did not

bother to go to listen to 4 000 people who complained about taxes last Thursday. The Minister for Industrial Relations states that only 2 000 people attended, but there were at least 4 000 in attendance and they were complaining about the taxes which they are facing.

Mr Peter Dowding: Your new guru, Mr MacDonald, called the meeting.

Mr COURT: He at least had the courtesy to invite the Minister to another meeting which was held last night and it was good of the Minister to attend. The Minister takes delight in ridiculing James MacDonald; he can ridicule him as much as he likes, but many people want to see more flexibility introduced into the wage system.

Members opposite can joke and play their tricks in this House but the fact of the matter is that the business people and their employees know that there is something wrong with the system and that a number of businesses are falling by the wayside because of this Government's policies.

With those few words I support the amendment.

MR COWAN (Merredin) [7.36 p.m.]: I wonder whether the Premier really did think seriously about what he was doing when he waited until the conclusion of the Premier's Conference and came back to Western Australia and made an announcement about State taxes and charges. He very eloquently put the past position in this State when he reminded people on this side of the House that it was the practice of the previous Government to wait until the completion of the Premier's Conference to announce increases in charges and taxes. What he has done is to give the Press and the electronic media the opportunity to draw comparisons between himself and his predecessors, particularly Sir Charles Court. I do not think he would want that, but that was one of the usual practices of a former Premier. The minute he returned from a Premier's Conference we were told we would have to pull in our belts and do something about the State's revenue raising resources. We have clearly had that tactic repeated at this time.

I think a sensible move was made by the Federal Government when it said that Australians are borrowing more than they can afford to repay and that it is time we reduced the levels of borrowings. Perhaps an argument that could be mounted is whether or not the State has been required to reduce its

borrowings or carry a burden of a greater reduction as far as different levels of government are concerned. The fact is that Australians as a whole are lead by Governments which have indeed borrowed more than they should.

Mr Grill: That is not true.

Mr COWAN: It is true.

Mr Grill: The facts are that private enterprise is borrowing about 60 per cent of the current national debt in terms of capital cost.

Mr COWAN: Let me put it again for the benefit of the Minister for Agriculture. When I refer to Governments, I do not mean just the Commonwealth Government. What I mean is all Governments, State and Federal. All Australian Governments have been borrowing far too much money. Perhaps the Minister can tell me whether I am wrong. The level of Government borrowings is on the increase and, therefore, it is time a reduction was made.

Mr Grill: Just a second. You are begging the question. The question really is where the great predominance of those borrowings has been. It has not been with Government and Government borrowings, which, in real terms, are on the decline.

Mr COWAN: Can the Minister prove that?

Mr Grill: Just let me finish, for goodness sake. The fact is that private borrowing is dramatically on the increase. It is by far the greatest amount of overseas borrowing, and that is the area you need to worry about.

Mr COWAN: I still do not think the Minister for Agriculture has proved that the level of Government borrowing is in fact on the decrease. I would rather have statistical data to prove that because I am quite sure that it is not—at least up until the last Premiers' Conference—and then we might be able to say that the level of borrowing has decreased. I support that and I am quite sure that members of the National Party will support that, but the bulk of our constituents have been told quite often by the Minister that one of the problems with agriculture is that too many people in that industry have borrowed beyond their capacity to repay. That is what has been happening to Australia.

We in the National Party accept that, as much as we do not like the medicine, what was stated at the Premiers' Conference was correct. That does not mean that as we have been asked to show a little bit of restraint, the Premier should come running back from the conference, like his predecessors, and say that we

have had our borrowings reduced, therefore we have to put up taxes and charges, especially when he made the comment that the State's taxes and charges would not be increased above or beyond the inflation level. Now the Premier has claimed that he has kept charges below or equal to the inflation rate, but I really do not think that too many people will accept that in regard to some of those charges he mentioned. The Premier has to take into account they are above the inflation rate.

Mr Grill: No they are not.

Mr COWAN: Is the Minister saying that the inflation rate is above 10.5 per cent?

Mr Grill: No, but if you take stock of the last 4 years, they are well below the inflation rate.

Mr COWAN: I accept that.

Mr Grill: Can I correct something that I said earlier? I said the Government's borrowings were not going up in real terms. In fact they are, but as an aspect of GDP.

Mr COWAN: I accept that.

The other point that has to be borne in mind in relation to this debate is that this is an election year and I think comparisons have been already made about the level of increases made to charges in an election year, or immediately after an election.

If we are realistic, we have to concede that the increases that have been made by this Government have been lower than at other times. I would be very interested to look into the future, if I could, and see what will happen in 1987-88. Traditionally, the Government of the day has increased taxes and charges in year one by twice the inflation rate, in year two it has matched the inflation rate, and in year three—in the hope that the electors of Western Australia have very short memories—the Government has not increased taxes and charges at all.

Mr Wilson: Good argument for four-year terms.

Mr COWAN: It is indeed, depending on whether the Minister could tell me what is going to happen in year four.

I do not think that any member of Parliament would be surprised to learn that there are to be increases in taxes and charges. We have all seen it before; we have all heard it before. I am surprised that the Premier waited until the Premiers' Conference and used that as some stick with which to beat Western Australian taxpayers over the head. I thought that having taken former Premiers to task when he was the

Leader of the Opposition he would not have done that at all, and would have treated them separately and assessed whether taxes and charges had to go up. It would have been better for him to have done it before leaving for Canberra and the Premiers' Conference.

The increases in taxes and charges conflict with a pre-election promise made by the Premier, whether members on the other side like it or not.

Mr Peter Dowding: The member should note that what the Leader of the Opposition did not say in his selected reading of that question was that the Premier was asked in January this year what he expected the position to be.

Mr COWAN: Sure, and he expected not to have to put up taxes and charges by anything more than the inflation rate.

Mr Peter Dowding: Well, his expectations have not been realised, at least in respect of the State Energy Commission.

Mr COWAN: And the MTT. The other point that I wish to make is that Governments collectively are saying that it is time we all showed restraint. How can people accept that when the moment restraint has been imposed upon this Government in terms of its borrowing, it turns around and says to Western Australians, "We have had this restraint imposed upon us; therefore, you have got to pay the price. You must bear the burden"? People will see that as a very cynical exercise and that is the one flaw in the argument that has been put forward tonight by the Government. It is the one flaw for which the people of this State can take the Government to task.

It is the one issue about which the National Party feels the Government has been irresponsible. How can members of the Government and its leader go to Canberra, be told that it must have restraint imposed upon it, and come back to Western Australia and immediately say to the people of this State, "We have had restraint imposed upon us. We are going to extract funds from you people"? I think that collectively we should all pull in our belts, and if it means a reduction in services, let us see whether the people of Western Australia are men and women enough to be able to handle that rather than the Government's immediately saying that taxes and charges will increase.

I want people to bear in mind the fact that this has all been done before and the rate of increases in charges for essential services this year is certainly less than it has been before in my parliamentary experience—and I am now

in my thirteenth year as a parliamentarian, and have experienced, say, five elections during those years. Notwithstanding that, the people of Western Australia will resent it because they have been asked to tighten their belts and exercise restraint. This Government was asked to tighten its belt and exercise restraint and its first action was to increase taxes and charges. The public of Western Australia will resent that and it will judge the Government accordingly.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result—

Ayes 22

Mr Bradshaw	Mr MacKinnon
Mr Cash	Mr Mensaros
Mr Clarko	Mr Nalder
Mr Court	Mr Rushon
Mr Cowan	Mr Schell
Mr Crane	Mr Spriggs
Mr Grayden	Mr Stephens
Mr Hassell	Mr Thompson
Mr Laurance	Mr Tubby
Mr Lewis	Mr Watt
Mr Lightfoot	Mr Williams

(Teller)

Noes 27

Mrs Beggs	Mr Marlborough
Mr Bertram	Mr Parker
Mr Bridge	Mr Pearce
Mr Bryce	Mr Read
Mr Terry Burke	Mr D. L. Smith
Mr Carr	Mr P. J. Smith
Mr Peter Dowding	Mr Thomas
Mr Evans	Mr Tonkin
Dr Gallop	Mr Troy
Mr Grill	Mrs Watkins
Mrs Henderson	Dr Watson
Mr Hodge	Mr Wilson
Mr Tom Jones	Mrs Buchanan
Dr Lawrence	

(Teller)

Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Mr House	Mr Taylor
Mr Trenorden	Mr Gordon Hill
Mr Blaikie	Mr Brian Burke

Amendment thus negatived.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

MR P. J. SMITH (Bunbury) [7.51 p.m.]: I preface my remarks by congratulating some members present. I would have liked to congratulate the new Speaker but unfortunately he is not in the Chair. I ask Mr Deputy Speaker to please pass on my congratulations to him.

Secondly, I congratulate the member for Whitford, Mrs Beggs, on becoming the first woman Minister in the Western Australian Legislative Assembly for a Labor Government. Thirdly, I congratulate the member for Kimberley, Mr Ernie Bridge, for being the first Aboriginal Minister in Australia; that is, assuming that the Bill to establish his position is

passed, as I am sure it will be. Fourthly, I congratulate the member for Pilbara, Mrs Pam Buchanan, on being appointed Government Whip. I am pleased to see the Labor Caucus is putting principles where its mouth is.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Burke Government on its re-election. The last three years have been exciting years of progress and action. I have been proud to be a member of the Burke Government at a time when tough decisions have had to be made because I know that the leader of our Government is prepared to make tough decisions and carry them through for the benefit of all people in Western Australia.

I congratulate the member for Katanning-Roe and certainly I agree with the general thrust of his speech. I agree that people in the rural areas, particularly the women, deserve special consideration. However, I cannot agree with other parts of his speech. For example, I do not believe the Government has its hands in the pockets of farmers or businessmen or that its weight is on their backs any more than it is on the backs of any other section of the community. We all know that taxes are necessary and that they have to be fairly presented. If tax relief is given to any one section another section of the community has to pay. The Government has adopted the best way of dealing with this problem, and in particular I refer to the decentralisation policies which have been put forward. I will discuss these in further detail at a later stage.

The Government's policy is far better than the simplistic attitude to which the member for Katanning-Roe referred. The member and other new members of the Legislative Assembly, particularly those of the National Party, may not be aware that the decentralisation policies they are espousing are the policies that have failed in the past. It seems an obvious step to decentralise meatworks to Katanning, for example, but when such industries get into trouble they soon call on the Government to bail them out. When the situation changes with such things as the live sheep industry, railways replaced by road transport, better roads and communications these industries are unable to stand by themselves without supporting industries and infrastructures. When this has been done in the past it has been possible only by artificially propping up such industries. However, the trend for the last half century has been for the population in the rural areas to drift into the city.

That presents two problems: Firstly, it results in overcrowding in the metropolitan area where the cost of establishing services and keeping these people in employment increases out of proportion to the number of people shifting into the area. Secondly, the loss of people from the rural areas means a loss of jobs which in turn means loss of money and the facilities which city people take for granted.

I am afraid that country people are not helped by the scattergun approach to decentralisation. Also, the situation is not helped by railing against people in the metropolitan area as if they are the inhabitants of a foreign country attacking rural people.

I believe the Burke Government's decentralisation policy is working and it is hardly necessary to mention the "Bunbury 2000" pilot project which is the spearhead of the decentralisation programme. It may not prevent the total drift of people to the metropolitan area but if it continues to be a success in Bunbury I hope that similar projects will succeed in Albany, Geraldton, Esperance, and other major centres. It will not stop some drift but it will provide administrative centres in rural areas and provide facilities that are taken for granted in the metropolitan area. I do not believe we shall ever stop people drifting from the rural areas or even some of them drifting into the regional centres by accusing Governments of oppressing rural people or railing against metropolitan residents as if they were leeches sucking rural areas dry.

We must be aware that every farmer requires machinery, electricity, roads, schools, hospitals, police stations, and many other essential services. These are provided by the apparent enemies in the metropolitan area. We do not want war, we want education, both of rural and metropolitan people of what a great State we would have if we all worked together and considered what it would be like to live in various parts of the State rather than seeing ourselves as the only area needing assistance.

As a member of this Government I was pleased to hear the National Farmers Federation campaign to let people in the metropolitan area know what sort of job farmers in particular carry out in making the life of people in the area comfortable. It is far more effective to bring a message to the people in that way rather than present pictures of farmers acting in the traditional militant union fashion or showing failed millionaire farmers driving their Mercedes away from their bankrupt overcapitalised farms.

Mr Cowan: That image is in the past.

Mr P. J. SMITH: I agree that that is the sort of image presented of the area by the media. It has a lot to answer for. That image has been portrayed in particular in the metropolitan newspapers and it certainly does not present a true picture of the people and their problems.

I would like the media to present some of the information that could be conveyed. If I choose any particular newspaper or section of the electronic media it is also meant to refer to the whole spectrum. At the weekend *The West Australian* in the country area carries a special supplement for rural people. It carries weekend news and articles referring to the rural parts of the State and covers a wide range of stories taking in different areas. We in the country marvel at restoration programmes, art groups, achievements of country people, new buildings and so on. But what do the city people get? Apparently they are treated to the latest information in real estate. It seems that country news is not important enough for city people.

It is true that we apparently share Pat Bunney's lighter view of rural life and sometimes the not so light side and the occasional interesting articles are reprinted in the city editions and scattered through the city papers, but what always amazes me and annoys country people is the fact that the country edition does not appear in the city papers. I would guess that probably half the people who live in the metropolitan area spend a substantial amount of time in rural areas and they want to know what is going on there.

The Government is busy spending thousands of dollars to promote a "Holiday WA" campaign while one of the greatest pieces of free tourism advertising is missing from the city editions of the newspapers.

Certainly we in the country know which towns we would like to visit, but the majority of us tend to head for far locations, or to the metropolitan area for our holidays. It is the people from the metropolitan areas who tend to go to the country for their holidays. They rely on the tourist information centres for their information instead of obtaining it from an edition which is free to country people in their Saturday morning papers. It is about time papers like *The West Australian* started repeating that sort of information for the benefit of city people.

I believe that even the news has a Perth bias. As an example I refer to a situation which occurred recently, but similar incidents happen

often. The Minister for Education made an important announcement about the restructuring of the Education Department. However, it was not important enough to appear other than in a vague form in our edition of *The West Australian*. Certainly it appeared in the weekend newspapers and on the electronic media. However, in my electorate of Bunbury I had teachers, in particular, telephoning me from all over the area asking what was going on, because they had only a half-formed idea. Apparently it was not important enough for that sort of news to appear in any detail in Monday morning's paper.

What is commonly called the "rural crisis" also gets rather weird reporting in newspapers. On the one hand, we have the information about the number of farmers and business people, particularly in the eastern wheatbelt, who are experiencing difficulties due to drought and high interest rates. Of course, some farmers try to make out that this is the first time drought has happened in 150 years. Then we get the story of the failed millionaire who has bought three or four properties, has become too big, and needs a Government subsidy to bail him out. I am not saying these stories should not be printed, because they are the exceptions, but the Perth-based media should look at what is really happening in the bush and in rural areas and put the story the way it is.

Without going into too much detail, I also mention the weather announcers and their contributions to understanding the rural situation in the metropolitan area. Too often during the summer, when farmers and rural people are on their knees praying for rain, we hear weather announcers saying cheerily that there will be another beautiful, sunny day in Perth. Alternatively, when the rains come they indicate there will be another wet miserable day and more rain is coming. It is all doom and gloom.

I remind the television stations, Channel Nine in particular, that it broadcasts over at least half the State and will soon cover most of the State. Therefore, it should start thinking more about the impact of what its announcers say and to whom they are talking, rather than assuming they are talking to people within a few kilometres of the television transmitters.

In recent months I have noticed a few changes. Either the message has got through to them, or enough country people have telephoned the television channels and objected to the way they have presented the

weather, for Perth people or for coastal people, rather than giving consideration to the effect of such comments on farmers and rural people.

I shall deal now with Bunbury and the south-west. I am pleased to see that the Government's decentralisation policies are working well. The South West Development Authority, under the directorship of Dr Ernest Manea and board members Sister Glenys Yeoman and Kevin Strapp, continues to spearhead the policies of the Government in developing the south-west.

Stage one of the "Bunbury 2000" programme is well advanced and stage two, which was announced prior to the last election, is now in progress. Indeed, the South West Development Authority is working well and perhaps because of, rather than in spite of, its critics, it is making progress.

We continue to hear members of the Liberal Party particularly those sitting opposite criticise the authority's actions and, of course, there appears to be quite a deal of criticism from the south-west shire councils also. I will turn to that later.

I was not present when the member for Albany spoke, but I saw his reported comments and read his speech. My advice to him is that he continue to give his full-hearted support to the "Albany Tomorrow" concept. He should work as closely as possible with the great southern development authority, when it is established, to assist it wherever possible to achieve its aims and improve the lot of the people of Albany and the great southern region.

However, the member for Albany must remember that the great southern development authority, or whatever it may be called, will be a statutory authority, thus it will be independent and, as such, it must work free from interference. In particular, it will work in with local councils, but its information will be confidential.

No doubt the great southern development authority will be criticised in much the same way as is the South West Development Authority. For example, it is said the authority has produced a multitude of reports but not much action. However, how can one develop if one does not know where one is, why one is there, what one is doing, and what effect one's actions will have? That has been part of the problem in the past, because each shire council has jealously, and sometimes zealously, guarded its independence. Councils have given away very little information to surrounding districts or

shires, and each shire has competed for projects and has placed them in the most convenient areas as far as the particular shire is concerned, rather than as part of a total, overall plan. The result can be chaos. There is always a need for a co-ordinating group and that group should be a regional development authority.

For all the criticism that has been made of the South West Development Authority by the south-west shire councils, the one positive effect has been that it has at least combined them so that they now talk to each other on a meaningful basis. It appears they are working together and supporting each other, which is something that has not happened in the past.

Finally, I offer some good advice to the member for Albany. If I wished to know what was going on in the south-west or the South West Development Authority, I have found the authority's officers were always willing to give me a briefing on current projects and their progress, but if I wanted confidential information or fine details, I had to go to the Minister, who also often told me that information was not available. I am sure the member will find the same co-operation will apply in Albany. That situation is annoying to a member, but he must bear in mind that he is dealing with a statutory authority.

The Government's "Bunbury 2000" concept and the actions of the South West Development Authority have resulted in a huge lift in confidence in the south-west. By concentrating on Bunbury and the south-west, not only the people of Western Australia, but also developers and commercial interests round Australia and overseas, have been attracted to the area. There has been an increase in commercial interest in the region, with a lift of some 65 per cent in the value of commercial projects in the last 12 months, amounting to a total investment of \$136 million.

Mr Blaikie: Where has that come from?

Mr P. J. SMITH: Some has come from Government and some from private groups which have confidence in the south-west. Both the Government and the private sector have promoted employment as they concentrate on developing Bunbury as a regional centre. There has been a steady stream of new businesses, expansion, and development.

Bunbury seems to have been ahead of the rest of the State in respect of home building and purchases. There was a substantial lift last month, particularly among first home owners, at a time when many home owners in the rest

of the State are waiting for the market to stabilise.

As a result of this confidence, the population of the south-west has increased and it is now running at more than double the national average. Last year there was an addition of 3 350, so the population stands now at 113 940; that is an increase of 3.1 per cent in a year. The Australian average increase was 1.3 per cent and in Western Australia it was 1.4 per cent.

Mr Blaikie: How does that correlate with new jobs?

Mr P. J. SMITH: It ties in very well with the increase in employment. At this stage we are well ahead of our aim of having 200 000 in the south-west by the turn of the century. Part of that increase in population has stemmed from the injection of confidence into the south-west as a result of the widespread publicity it has received. People have come from all over the State and Australia to look for work. Government projects have provided extra jobs and more and more people have the confidence to put their names on the CES books to seek work.

The result is that employment has risen rapidly, but the unemployment rate still remains higher than the State average, and this concerns me. The increased employment in the south pleases me greatly. It is a pity that Hon. Vic Ferry, who forwards us his quarterly Press releases on unemployment statistics, did not get on to that subject.

Mr Blaikie: That is a bit unfair. It is not like you to be quite so unfair.

Mr P. J. SMITH: Hon. Vic Ferry occasionally puts out a Press release on apprenticeships, but other than that those are the subjects of his two standard Press releases. I hope he will be a bit more active over the next few years.

Mr Blaikie: He stitched up the member for Mitchell a few weeks ago.

Mr P. J. SMITH: I would not say he stitched him up. I now want to list some South West Development Authority achievements. There will be criticism about the projects for Bunbury, but they are the sorts of things this Government is looking for in developing regional centres into a sub-metropolitan area, so to speak; to provide facilities closer to rural people.

The establishment of the Bunbury Institute of Advanced Education has been a huge success. When I first came to Bunbury 16 years ago, Dr Ernie Manea was talking about a regional university and it was regarded as pie in

the sky because the number of people attending tertiary education institutions in the metropolitan area did not warrant a tertiary institution in Bunbury. When it was finally decided to go ahead with a tertiary institution, we said it would attract 100 students. We got 200 students in the first year and the figure has now reached 260, 250 of whom will go on to their second year of study in 1987. In addition, it is estimated that some 350 extra students will enrol for the first time in 1987, which is a huge increase in the original estimate of 200. That means the number of students could reach 600. We found that to our dismay the intake for this year may be restricted to 200. Why? Because the Joondalup centre of advanced education is nearly ready and it needs students to fill it. I am not criticising the Joondalup establishment. There is obviously a recognised need in the area and students have been allocated to it, but it all goes back to the tertiary commission of the Federal Government which made a decision some three years ago that the Bunbury establishment would not proceed because there was no reason for it and an allowance would have to be made for the Joondalup centre. This has meant in fact that of 350 students waiting to start we will be lucky to get 250 students. This is one of the problems created by the wise people in the east who keep telling us what we can and cannot do.

As members are probably aware, the State Government has put more than \$6 million into this establishment to provide to rural people in the south-west the tertiary education they deserve. However, the lack of funding from the Tertiary Education Commission has meant a lack of facilities within that establishment.

The State Government has provided a magnificent library, for instance, but it has very few books because the books must come from the Tertiary Education Commission fund. It is estimated that we need \$125 000 for the next 10 years to bring it up to the standard expected of a major educational institution and that money must be found somewhere.

The Bunbury Institute of Advanced Education is here to stay; it is successful, and I hope we can convince the commission to fund it in the future and also to fund other regional tertiary centres as they are set up so that people can be encouraged to remain in their own areas to obtain tertiary education.

The Bunbury Transit Bus Service is another success. It began in January 1986. It quickly increased its patronage and now it has reached some 11 300 passenger journeys per week.

The service is mainly of advantage to the elderly and the disabled. For the first time people who for years have been confined to their own homes or can only travel small distances without depending on others with cars, can now travel across the city or visit shopping centres they have heard about but have never seen, and they can travel from country urban area to country urban area.

Mr Blaikie: I am particularly interested in the development of that service because the proprietor is one of my constituents. How many fare paying passengers compared to school children is it carrying?

Mr P. J. SMITH: The member is excluding concession and student fares? This information was sought in a question asked by Hon. Vic Ferry. It is actually nowhere near as many as those figures indicate, but the service is growing and that is the point.

Mr Blaikie: It has been very busy.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! This is all fairly chummy, this little game members are having down there. The member for Bunbury should keep on the track of his speech and should not be distracted by the master of the art of distraction, the member for Vasse.

Mr P. J. SMITH: The "Bunbury 2000" concept will see an inter-town bus service set up. Criticism is often levelled at the fact that buses are running empty. The same criticism is levelled at the MTT. I think the cost per head in the Bunbury area for bus services is \$17 whereas in the metropolitan area the estimate is between \$60 and \$70 per head. Perhaps I should look at some of the other "Bunbury 2000" programmes which are now well under way. The 11-storied Bunbury tower is nearing completion and will be a centre for public servants. The nearby Lord Forrest Hotel is a bonus for the Government as part of the development and it will be completed next month. It will provide high standard international accommodation to attract visitors from all parts of the globe to Bunbury and the south-west.

The railway marshalling yards have been cleared and a \$1.5 million town square will soon be developed. A double-storied hypermarket will be built nearby. The rapid transit inter-city rail link is well under way with the first tests of the new railcars due early in 1987.

Basically the first stage, the "bricks and mortar" part of the development, is nearing completion and it is now time to go on to the second stage to put the "face" onto the project to provide services for people.

The aim of the second stage will be to improve the quality of life in both community needs and health for Bunbury and for the south-west. As I emphasised earlier, the plan sees the regional centres being built up with the facilities that are normally available in the metropolitan area and these will be of particular help to disadvantaged people; the elderly, the handicapped, and women who are confined in most cases to their homes because of their family needs.

The first step was to set up a community needs study late last year. This study and its two reports were commissioned by the South West Development Authority. One report lists all the community services providers in the south-west and the other one is a thorough survey of existing community resource networks and recommendations for improvements.

Mr Blaikie: What is the cost?

Mr P. J. SMITH: I am not sure of the cost and, quite frankly, I do not care about that because it is planning for the south-west.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr P. J. SMITH: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. To advise on the implementation of this study, a human resources committee has been set up recently. Main areas of the south-west are represented and the implementation of this study will be monitored by that committee.

There is a long list of achievements and visions. I note that most of the improvements are aimed at the disadvantaged or to improve the situation of women. A community house was established on the edge of the town to care for children and to act as a meeting place. A child-care centre has been set up as a joint project between the south-west college of TAFE and the Bunbury Institute of Advanced Education to provide for the staff and for those women who are now re-entering secondary and tertiary education. We hope another child-care centre will be soon established closer to the central business district to cater for those parents who have child-care needs in that area.

A new health centre is nearing completion at the southern end of Bunbury in an area composed mainly of new and Homeswest homes.

For the older citizens of the town a senior citizens' centre has just been upgraded at a cost of \$334 000 with contributions from both the State and Federal Governments.

Psychiatric services have been established at the Bunbury Regional Hospital. Services have been established for the intellectually handicapped, and respite care for the physically handicapped, both groups of people who have been basically neglected in the country. This project has been assisted by both the Federal Government and the State Government. All of these services are "firsts" in a regional centre.

Future plans include a "Health Yourself Shop" which will be set up by the Health Department to provide information to people in the south-west on all matters relating to personal health, specialising in advice and information particularly for women, children, the disabled, and the elderly.

There are plans for the construction of a rehabilitation centre at the Bunbury Regional Hospital which will include geriatric services, assessment, psychiatric services, and other therapy.

Also it is planned that professionally staffed mobile counselling and advice services will be set up to cater for the people of the south-west. There are plans for the development of a south-west region 24-hour crisis unit specialising in child protection and domestic violence matters.

Other facilities are planned. However, I do not have time to go into them. The private welfare groups have also been active. Centrecare with the assistance of a grant has just set up a new counselling service for people who are experiencing marital or personal problems. The Anglican Church is presently fundraising to provide financial and legal counselling as well as a home for the food barn and "op shop" services. These are all associated with the general area of need.

Members can see that the aim is to provide the services commonly enjoyed by the metropolitan area in a regional centre, services that will be available for everybody around the centre. I am delighted that Bunbury is the pilot project. I am sure it is working and will continue to work and will soon go to other rural centres.

I support the motion.

MR CLARKO (Karrinyup) [8.22 p.m.]: I begin by wishing you well, Mr Deputy Speaker, in your post as Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees. I ask you to convey to the Speaker my best wishes in his extremely difficult task of Speaker of this House. He has been given the almost impossible task of being totally impartial for the time that he occupies that Chair. I

think it is tremendously difficult for any human being to attempt to reach that ideal but I am sure that he will strive to do so. I do not wish to put the mocker on him, but I believe he has begun in an excellent fashion and I hope he will continue with those ideals, as I am sure you will continue with them, Mr Deputy Speaker. I was Deputy Speaker for some time and I carried out my duties without a Government motor car. I am sure that you will have that little bit extra to put into the job that I did not have.

I wish to talk tonight on a subject about which I am particularly interested; that is, the lack of honesty and truthfulness associated with the extension of Marmion Avenue. The credibility of many of the protesters, in my opinion, is in tatters. Their records as conservationists and environmentalists would be completely destroyed if the citizens of Western Australia cared to look at the sand that has been moved for the purposes of extending this road. There is no sustainable conservation argument that can be put against the development of the road.

The vegetation in that area is the poorest imaginable. If there were any less vegetation there would be nothing but sandhills of the type in the Lancelin area. These protesters have been completely dishonest in arguing that the vegetation is special, unique, and worthy of preservation despite the fact that the Environmental Protection Authority has conclusively approved of the project and every Government body that has considered the matter has given its support to the road extension.

I repeat: the sandhills have virtually no cover, especially on the western side and to argue that that vegetation is original is absolute nonsense because it gets burnt out every few years and returns to sand until salt-tolerant plants gradually reappear on the sand.

The City of Stirling has taken steps to try to preserve the vegetation on that land and it should be commended for that. Anyone who has been associated with the City of Stirling or with my electorate knows that I was the first person to arrange for an environmental study to be carried out on that land. That study was contained in "The West Coast Highway-Swanbourne Study" volume one of 1976.

Before I would give my support to the City of Stirling in the development of this road I told it that an environmental study of the area must be undertaken. Neil Hawkins, a co-member, mayor, and chairman of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority persuaded

the people who did the study to include it in that report. They concluded that if the road were built in roughly the fashion it is being developed, it would be preferable than trying to extend the tortuous track that runs from Trigg to Sorrento.

Mr Pearce: One proposal was that we should widen West Coast Highway to include Clarko Reserve.

Mr CLARKO: Clarko Reserve did not get its name from my actions. It exists because of me, but it did not get its name because of me.

I think it should be clearly understood that this is not the first road through this country; it is the third road. Elliott Road was the first road from north Scarborough through the centre of the dunes. I suspect that road was probably built before the last war. The next road built was the existing West Coast Highway that links Scarborough to Trigg. It also went through the dunes. The new extension will be the third road to go through that country.

The so-called protesters are fighting a battle that was really fought many years ago.

The West Coast Highway was probably built because of the war. The history of the road is that it went from north through City Beach towards Scarborough. It was built below the dunes so that the enemy would not see the trucks going up the coast road. Everyone knows why Australian capital cities were built so many miles upstream so that they could not be blasted by warships of the French navy or some other equally potential invader.

I ask the protesters why there was no protest when Servetus Street was recently extended northwards through the dunes adjacent to Swanbourne Beach to link up with West Coast Highway near Wollaston College. That is the same dune; however not one word of protest was put forward by these so-called conservationists about the need to preserve that land. Again, many members who travel through this area would know that the large area on the corner of the West Coast Highway and Oceanic Drive was recently stripped of all vegetation. No protest was made then. In addition, recently in relation to the Hillarys marina, the sand dune on the Sorrento beachfront was levelled to provide facilities for that marina. If one drove toward Ocean Reef marina one would have seen white sand which is now being covered with some sort of protective grass; that is the same dune. There was no protest about that. I challenge those people who made no protest about those developments to

try to establish some sort of credibility by explaining why they are protesting so vehemently about this land. This is a story of dishonesty and untruthfulness.

I place in front of members the statistics relating to the area. The Trigg "region open space" as we know it, covers an area of 65 hectares. Six hectares will be included in this development and the City of Stirling's road programme involves the expenditure of \$660 000 for the regeneration of the vegetation adjacent to the roadway.

I understand that that is the largest sum of money ever allocated in this State's history to a project of this type. I say without equivocation that when this road is built the adjacent land will have better vegetation cover on it than it has now. That would not be very difficult because it has virtually no vegetation at present.

I refer now to the entry of Ken Colbung. Ken Colbung is a remarkable man. One day I came into this Chamber just before we were due to resume after lunch to see him sitting in the seat now occupied by my good friend, the member for Floreat. He just sat there. He had just walked in. I point out that this was in the days before the introduction of security badges for everyone. I find Ken Colbung a very mixed bag. He is a Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde character. Much of what I have heard him say has been appropriate and responsible, but he lost me completely the day he threatened the crops of the farmers of Western Australia. Some members will remember reading that he said his people would burn the farmers' crops. That statement ended my tendency to be supportive of Ken Colbung.

Ken Colbung must be trying some sort of stunt, but it will not further the cause of those people who are trying conscientiously to establish a proper record of the special Aboriginal sites, sacred and otherwise, in Western Australia. Mr Colbung has admitted, more or less, to the media that he went to the site because he was a friend of Frank Boardman, one of the many activists in the Scarborough area.

Mr Read: Those carvings have been known of for at least 30 years by the residents of Scarborough.

Mr CLARKO: I do not know about that.

Mr Colbung mentioned fishing in that area. I have lived in the area for 30 years and used to visit before that. In fact, the football club used to have its kegs in the sandhills there. Ken Colbung was quoted as saying that he thinks Aboriginals used to use Trigg beach as a fishing

place. I do not think that sandy strip of beach would be a good fishing place. The fishermen that I know of would rather fish off the rocks. Anyone wanting to spend their time camped down in the Trigg dunes ought to be certified. It is a rather bleak spot. Very few people wander through it in normal circumstances.

Under the revegetation proposal, attention will be paid to the establishment of much better quality vegetation than exists in that spot at present. Ken Colbung has succeeded only in undermining his position and that of those people who seriously wish to protect and conserve genuine Aboriginal sites in this State. If we were to take his argument to the extreme, it would mean that virtually every spot where an Aborigine once sat, walked, ate, gathered items, broke a branch off a tree or cut a piece off a tree for a particular purpose would become sacrosanct and that present day Australians, including Aborigines, would in some way be denied the full use of such land in the same manner as it is sought to deny use of this land for the building of a road.

I am not trying to say that there are not many sites in Western Australia which are sacred to Aborigines and which should be preserved, but there is a system we should use to classify such sites. Specialists from the Western Australian Museum went to this particular site and stated that there was no special need to recognise the area. I congratulate the new Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on his appointment and point out that he confirmed that statement on behalf of the State Government.

The stunt by Colbung was paralleled only by the visit of Vince Serventy to this site a year ago. Vince Serventy, who apparently now lives in Sydney, came over here and shed—a mixed metaphor, perhaps, in the light of what I am going to say—crocodile tears on television as he held a little bobtailed goanna. The new Minister for Tourism, Racing and Gaming stated to this House in August last year that that particular goanna had been brought down from Joondalup to be used as part of the propaganda being used to develop this very flimsy case certain people have attempted to make about the fauna and vegetation of this site.

Who supports this road? First, the State Labor Government of Western Australia and several of its Ministers have made statements making their support perfectly clear. All the local politicians in the area, with the exception of the present Federal member for Stirling, Ron Edwards, support this road. All the city councillors from Wanneroo and Stirling who re-

resent those coastal wards—and, naturally enough, the cities of Stirling and Wanneroo—support the project, as does the State Planning Commission. I have already mentioned the Environmental Protection Authority, which also supports the project.

Ron Edwards, of all the district's representatives, stands alone as being violently opposed to the extension. Local people believe his opposition is due to the fact that he lives very close to the site of the new road. He lives on what we call the Trigg Hill. He is entitled to come out and say that he lives on that site and that the road would be noisy or something of that sort. I would respect him had he come out and said that, but he has tried to hide behind the conservationist cloak and to develop an argument that cannot be sustained.

When I said in this Parliament last August that that was the reason for Ron Edwards' opposition, Ron Edwards rang me up the next day and abused me for making the statement that local people believed that he was opposed to the extension because of where he lived. He went on at great length. Imagine how I trembled when I received this assertive and aggressive phone call from Ron Edwards! I asked him why he did not come and speak to me in my office about it. Members may not know it, but he and I both occupy a room on the first floor of Northcourt in the Karrinyup shopping centre. His office is as far from mine as the Premier's office is from here. The Premier's office is a long way away in one sense, but I am talking about the geographical sense.

I challenged Mr Edwards to come and talk to me face to face. When he would not agree to do so, I called him a coward, but only after he had shouted at me for quite a long time. In his ranting and raving, he would not listen to me when I pointed out to him that his house was built on the same vegetation as that now being removed. In his electorate, hundreds of houses are built on vegetation like this, yet he makes no protest about it. He also has not made any protest about the land at Swanbourne, City Beach or Hillarys.

I ask why it is that Ron Edwards is the odd man out. Every other local politician supports the extension. A petition signed by 4 000 local people shows their support for the project. Something like 2 100 submissions on this proposal were forwarded to the Government and almost all of them were in favour of extension. Ron Edwards got so heated in his telephone conversation with me that he named one of his Labor Party colleagues as one who was against

the road. I told him that that was absolute nonsense and that only that day I had seen a petition on which this particular gentleman's name was written. He denied it. That is systematic of the frenzy into which Ron Edwards has got himself over this matter.

At one stage he told the Press that the road-way would cause many problems to the people in City Beach and Cottesloe. I have said before and I say again that the people of North Beach and Trigg will be reminded at the time of the next Federal election that their Federal member places those people before them, because it is a very serious matter to the people of Trigg, North Beach, and Sorrento. In the last three years three pedestrians have been killed in this area. There is no question that those deaths can be attributed to the road condition in that area. Many more have been killed in the area in car accidents. I knew some of those who have been killed. I knew of the girl who was killed opposite the surf club; I knew the gentleman who was killed opposite the marine laboratory. The deaths occurred in dips or bends where there was no continuing line of sight. The story of those people will be rammed home to everybody.

Even the newspapers have been full of the troubles within the Labor Party because of what Ron Edwards has been doing and how Councillor Kevin Smith would stand against him for the seat. He has now backed off. I also see in the Press that Labor people have been told that they will be expelled from the Labor Party if they make any more statements on this matter. Ron Edwards has been accused also of deliberately leaking information to the Eastern States media, reported in *The Western Mail* as having been discussed at the State Executive of the ALP.

I refer to the tapes affair. We have a situation where the previous spokesman, Robyn Murphy, has ceased to be a spokesman because she may be expelled from the Labor Party. We now have a lady called Colma Keating of Mt Lawley. On Channel Seven about 3 June she stated that the reason for this fiasco was the fact that members of the Labor Party had taken bribes on this issue and the Liberals were not saying anything because they had taken bribes also.

I sought the opportunity to rebut this on Channel Seven but this was denied to me. I challenge Miss Colma Keating to produce her evidence that Liberals have taken bribes that impinge in any way on the construction of the Trigg extension. I would have thought the

Labor Party would not be too happy about people making statements on television that it had not done certain things because of bribes. I know of no Liberal or Labor person who has taken a bribe.

These people are so desperate that, when they found out no-one would believe the area was one of fine vegetation—when it is covered with grey sand—and not an Aboriginal sacred site, they looked for any reason in order to stop this road extension. That is why these improper statements are being made.

I have spoken in this House on the matter. I have put out Press releases and have attended and spoken at a meeting in the Karrinyup cultural centre at which you, Mr Deputy Speaker, also spoke. I think what you said was on the ball. The Minister for Local Government is reported in *The Western Mail* of 31 May as calling on a group of 50 Trigg ratepayers to make specific allegations before he decides to investigate the City of Stirling secret tape affair.

The Trigg protesters have failed to prove that the extension should be stopped because there is a need to conserve unique vegetation. That was nonsense. The protesters say the work should be stopped to preserve a sacred Aboriginal site. That claim has been refuted by the Minister and other experts. They also say that it should be stopped because there are other better alternatives.

One of their spokesmen stated that the group wants to stop people travelling on this particular road. They want people to travel on the freeway. I invite any resident of the northern suburbs who has to travel down the freeway at 8.00 a.m. to try to visualise an additional thousand or so cars. So that case has no substance.

The Trigg extension of Marmion Avenue is desperately needed to reduce traffic chaos on West Coast Highway from Trigg to Sorrento; to make that road safer by reducing traffic volume; to improve access to the beaches in the area both for pedestrians and motorists; and to allow Marmion Avenue to be used as the true alternative to the coast road. Marmion Avenue was specifically built as an alternative road to West Coast Highway. Millions of dollars have been spent on Marmion Avenue. Neil Hawkins and I, many years ago, had to press the Minister of the day and the Main Roads Department to have it built. We had the programme advanced by two or three years. It is the true alternative road. We need it as part of continuing the pattern of moving commuter traffic off

the coast. I am sure you, Sir, have travelled from Fremantle, through Leighton, past the old cable station. Our present system takes us inland to avoid going through South Cottesloe. Once we used to travel along the beachfront, along Challenger Drive through City Beach. Now, this Trigg project will allow the same thing.

It is part of an overall pattern for moving commuter traffic off the immediate coastal highway. It should not be called a highway. Many years ago I proposed that it should be called Panamuna Drive. Some lady wrote to the paper and suggested it be called West Coast Drive. I put it to members that Panamuna Drive is a more attractive name. In case the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs is not aware of it, "panamuna" is the local Aboriginal word for ocean. It is a lovely sounding word. I think it would be wonderful if we were able to provide tourists from other States and overseas—and not just during the America's Cup period—with a magnificent coastal strip from Trigg to Sorrento and the north-west. This would allow proper accessibility for swimmers, sunbakers, fishermen, and tourists—young and old alike. At the present moment, the very young and the elderly cannot cross this road. If commuters from the city try to cross at 5.00 p.m. there is usually so much traffic coming up West Coast Highway that they cannot get to their houses. One certainly would not let young people cross the road because it is too dangerous. In addition, we may be able to provide more car parking which will relieve problems for those people who have to park inordinate distances from the beach.

We have reached the situation where nearly every night the television news carries a report on this issue. We are led to believe that this is a dreadful intrusion on some beautiful vegetation. None of us likes to tear out a plant unless we have a good reason for doing so. I do not think any member in this place would want to go around knocking down trees unless it was to build a house, a roadway, or a school. It is only done when there is a need for it. We do have to make choices. I have some sympathy for the people who live near Ron Edwards. I have no sympathy for Ron Edwards because of the way he has behaved in this matter.

Many people in the Trigg area are delighted that they will be able to cross down to Clarko Reserve, play on it, go to the beach, and so on. I have some sympathy for those people.

Of the four people arrested—the acting head of the Conservation Council, Colma Keating, Mr Archdeacon from Scarborough, and another person from Beaconsfield—only one was from the Trigg area.

Those people are part of some rented crowd. There was a lot dishonesty about how many people would be at the protests each day. There were supposed to be 100, but often it was more like 20—three-quarters of whom would be the same old diehards we all know. Quite a few of them happen to be supporters of the political party opposite. No doubt they have been giving the Government an unhappy time. There is no doubt that this road will be of tremendous advantage to the people of that region and to the metropolitan area of Perth overall.

MR D. L. SMITH (Mitchell) [8.51 p.m.]: It is with pleasure that I join in this Address-in-Reply to the speech given by His Excellency the Governor (Prof. Gordon Stanley Reid AC) on the opening of this Parliament on 10 June. I would like to commence by asking you Mr Deputy Speaker, to convey to the Speaker my personal congratulations on his election to that high office. I know that he will have a considerable sense of personal achievement in having attained that office. I am sure he will bring to it those admirable personal qualities which have helped him to reach that position.

I would also like to convey to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, my congratulations on being elected Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees. I am sure you will bring to that position the degree of light relief and volume which is required, even if on occasions you have to listen to speeches like that made by the member for Karrinyup, when you are probably itching to join in the debate.

I would like also to convey my congratulations to those new members on this side of the House, the members for Canning, Subiaco, Welshpool, Cockburn, Victoria Park, and Maylands. The member for Maylands, of course, is a former member of another place. I suppose we brought him in on some sort of skilled migration programme. Some might say we do not need that programme, in view of the academic qualifications of some new members. However, it is also pleasing to see that at the same time we have brought to Parliament people like the member for Cockburn, who has all the qualities associated with the traditional origins and aspirations of this great party.

I would like also to convey my congratulations to those members of the National Party who have entered Parliament for the first time, the member for Katanning-Roe, the member for Narrogin, the member for Mt Marshall, and the member for Avon.

I have listened with interest to those who have spoken already and I have found that the speeches reflect, in my view, a much more substantive and considered attitude than we have been used to from some of the members they have replaced. I hope that will continue in their future deliberations.

I also welcome the two new Liberal members, the member for Murchison-Eyre and the member for East Melville. I listened with interest to the maiden speech of the member for Murchison-Eyre, and I would not strongly disagree with much of what he said, except for what we normally associate with the philosophy of the party he represents. It is true that those people who inhabit his electorate are great contributors to the State, and they live in circumstances which those of us who enjoy coastal residence do not necessarily suffer. However, I would like to refer to productivity of the particular part of the State I represent; namely, the south-west. It is not by any means true that the mining wealth of this State is produced solely in those outback areas.

If one looks at the 1983-84 figures of the Bureau of Statistics, one finds that the south-west produced a \$285 million turnover in mineral wealth. That by itself does not seem so impressive until one realises that it does not include any of the alumina in the area; that adds another \$700 million odd to the figure, which means almost a third of the total mineral wealth of this State is produced in the south-west which I have the pleasure to represent.

Similarly, it is not true that we do not contribute our share of primary production. The same source shows that the south-west of Western Australia produced 8.6 per cent of the agricultural wealth of this State, and that reflects directly the percentage of the State population which lives in the south-west. In terms of population, the south-west area has more agricultural establishments than any part of Western Australia other than the midlands.

That, of course, is not the limit of our produced wealth. We have forestry and other resources in the south-west, including tourism, which add much to the wealth of the State. I feel it is necessary to remind members of those facts, because it is said by some that I am par-

ochial in my approach and demand too much for the south-west. I do not think that what has been happening in the south-west under three years of good government by the Burke Administration is in any way an unnecessary or extravagant expenditure or an improper push for development of the area.

One in four of all country West Australians lives in the south-west. One in 16 of all West Australians lives in the greater Bunbury area. As I have said, the people of that area do more than their share in terms of making this State the rich State that it is.

That is not to say there are no problems confronting that part of the State which I represent. In particular we have such problems as the dairy industry legislation which has recently been passed by the Federal Parliament. That legislation will impose a financial burden on the dairy farmers of my electorate and in the State generally which, with the current terms of trade and the cost-price squeeze, they will find extremely difficult to carry.

I was very pleased with the opposition to the passage of that legislation which was mounted by the previous Minister for Agriculture, the member for Warren, and certainly by the new Minister for Agriculture. However, I have been somewhat concerned that members opposite, including some of those representing the south-west, have somehow or other tried to suggest that the Federal legislation is the idea of the Labor Party alone, and it was only the Labor Party which was moving for that legislation to be passed through the Federal House. That, of course, is not so, as can be seen from extracts which I will cite from *Hansard* of the Federal Parliament.

Mr Hunt, National Party, New South Wales, the lead speaker for the Opposition, commenced his speech with these words—

The Opposition does not oppose the Dairy Produce Bill.

He concluded his speech with these words—

Mr Blaikie: Come on, you are not being honest.

Mr D. L. SMITH: He concluded his speech by saying these words—

I wish the Bills a speedy passage and look forward to their enactment prior to the implementation date for many of the provisions, 1 July.

Mr Blaikie: You are not being honest.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr D. L. SMITH: The member for Braddon, Tasmania, Mr Miles, concluded his speech with these remarks—

The Opposition supports the legislation because marked changes have occurred which will give a degree of security to the hard working dairy farmers to plan for the future. That would not have occurred if the 1985 legislation had been passed unopposed.

Mr Lloyd, a member of the National Party from Victoria, said this—

Like the dairy farmers of Australia, the Opposition, while not being actually enthusiastic about the legislation, will not oppose it because it is seen as the best possible compromise at this time.

Mr Robinson, a National Party member from Page, New South Wales, said—

I will content myself with saying that I am delighted that the industry has been able to negotiate to the extent that it has in terms of this very complex measure.

He ended his remarks with these words—

I hope this measure will be the first step towards meeting a most critical situation in one of the industries of this country which has been beleaguered for a very long time.

When the matter moved into the Senate, similar remarks were made. Senator Collard from Queensland, a National Party member, said—

This legislation will make the industry more market responsive. It will see Government regulations reduced, and that is to be welcomed.

In terms of the history of the legislation, and referring to Mr Rawley, he said—

Ultimately, he has been able to weld the industry together, diverse as it is, with all the differing problems State by State, and achieve general agreement on these six Bills which are before the Senate.

Senator Macklin, a Queensland Australian Democrats member, said—

I welcome these Bills. I welcome the grudging acceptance . . .

Senator Watson, a Liberal Senator from Tasmania, said—

It is unfortunate that the Government has allowed so many dairy farmers to pass through so much trauma, anguish and loss of sleep over the past few months.

He concluded—

I therefore support the Bills.

I think the member for Merredin asked about the Western Australian Federal members. What, indeed, about our members? Mr Peter Drummond, the member for Forrest, spoke at length and very adequately explained those provisions of the legislation which will more particularly hurt WA. He tells me that he voted "No" on the voices. That is not recorded in *Hansard* but I accept what he says. He certainly did not take the step of recording his opposition to the legislation in *Hansard*. The other House of Representatives members from this State did not speak on the legislation and as far as I am aware did not oppose it in the House.

In the Senate, not one WA Opposition member spoke on the legislation, although perhaps the explanation relates to the use of the guillotine motion. However, Senator McKiernan, a Labor Senator, very adequately put Western Australia's position before the Senate. When it came to the vote, the only WA Senator who recorded his name against the passage of the legislation was Senator Crichton-Browne.

What I am saying is this: Members opposite have to accept that that legislation was not party-political; it was legislation which had the acceptance of the dairy industry of the Eastern States and the support of Liberal and National Party members in those Eastern States, both in the House of Representatives and in the Senate.

In terms of whether those people who represent Western Australia in the Federal Parliament adequately put our case, I congratulate the member for Forrest, and the member for Brand for the very strong position she took in Caucus and in the ALP's rural committee. The work she did was reported in a number of speeches. I also congratulate Senator McKiernan.

As for the rest of the Western Australian representatives, they could have done a lot more to impress upon the Federal Parliament the very devastating effects the legislation will have on this State. They should have been doing that on a non-partisan basis. They should have been acting in a most constructive way, and not as has been attempted by members opposite and by some of the Federal members who represent the same parties as those members, to somehow make political capital out of the legislation.

What we have to do is sit down as a State with our own industry leaders and work out ways to alleviate the impact of that legislation on producers in my area.

Mr Blaikie: If you and I had been in Canberra, we would have voted against it.

Mr D. L. SMITH: I would hope so, but one recognises that both sides have the problem of what is decided in the party room. It is clear that all the parties in Canberra decided they would support the legislation, and I refer to the Liberal members, the Labor members, the National Party members, and apparently the Australian Democrat members.

Mr Blaikie: You and I would have broken convention.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Chum, the member for Vasse, could you be just a little bit quiet, please?

Mr D. L. SMITH: That is not the only matter of concern to me. It is a sad fact that over the last couple of years, two of the abattoirs in my electorate have had to close for financial reasons. This has had an impact not only on direct employment caused by the jobs lost, but also on buyers removed from the market place at sales. Certainly in the local market for various meat types, it has caused a reduction in the price obtained by the producers for their cattle and other livestock.

The Government was able to support one of those abattoirs for five or six months, but ultimately in the current financial climate it was unable to continue that financial support, with the result that the abattoir had to close. However, in the next few days I intend to make representations to the Premier about receiving a delegation from the people in my electorate who have a proposal to reactivate that abattoir.

It is also of concern to me that some of the small timber mills in my electorate are suffering from the current downturn in hardwood offtake in the forests. It looks likely that two of those mills will, in the short term, see an end of the timber available to them and therefore be left in the position of either having to pay high costs for salvage logs or to close. I hope the Minister for Conservation and Land Management pays regard to the needs of those small mills and any other mill in the south-west in a similar position.

I would not like all of my speech to be spent on aspects of doom and gloom. As I have said, we are in the fortunate position in the south-west where the basis of our industries—our mining, agricultural, forestry, and tourism in-

dustries—and providing regional administrative services is sufficient to accelerate the kinds of expansion envisaged in the "Bunbury 2000" scheme and to override those ups and downs we have at different times.

It is only too true that over the last 12 months we have suffered a sad experience in WA where, to a large extent, primary production and primary industry have been talked down to a stage where it is affecting more than just those areas of the State which have been affected by drought, the terms of trade, and other cost-price squeezes—particularly the eastern, north eastern, and south eastern wheatbelt, where they are obviously in great financial strife. It has also started to impact on areas in my electorate where, although the beef, milk and other aspects of our primary production have been strong in market price terms and the seasonal conditions have been good, we find the value of land is dropping, the borrowing capacity attaching to that land is dropping considerably, and the rates of interest that institutions are requiring before they lend to my primary producers is being kept at levels which are higher than those recently faced by other sectors of industry.

That is largely the fault of some primary industry leaders who have tended to overstate the problems of primary production in this country and have tended to talk about a whole host of problems without talking about the benefits that have come from other sources.

It is true that we have had a savage devaluation of the dollar, but what farmers should be saying is that they welcome that devaluation because without it many of them would be in a much more severe financial situation than they are now. Certainly in respect of terms-of-trade considerations they would be in a much worse situation than is currently the case.

It would also be worthwhile for these farm leaders to look at the positive things that are now starting to happen within the economy. I took the trouble prior to the dinner suspension to visit the library and photocopy some financial pages that reflect the financial situation as it was at 31 December last year. I found that the overdraft rate at 31 December was set between 19.25 per cent and 21 per cent. This morning's Press indicates that the rate has dropped to between 16.75 per cent and 17.5 per cent.

We as representatives of the State need to go out to those primary production areas and say to the people there, "Look, things are bad; we recognise what the problems are; but it does

not mean the end. There is a real future". With interest rates starting to come down, with the value of the dollar being what it is and with an indication that some commodity prices—not necessarily for wheat—have started to rise, there is some prospect that all our farmers have a long-term future and it is certain that others do have a long-term future. It is not true that the doom and gloom is carrying over into the decision-making area of other sectors of the economy in Australia.

If one looks at the same newspaper of 31 December one sees an article that is quite optimistic about the stock market where the index had just gone past the 1 000 mark. In this morning's paper one sees that the index is now 1 209, although it has come down a little since early in the month. It is now 20 per cent above the level in December. Those people who invest their money in the stock market are not seeing the economic climate as anywhere near as desperate as some members opposite are trying to portray it.

I despair a little at the way they utilise other aspects of change in the Australian financial climate to demonstrate that business is collapsing and that our economic future is so bleak that we should be getting on planes to other parts of the globe as migrants.

For instance, if I can turn now to the fringe benefits tax. The way this matter has been treated in the financial pages and in some financial auditoriums is surprising because if one looks at *Time* magazine of 26 May 1986 one sees under the heading, "A Nation of Accountants", a description of the tax package that has been devised in that country. The article states—

To raise enough money to give individuals an average 6.3% federal tax break, the committee's bill would levy an extra \$100 billion on corporations. The plan would reduce or abolish many cherished business preferences, including the investment tax credit for companies that buy business equipment and the full deductibility of corporate entertainment.

That same article goes on under the heading, "Curbing the deductibility of business entertainment", to state—

Though few business executives still drink three martinis at lunch in these days of white wine and Perrier, they continue to run up huge bills. The committee's plan would allow businesses to deduct only 80% of entertainment expenses, instead of the

full tab. The restaurant industry warns that the tax-reform proposal could eventually cost the jobs of some 1.3 million waiters, busboys and other workers.

Further on under the heading, "Eradicating tax shelters", the article states—

The committee put enough restrictions on tax shelters to make them all but extinct. Example: individuals will no longer be able to deduct investment losses on real property from other income.

They are the kinds of reform to the US tax system envisaged by these people who are legislators in what is regarded as the home of free enterprise. Indeed, the article begins with the quote, "The Business of America is Business", and yet in that country those changes are not being portrayed as a foretelling of doom and gloom. There is a new spirit in America, for whatever reasons, that indicates pride and optimism about the future when their international trade situation is far worse than ours, as are their national debt and Government deficits.

Time magazine of 16 June contains an excellent article on the question of the future of America, and the best that America has to offer across a range of fields. It is interesting that in the same edition a poll on the deductibility of business meals and entertainment showed that 71 per cent of those polled favoured a change and 29 per cent opposed it. There is a similar poll about a host of other changes, yet in this country business groups are running around foretelling doom and creating pessimism about the economy that will dry up the incipient recovery that has been under way for the last couple of years.

The remarkable thing is that although people are saying those things, the stock market is going great guns and has gained 20 per cent since December and interest rates, in terms of the overdraft rate, have come down 4 per cent. The value of the dollar on 31 December last was US 66c and today it is US69c. Admittedly, across the basket of currencies, the trade weighted index is lower now than in December, but that is not necessarily a bad thing.

Looking at the last trade figures one can see the J-curve is working and that the visible trade deficit is now at a level where it is not a major concern. The concern relates to the invisible trade deficit, and one of the major causes of that problem is the extent of borrowing overseas by private business rather than by Government. Those who paint the national situation

as the fault of the Hawke Government over the last three years are talking through their hats. The largest element of the overseas debt is private debt, and more importantly the Federal Government deficit has reduced in each of the last three Budgets and will continue to do so under the current Federal Government programme.

I mention these things because we owe it to the country and especially to the primary producers and miners we represent to get out and start talking optimistically about this country. We have wealth in both what is in the ground and what we can produce from it, and in the people who apply themselves to those tasks. All we need is the leadership. It is not given by going around with one's chin on the ground preaching doom and gloom like someone out of a Shakespearean play on the eve of the ides of March. Our role is to provide direction and encouragement and to make people optimistic about reactivating those sectors of industry which will help our trade situation and provide a future for young people.

I wanted to raise a number of other matters, but my time is running out. In particular I wanted to address a couple of concerns which are not related to the matters I have just mentioned. One concern I have as a lawyer relates to the tendency to prosecute people in circumstances where, on mature reflection, one would appreciate that convictions were not likely or even possible on the evidence available to the people who are prosecuting. I have been concerned in particular about one case of conspiracy in Bunbury which I hope to address later when the opportunity arises. In my view the reputations of three people who have contributed much to the Bunbury community in various ways were ruined when they were dragged through the courts in a way I found quite disgusting. I do not think there is any other word for it.

It made me ashamed that as a member of Parliament I was in some way responsible for the laws which enabled that to occur. Those people have had their reputations sullied in a way that was not justified. As a result of the sully of their names in the Press they will never recover the very good reputation which existed beforehand. In these times of economic difficulty and concern about the high level of crime and problems in society, we should not get away from the notion that we represent all that is best in the English tradition of the common law in terms of individual freedoms, especially that aspect which says that no-one is

guilty until it is proven beyond reasonable doubt and that every man is innocent until that occurs. People should be free from the concern of being prosecuted in situations which are not justified. I thank the House for its time.

MR LEWIS (East Melville) [9.20 p.m.]: In rising to make this contribution in reply to the Governor's address, I do so with a feeling of great responsibility—a responsibility to represent as fairly as possible the opinions, attitudes, needs, desires and concerns, and above all to speak on behalf of the people of the East Melville electorate in order that they are heard and understood and that their observations and attitudes are taken cognisance of. I consider, of course, that as a junior member of the Opposition this responsibility as I see it, may not be accepted by this Parliament on all occasions, but members can be assured of my resilience and determination to endeavour to be an effective representative for my electorate.

Before continuing, Mr Deputy Speaker, I ask you to convey to the Speaker of this House my congratulations on his election to the high office of Speaker. As it is for him a new experience, it is also for me with this my maiden speech. I wish him well for his future determinations over this Assembly and trust that wisdom and equanimity will imbue a sense of propriety and dignity which, alas, I feel was wanting by some members on the afternoon of the opening of this session.

At this time also I extend my congratulations to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, on your appointment as Chairman of Committees and sincerely hope that the example which you will set will encourage decorum in this House of Assembly.

To be able to stand here tonight and address you, Mr Deputy Speaker, is a great privilege to me, not only as a member of Parliament and all that goes with it, but also having stood as a candidate for the Liberal Party and been elected by the people of East Melville as their third member of that electoral district. I am proud and honoured to be able to take my place to represent all those good people to whom I have pledged to serve full-time to the best of my ability. Notwithstanding anyone's political persuasions, religion or ethnic origin, I have also made it well-known that my electorate office door will always be open to those who wish to attend. No-one's politics will be inquired of and all that will be asked is, "How can I be of assistance and what is your opinion?"

I wish now to pay tribute to my predecessor, Mr Tony Trethowan. He is a great gentleman with natural courtesy and dignity who at all times acts with propriety and decorum. In the six years in which he represented East Melville he did so with diligence and a sense of responsibility to do his job properly; perhaps, on occasions, he did it too well.

Tony Trethowan brought wise counsel to his colleagues and, I understand, well-prepared and profound debate to this forum. I trust, therefore, that this House will join with me in recognising the retired and well-respected Anthony Markham Trethowan and to record his contributions to his political party, his electorate of East Melville and, indeed, to the Parliament of Western Australia.

I understand that it is not customary in this place to pay tribute to one's family or other individuals for the fear of its being considered rather trite, but I happen to be one who recognises the family as the foundation of our society. Indeed, in some circles, particularly on the left of the political spectrum, it is fashionable to discredit the wholesomeness and goodness of the traditional family; to discount the obligations and rights of parents of a family to accept the responsibility of parenthood; to put down the parents' desires to educate and imbue in their children what is right and proper and what is indeed wrong; to try to remove the natural rights of parents to bring up their children as they see fit and to inculcate in them fundamental understanding that one's rights exist only as long as the responsibilities that go with them are accepted.

We should not try to mutate the natural instincts of the family—to support, succour and teach. The welfare State does not know best. In fact, it endeavours to turn children into adults without their ever having the opportunity to be free and happy. Indeed, it stymies initiative and responsibility. Our heritage comes from people who went out with nothing to settle and establish themselves and to make their own way and enjoy the fruits of their labours. These people—our mothers and our fathers—accepted and expected the responsibilities for themselves and their family and were of common principle. In the main, they were too proud to accept assistance from their friends, let alone the Government. Unfortunately, the attitude in Australia today is to rely on the welfare State and to rip off as much as possible, without an awareness that someone else is contributing, or to have a conscience of mind that

to continually take without any effort to give or contribute is wrong.

Today we have an entire generation of people in this country who have been encouraged by welfare to rely on the State and who have grown up expecting the world to continue to provide for all their needs without having to work or contribute towards them. Fortunately for me, I was brought up in a traditional family environment and I was taught respect, self-discipline, self-reliance and to have a conscience, and more importantly what was right and what was wrong. For these attributes I thank my parents, Ken and Marj Lewis.

At this time I pay tribute to my immediate family—my wife, Helen, and my two children, Lachlan and Morgen, who have continually supported me to this, the threshold of my parliamentary career. While on this subject I acknowledge the help of the Dillon family and the many other friends, supporters, and party members who, by their efforts, have allowed me to take my place in this Assembly.

Of course, when considering a speech such as this one has the temptation to pour out all his frustrations on what he considers is not right with Government and society. However, I will curb my inclinations and draw to the attention of the House two matters in which I believe reform is well overdue. I use the word "reform" because it is a word which the Government understands and the Press likes to use. My reforms are targeted to that of land tenure, or ownership, and to the inequity of rating by statutory authorities, more particularly the Water Authority.

First, I refer to land tenure. Most members are probably aware that ownership of land in Western Australia is held under the Torrens system of a fee simple title which relates back to feudal times when the barons or owners of the land granted or sold title to certain people. Such being the case, fee simple implied that the land was unencumbered, with no restrictions or covenants, thus allowing the owner to do as he or she wished with his or her land.

The irony is that over the hundreds of years, but certainly more particularly over recent times, the fee simple or absolute ownership of one's real estate has stealthily been removed by the socialism of land by Governments of various political persuasions.

To illustrate this more clearly, 60 years ago the only way Government could affect or exercise rights over alienated land was by formal resumption which then required, and still does,

Executive Council approval followed by a statutory notice of intention to resume and compensation for loss calculated by a method which was then, and I believe still is, inequitable.

It is important to note that the certificate of title, the public document in itself, was required to be endorsed by the Registrar of Titles of any public intention to resume or to charge the land so that the public at large and, indeed, the fee simple owner was aware of the matter.

Of course then came the Town Planning and Development Act of 1928 which gave the Government and local authorities further power to restrict the use of land—a fact which today is accepted out of course—but what did not happen with the legislation was a requirement for the authority that removed by zoning some of those fee simple rights to tell the owner and endorse on the certificate of title just how the land is affected.

With the passing of time, the Local Government Act of 1960 was then proclaimed, which further eroded the “fee simple” status of land by allowing gazettal of intended road reservation widening—again without such intentions being required to be notified on title—and then further with the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act of 1959 which gave wide-ranging powers to the MRPA and the Minister to further restrict and encumber fee simple land without such intentions by the Government to be notified on title.

The virtually infallible Torrens system of title which used to and should tell the owner, the public, the Government or whoever, all of the charges, covenants, caveats, encumbrances, restrictions, intentions, zonings, and reservations on the parcel of land now virtually records only the commercial transactions such as mortgages, caveats, and the like. All other restrictions other than resumption notices peculiarly those which imply the Government's will, are not—I repeat, are not—notified on the public certificate of land holding.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I therefore with respect suggest that reforms and initiatives must be taken to again allow all matters affecting the fee simple holding of land to be recorded on the one public register and certificate of title of land—rather than allowing the perpetuation of the lax system which has been allowed to prevail which causes the public to have to check with four or five different agencies to ascertain just how their land is affected.

The other matter to do with reform of land is the statutory manner in which many unfortunate people are dispossessed of their real estate by Government acquisition under the threat of resumption or otherwise by actual resumption itself. I believe the statutory machinery of resumption was written into law within the Public Works Act of 1902 and has had very little amendment in the 80 years since that time.

So I say again, reform is required in this area to ensure that people are not driven out of their homes on the basis of valuation plus 10 per cent for disturbance. What must happen is that the Government and its agencies have to recognise that many people just cannot re-establish their homes to the same standards on the inequitable valuation plus 10 per cent formula. There must be taken into consideration other factors such as environment, convenience, family dislocation, nearness to workplace, and anxieties, and the plain simple peace of mind of those affected. These are true and real problems that exist, so I ask the House and the Government to take notice and reform.

I now direct members' attention to rating inequities which, with the passing of time, become more manifest as inflation and values changed. I refer principally to the plight of those people who, by hard work, self-pride, and in the main by disciplined saving, have built, acquired, or improved their residence or home so that it presents better and is therefore valued more highly than others.

These people, many of whom are in the twilight of their lives, are not wealthy, some are on age pensions and are virtually rated out of their homes when they are forced to pay up to 10-times the municipal rates which those on the minimum rate pay. I believe the rating system based entirely on property value, especially to do with one's place of residence is badly in need of reform. The valuation methods may have been all right years ago when there was property-franchised voting in local government, but today with adult franchise voting, a Federal taxing system where people are taxed on their income, rather than their property, why should these people be penalised for their thrift and hard work by the inequitable property rating system? Why should they be further taxed over and above the norm on the basis of their homes which they have had the same opportunity to acquire as others and for which they have saved for many years, when others perhaps have not seen their responsibilities and priorities the same way?

I therefore suggest to members of this House that reform in this area must take place, especially within the metropolitan region and larger areas of population so that the services of water, sewerage, refuse collection, road maintenance, libraries, recreation facilities, etc., are treated like any other commodity, and that the user pays in equity without the antiquity of a valuation component.

I know that over the years the unfairness of the rating system has been recognised and a few attempts have been made by inquiries and the like to find a solution. However, just because previous attempts have failed, this is no good reason to tuck it away and forget about it; perhaps it is all the more reason to do something about it, which is what I am asking the Government to do.

In the short-term, relief must be given—and to achieve this I suggest to the Minister for Local Government that local authorities should be encouraged to recognise the inequalities and, if necessary, advised to increase the amount paid for the minimum municipal rate, which in some cases is only \$120. By this means, the amount of revenue raised by what I refer to as the mean or nominal rate would be increased, with the effect of spreading the rate and reducing the amount of money needed to be raised by the valuation component, resulting in relief to higher-value property owners.

Of course the glaring anomaly in rating is the difference between sewerage and water charges and municipal rating whereby the Statute permits a concessional rate on the latter on one's place of residence while the Water Authority does not have the same statutory ability to do likewise. Why is it good for local government but not good for the Water Authority?

At this point I want to turn my attention to the Governor's address and amplify his words to the effect that members of Parliament carry heavy responsibilities, not only for their constituents but as elected representatives whose job it is to contribute to the well-being of the people of Western Australia. This charge the Governor has given us is so important, especially in these times of grave economic uncertainty, when at last the people of Australia are coming to their senses and realising that we cannot continue to live beyond our means on borrowed money.

It is indeed unfortunate that the manifestation of the country's gross overindulgences at this time will be seen in perpetuity, monumented by the new Parliament House in

Canberra. The impetus to this money-gobbling monster was, of course, given by the Fraser Government, but no countenance has been demonstrated by the Hawke Government, which, either as a result of complete incompetence or ignorance, has allowed the monetary estimates to explode five and a half times from a handsome \$180 million back in 1982 to an extravagantly exorbitant projected cost of \$1 000 million in 1988.

I must say, as one with a little experience in professional disciplines and building construction, that either the initial estimates were grossly and incompetently wrong, or scant regard to quantities and financial control has been exercised by the present Government. To me this extravagance highlights the troubles of our country, where there is an encouraged fashion or syndrome for all to go out and borrow; live on tomorrow, which unfortunately, in the economic sense, may not want to come.

I say to the Government and to this House that we all must exercise constraints on expenditure. Governments must be resolute and not fall to the easy option of picking on charges to raise more and more taxes, for the time is nigh when the people will say, "Enough is enough."

To conclude, I want to direct my observations to local government and its part in also carrying the burden and accepting the responsibilities of limiting borrowings and constraints in financial expenditure. As many members know, I have had the privilege of serving for many years as a local government councillor, and for this reason it grieves and disturbs me greatly that some of the cities and shires have not yet got the message on borrowing. Unfortunately they do not treat the financial responsibility of the council as they would their own money within their own circumstances. For this reason I suggest that the Government, through the Minister for Local Government, once again takes an overview of local government borrowing so as to counsel and if necessary restrict loan programmes which take no heed of current times.

At the present time it concerns me to know that the City of Melville, my own local authority, which has for many years set a magnificent example in local government by its strong leadership, wise government, and financial management, is considering a programme in excess of \$3 million on the basis of a rate revenue of approximately \$7.5 million. This proposed programme is for capital works and community services, some of which I believe can be put aside for a year or two until

Australia's economic circumstance changes. I believe that councillors must realise, as one realises in one's own home, it is foolish to try to satisfy all one's wants and wishes today.

Before closing, and whilst on local government, I want to pay tribute to and record the services of Mr Harry Strickland, AM, who served the State of Western Australia, particularly in local government, and more particularly the citizens of Melville, as a councillor for 30 continuous years. During that period he served four terms as deputy mayor. He was President of the Local Government Association for five years, and he was connected with local government in many other capacities too numerous to mention. Suffice to say he has been awarded the distinction of being made a Member of the Order of Australia for his service to local government, and on 9 April, 1986 he was elevated to the status of Freeman of the City of Melville.

Finally I say we must never forget that what we do in this Chamber affects the lives of our fellow Western Australians, and it is with humility that I pledge myself to their service.

I thank members of the Assembly for their courtesy.

[Applause.]

MR READ (Mandurah) [9.47 p.m.]: I would like also to join the long list of those who have passed on their congratulations to the member for Rockingham as Speaker of this place. As long as I have known him he has been a man of integrity and a man who has held the interests of his electorate in the very highest regard. No doubt he will hold the position of Speaker of this place in the same high regard.

I would like also to congratulate you, Mr Deputy Speaker, on your elevation to the position of Chairman of Committees and Deputy Speaker. I know that you will fulfil your duties in the same way as the member for Rockingham.

I also would like to congratulate those new members of the House who were elected at the last State election. I was a newcomer to this place in 1983, and I know that I was in some doubt at times about what I should do. On both sides the older members will assist those new members and smooth their paths.

Congratulations are extended also to those who have been elected to the Ministry, and no doubt they will enjoy fulfilling their duties in that respect.

The 1986 election was a resounding success for the Burke Government and its policies. It was an acceptance by the people of this State of what Brian Burke and his Government had done; an acknowledgment that over the past three years it has produced the right medicine for this State. That support was never greater than in regard to Mandurah.

I would like to congratulate those who have played some part in my successful re-election as the member for Mandurah. To begin with I would like to thank my wife, Rosemary, who acted as my campaign director, and who worked solidly and tenaciously for the full period of the campaign, giving me her full support and time.

I thank my daughter and four sons for the support they gave. They were always willing to help when asked. I also thank my local campaign team for the extra work they did above and beyond their ordinary duties of employment.

I congratulate the Australian Labor Party on the successful campaign that it ran. I also thank those many supporters—there were many indeed—who worked on polling day. They manned booths, acted as drivers, provided refreshments for workers, and gave general support. Without them we would have had some difficulty in holding the seat.

Finally, I record my thanks to the people of Mandurah for the compliment they have paid me in returning me as their representative in the State Parliament. It is rather a pleasant feeling to know that what one has done has been recognised and accepted by the people in one's electorate.

I refer now to the election campaign in general. As the political analyst, David Black, predicted, it was fought basically on local issues. Perhaps that was where the Opposition made its big mistake, because it chose to try to downgrade what the Government had done for Mandurah and the people of Mandurah recognised fully what had been done and did not accept what was being said.

The Opposition's campaign contained inconsistencies and perhaps they were best reflected in its attitude to the Dawesville cut. I recall the words of the Leader of the Opposition in the *Coastal District Times* of 15 August 1985 where he said—

... Liberal Government would support whatever action was necessary to preserve the region's waterways.

The remedial steps announced by the Government showed that the estuary and environs were not a political issue.

The Leader of the Opposition promised full support of the Dawesville cut if the feasibility studies proved favourable. Yet later on, in January, he changed that tack and said the Dawesville cut should go ahead without the reports and that the State Government was stalling by waiting for those reports to be completed. That sort of campaign is not accepted by the people of the electorate.

I was rather dismayed also when I saw in the Perth paper the now famous photograph of the local candidate and the Leader of the Opposition scooping weed out of the estuary. I talked to a number of people who were involved in catering for the visitors who come to Mandurah each Christmas and they were not at all pleased that that had been done in the middle of the tourist season. They saw it as a downgrading of Mandurah at a time when it did not need it.

In my maiden speech I gave a great deal of information on Mandurah, and most people in this House have been there, so I do not intend to repeat it. However, I indicate to the House that Mandurah continues to be the fastest growing local government centre in Western Australia. This has been confirmed by the newly released Commonwealth statistics from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Those figures indicate that Mandurah is holding a growth rate of over seven per cent and its June 1985 population showed an increase of 1 140 on the 1984 estimate. Those figures indicate that Mandurah is well on course to having its estimated population of 20 000 by 1987-88.

Associated with that was the corresponding steep increase in building approvals which went from \$19 717 000 in 1984 to \$31 438 000 in 1985. Mandurah leads the south-west in that growth.

I shall refer to some matters which are important to the future of Mandurah. The new bridge has now reached the other side of the channel and the finishing touches are being added. It will be of great benefit to Mandurah, because it will take the usually heavy traffic at holiday times out of the town centre and divert it through a by-pass system. The associated roadworks are proceeding well and the roadway is now being sealed.

The dual highway to Pinjarra which was initiated in this year's Budget is well under way. The first stage is formed and the sand is in

place for the location of the second bridge across the Serpentine River. The member for Murray-Wellington will no doubt be pleased that the work is proceeding apace, because that roadway causes him some concern.

In Mandurah the South West Development Authority continues to be an innovative body and an extremely valuable one within the town. I suggest to the member for Albany that he continue his support for the "Albany Tomorrow" concept, because one does not need to travel far around the south-west to see what has been achieved under the auspices of the South West Development Authority.

One of the local projects which is being fostered by the Mandurah office of the South West Development Authority is a smoked fish industry. A local fisherman has recently gone to Sydney on a fact-finding mission. He is very keen to be one of the initiators of the smoked fish industry in Mandurah. He has undertaken to visit a number of places while he is in New South Wales. I was pleased also to note the support which was given to him by the Minister for Fisheries in the form of letters of introduction and the like.

Earlier this year the Mandurah-Murray round took place and it was a great success. We started with a league football match on the Sunday. That was played between South Fremantle and Perth and for the benefit of the supporters of Australian Rules, Perth won. The local people thoroughly enjoyed the privilege of having a league football match played on their own home oval.

Greyhound racing, horse racing, and harness racing followed during the week and I hope that the Mandurah-Murray round will become a regular feature in the town's annual calendar.

Recently the Minister for Local Government travelled to Mandurah to release the Mandurah region bike plan. I recognise how important and well-received that bike plan was in the Mandurah area. It is a valuable addition to Mandurah's future planning and it is the first completed bike plan for a centre outside the metropolitan area. I acknowledge also the work which was done by the Mandurah shire's bike committee before the plan was actually formulated.

Thanks to the Minister for Sport and Recreation the Mandurah aquatic centre is now in its final stages and has already proved its value to the town as I am sure it will continue to do with the addition of the last two stages.

One of the most contentious issues to have arisen in the area since the election concerns the Dudley Park bores. The problem is thought to be the result of the construction of the John Holland canals. I am not sure that this is the case, because there is always a seasonal downgrading of the bores. But it is worrying that this downgrading is becoming quite extensive in the Dudley Park area. The shire is to be congratulated for forming an advisory group and for advertising for a canals engineer to support that group.

I am sure Opposition members are interested in the Dawesville cut, because they had a lot to say about it prior to the election. I suggest they travel to the Water Authority in Shenton Park and look at the model of the cut, which is most interesting and informative. In Mandurah the dredge is operating and removing the Fairbridge bank. The one concern I have in this respect is that the shire is opposed to paying a share of the dredging costs. I believe a co-operative effort is required.

One of the pleasing things that has happened in Mandurah is that it appears the normal annual decline in employment prospects after the summer holidays has not been as marked this year. According to the CES, the outlook for job seekers is expected to continue to improve as Mandurah's seasonal economic activity spreads throughout the year.

The March quarter unemployment figures for this year show that 1 695 people were registered as unemployed with the CES, that number representing 6.55 per cent of the work force in the upper south-west region. It is the usual thing for employment opportunities to decline in Mandurah between April and September, but there is now a concerted effort in the town's community to maintain activity all year round.

Of those people registered as unemployed in Mandurah, 72 per cent were male, with a low 28 per cent being female. The biggest group of unemployed fell in the 20 to 45 years age group, representing 25 per cent of the unemployed. Those people in the 15 to 19 years age group who were often referred to by the Opposition during the pre-election campaign, formed only 23 per cent of the unemployed.

In the next 12 months it is predicted that a further 200 to 300 permanent positions will be available in the district on account of the development taking place. For example, 16 new shops will be created at the Mandurah Forum, and other positions will be created at the new

Laurie Potter's development at Halls Head and various other developments. It is also estimated that a further 200 more part-time, temporary and casual positions will be created in the town.

One thing I omitted to mention when commenting on the election campaign was the south-west social policies conference held in Mandurah in late January. I was interested to hear the member for East Melville's comments on how important the family is in our society. Certainly my family is important to me. However, we cannot just carry on in simplistic terms saying that the family must be kept together. What we must do is consider what is happening to the family in our society.

At the conference I was amazed to hear that in 1985, New South Wales experienced 16 000 cases of domestic violence, 60 per cent of which involved broken limbs and psychological disturbances to the victims. Another frightening statistic given was that in the United Kingdom, one child a week is killed by its parent or parents and 6 000 cases of child abuse are reported each year with 10 per cent involving broken limbs, fractured skulls, or death.

I was surprised to learn that it was not until the 19th century that laws which permitted wife beating were finally eliminated.

I have been paying close attention to the debate raging backwards and forwards on the fringe benefits tax. I wonder about the fairness of what can only be classed as income not being taxed because it is earned in a different form.

It is interesting to recall the Westpac video with John Valder, the National President of the Liberal Party, in which he said something to the effect that fringe benefits were a disease in our society. He also said something along the lines that the Liberals should let the Labor Party do the hard things and make the hard decisions of Government so that they would be in place when the Liberals again formed the Government. It seems the Opposition here has forgotten that.

Two pieces of proposed legislation I await with interest. One deals with electoral reform. The election result shows that what the Burke Government is proposing in this area is accepted by the people of WA as being fair.

Mr Stephens: How do you know that the people who voted for the Burke Government voted for that platform and not its economic performance?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Leader of the National Party should follow the fine example set by his leader and not interject.

Mr READ: When people come into my office and talk about elections, they generally view electoral reform as being a fair thing. If the member for Stirling has not heard comments of that nature I would say he has not been listening.

The other piece of legislation which is overdue is for the declaration of financial interests of members of Parliament. I am hoping the Opposition will take a more positive view of this legislation this time and see that it will be in its interests as well as the interests of the people of WA whom it purports to represent.

Mr Clarko: You would have to be kidding.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Karrinyup is not only interjecting but also is doing so from the wrong seat. When he returns to his own seat he may then not interject!

Mr READ: During the election campaign I was attacked as being a nice guy, something I just displayed, Mr Deputy Speaker, by not pointing out to you that very fact that the member was not in his own seat.

Mr Clarko: Did you see that Hawke reckoned he has no personal financial interests?

Mr READ: I will not talk about the affairs of members of Parliament; their financial affairs should be disclosed.

I conclude by saying that the interests of the people of Mandurah are still in good hands.

MR BLAIKIE (Vasse) [10.10 p.m.]: I also take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr Deputy Speaker, on the very high office you have been elected to, certainly as Chairman of Committees. I have no doubt that you will perform your duties in that office in the fine tradition of your predecessors; there have been some quite illustrious people in former Parliaments. The office you are currently holding becomes quite important, particularly as the Speaker is not here tonight—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you continue along this vein I will find it hard to growl at you again.

Mr BLAIKIE: I might get a ride in your motor car. I also want to take this opportunity to offer my congratulations to the newly elected members of this House of whatever political colour. I can speak after having spent some 15 years in this Parliament and I inform them that

they will find Parliament to be a wonderful place. It is a great leveller of people. I suggest that they maintain their very high ideals and aspirations, and the responsibilities they have to their electorates and above all their sense of application to their duties, but not to forget the camaraderie not only with members of their own party but also with members of Parliament generally. It is very important.

Times have certainly changed since I was first elected to Parliament and some of that camaraderie has disappeared. Parliament is all the sadder for it. Goodwill should exist from members on all sides of the Parliament. We all have a job to do. We all have political responsibilities and electorates to represent but, above all, there is a sense of responsibility to the well-being of each of our fellow members. I proffer that as some kind of fatherly advice to the new members.

The Address-in-Reply debate gives members the opportunity to speak on a range of subjects. I will take this opportunity initially to speak on some matters which affect my electorate in a major way. The lack of adequate facilities in Margaret River Hospital is a matter which causes the district great concern. It has been on the "waiting to be renewed" list for some time. I am very grateful that the Premier took the trouble in April this year to pay a special visit to the town to meet with the community, the hospital personnel and the local authority, and to carry out a first-hand inspection. I appreciate the Premier's effort. Consequently, the Premier has indicated that the Government will give some consideration to the hospital during its current Budget deliberations. The Minister for Health was programmed to visit the area but because of a bereavement within industry circles with which the Minister was associated, that visit had to be cancelled. I still want to emphasise very strongly the importance for the Minister for Health to visit Margaret River to make a first-hand inspection of that hospital so the Minister will gain a similar appreciation to that of the Premier. The Premier said he could then understand why people had complained about it for years and he could not understand why it had not been rebuilt years earlier. There is an urgent demand for the Minister for Health to make this visit at the earliest opportunity.

A statement relating to the general condition of the hospital was forwarded to the Government and a host of other people in March 1985 pointing out the hospital shortages. It also related to the general growth of the Margaret

River district and pointed out the key features and reasons that the new hospital had to be built urgently. One of the factors was the current population growth of Margaret River; at 4.15 per cent it is well above the State average. If that survey were to be taken today my estimation is that the growth rate in fact would be higher than that for 1985. The shire council estimated that tourists increased the population from 4 200 to a peak of 12 000 persons. I need to remind members only of the concerts that have been held at Leeuwin Estate. An additional 8 000 people visited the area one night alone. A national surfing contest has been held in recent months and some 5 000 or 6 000 people attended each day of that contest. In October this year an international world surfing competition will be held and it is expected that some 50 000 people will attend that competition over seven days. In such a fast growing area we have the situation where its hospital would have to be the worst in Western Australia. It should have been on the new building list many years ago. When I first became a member of Parliament there were two doctors in the Margaret River town servicing the area and today the community has four doctors, yet the hospital is dilapidated, outmoded, and completely worn out. It is important that the Minister for Health accepts my further plea to visit the hospital before final budgetary decisions are made. The Premier gave an undertaking last April that the Minister for Health would visit the hospital but to date, because of certain circumstances, he has not been able to do so. I want to ensure his visit by making this request in Parliament. He will have to hurry because it is in a bad state.

In Busselton a community committee has been established in part by the local government body. It has two shire council representatives, Councillor John Reid, Councillor David Couch and Clive Johnson of the tourist bureau. This community committee has been looking at a programme to restore the Busselton jetty. At this stage I want to indicate the very strong support that has been given by the member for Bunbury and the newly elected member for South-West Province in assisting the Busselton committee. I also wish to acknowledge the member for Bunbury's assistance in providing the Busselton group with information during a visit to Bunbury to see how the Bunbury jetty restoration committee has obtained its funding. It certainly gave the group I represent some very positive ideas to work with. It is interesting to note that the Bunbury restoration

committee received some \$450 000 of CEP funds to work on the old Bunbury jetty. Restoration work is now under way.

Some \$500 000 is being sought to restore the Busselton jetty. The Commonwealth Government is being requested to make available \$250 000 from the bicentennial committee for a heritage grant and \$100 000 from the Department for Sport and Recreation, \$50 000 from the Tourism Commission, \$50 000 from the Department of Marine and Harbours, and with the Shire of Busselton committing a further \$50 000, it would bring the total to some \$500 000. The local committee has done a great deal and I want to commend its members for their work in this regard. The committee estimated that some 300 000 people use the jetty each year and committee members work on the basis that if every user purchases goods to the value of \$5 by way of fishing tackle or bait, or even accommodation in the town, some \$1.5 million would be generated in the economy on a general usage estimate. It is a fairly modest assessment. The structure is certainly in dire need of urgent maintenance. It will cost some \$420 000 to replace 280 piles. The cost of those piles is some \$1 500 each.

The committee has put forward a programme which has gone to Government and I want to indicate my support for it. In addition, the committee proposed to find ways and means to defray the maintenance costs, which are of great magnitude for a structure such as the Busselton jetty. The committee considered a system of structured admission charges from day rates to an annual pass. The committee also looked at the introduction of a small fibreglass train to use on the structure itself for the benefit of tourists, as well as the establishment of a fibreglass underwater observatory.

Busselton already has an oceanarium run by the local Jaycees group. It is a very advantageous financial benefit to the community, and so the observatory which the committee is talking about can at least be understood by the local community in respect of what is required in its building.

I wanted to bring these matters to the attention of the Government as it had previously given support to the Bunbury jetty project, which I support. The Busselton jetty is really the lifeblood of that community, and Busselton without a jetty would probably be like Burswood Island without a casino. Perhaps that is a strange analogy for 1986, but if the

casino were to go at Burswood Island, there would be some people—

Mr Pearce: A lot of people have been betting on the date on which the Busselton jetty would fall down at last.

Mr BLAIKIE: That is quite right. It is a matter that gives some concern and, with the development and the assistance that has been given to the Bunbury jetty, the community I represent has been shown the direction it ought to pursue. Finally I want to acknowledge the assistance that was given by the member for Bunbury. I refer also to the assistance given by the Minister for Education. It is strange for people to throw compliments around this Chamber, but I do want to pay tribute to the Minister for Education.

Mr Pearce: I will move to extend your time, if you like.

Mr BLAIKIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, when I was in the position you now hold, I dealt with the current Minister for Education in ways that we should not go into now.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are more than welcome to do so.

Mr BLAIKIE: I want to pay a compliment to the Minister. I led a deputation to him from the Margaret River Primary School. The deputation was composed of parents who were very concerned about accommodation alternatives that the school was obliged to make at the commencement of the school year. It had anticipated using a transportable building on the school site. However, an acting headmaster was in charge of the school while the headmaster was on leave, and during the transition of authority period, the Education Department whisked away a building that should have been there for the commencement of the school year.

Alternative arrangements for accommodating some 40 children were made in an area about which the parents were quite concerned. It was adjacent to the bridge on the entrance to the town, and the concern related to the welfare of the children because there had been some itinerants and loiterers within the general area.

To the Minister's credit, he acknowledged the wishes of the deputation and arranged for the matter to be very satisfactorily resolved for all the parents concerned. Certainly as a local member I believe this is very important. Notwithstanding that, the Minister also undertook that the transportable building would be returned to the school and in fact it turned up three days earlier than the date which the Minister had given.

Mr Watt: Do you think we could make him the Minister for Health? We could do something about the hospital then.

Mr BLAIKIE: That could be, but I would still offer the Minister those compliments.

Mr Pearce: Now you will want the school rebuilt.

Mr BLAIKIE: I am pleased that the Minister has said something about the primary school at Margaret River being rebuilt because that is the next nub of the problem. The school is growing, as is the district, and there is a definite need for a rebuilding programme.

Mr Pearce: There's no such thing as a free compliment.

Mr BLAIKIE: In addition, the school has now been classified as a grade one school, and, in accordance with that grading, schools in heavy rainfall districts need covered areas. Those are the very points on which the Minister will certainly receive submissions from the parent body. I would, however, make these points to him again with the opportunity provided in this Address-in-Reply debate.

In respect to other schools, I have in recent days introduced a deputation from the West Busselton Primary School which is seeking improved facilities for its sick bay and administration areas. The sick bay area is virtually non-existent. Sick children are actually cared for in a part of the school's store-room. That situation is far from satisfactory. As far as the administration area is concerned, the clerk-typist who is attached to the school conducts the administrative business of the school in a hallway. It is typical of the growth pangs of the area and with the West Busselton school there is again a need for a covered area for the protection of students. We receive a lot of rain in the area and the Education Department has now agreed to cover certain areas for class one schools.

Before I conclude my comments in relation to schools, I want to make a very special plea to the Minister to consider the upgrading of the facilities and an improvement in rooms and additional classrooms at the Margaret River High School.

This is a very special school that currently caters for students up to year 10. Students from the region who wish to go on to years 11 and 12 are now obliged to travel from places as far afield as Augusta and Busselton. The children are currently travelling some 200 kilometres by way of round bus travel. When one takes into account that there are some 70 to 80 students

in year 11 moving up to the Busselton High School, the time is long overdue for the system to be upgraded so that new facilities are established. The need is for new buildings to accommodate years 11 and 12 and the time is long overdue for a high school with a full year 12 status being given to Margaret River instead of just a year 10 status.

The other matter I want to refer to concerns the system of drainage rates. Already I have met with the Minister for Works with a deputation and I understand the Minister is meeting with a further deputation from the Capel Shire tomorrow. There needs to be a change in the drainage rating system as it currently applies. I see numbers of anomalies and as more criticisms of the current system are brought to hand on investigation more anomalies appear. The reason for the deputation to the Minister from my electorate and from the people in the Augusta-Margaret River Shire area is that there is an area in the hills adjacent to the Busselton Shire which is now to be charged drainage rates. The land I speak of would be up to 400 or 500 feet above sea level. There is absolutely no question that that land will ever cause a drainage problem in the area.

Officers of the department say that farms in the area have water running off them to the low-lying areas which creates a problem downstream. I do not accept that argument because if one follows that through the Government would be rating everybody in any hills area in Australia. The argument is not sufficient. Farmers in the hills area of Waroona, Harvey, and Brunswick are not rated under the drainage system. The flat land is rated but the hills area is not.

Mr Troy: It is in the Greenmount area.

Mr BLAIKIE: The Minister assisting the Minister for Transport raises a point I want to emphasise. I believe it is grossly unfair that people in Greenmount should be rated at all because they do not contribute to a drainage problem. Their rates are put into the general pool to ease those people who do have a problem.

I do not want to develop an argument about what should occur in the metropolitan area. That is a different animal that I am not prepared to tackle at this stage. As far as the country areas are concerned there are two options. One is that the whole system of country drainage be abolished and picked up by the taxpayer entirely. I do not support that view. If that were to happen, Government de-

partments, being what they are, would then be able to go on unfettered, spending whatever amounts of money they wish to spend without the degree of control that is currently applied by farmers who are sensitive of their drainage costs. I believe the farming community does have a real argument.

The other alternative I favour is a system where local government is able to be brought in to give these areas the level of control they need by working under an overall plan that is established by the Water Authority, but also the work is undertaken by local government bodies.

Mr D. L. Smith: Who funds the work under that arrangement?

Mr BLAIKIE: The work under that arrangement would be funded by the local drainage ratepayers as from day one, provided that the land was rural and capital amounts were not carried forward.

I believe that is a very important point. I would imagine it to be similar to the Main Roads Department where that department cares for the overall planning and programme for roads generally in the State. Local Government then carries out its road programmes in conjunction with and under the direction and guidance of the Main Roads Department. I may well be oversimplifying the issue of what I believe ought to apply in the drainage areas, but in my view the current system needs review and change.

Mr D. L. Smith: The trouble with your proposal is that it only covers the current cost each year.

Mr BLAIKIE: That is right. But under the current system the further one goes, the further one compounds the problem.

I wish to comment on the South West Development Authority and some of the projects that have been mooted for the south-west but which have not got off the ground. I certainly indicate from the outset that it is not my intention to go chapter and verse on how I think the South West Development Authority is working or not working. Time will record the authority's success or otherwise, but I want to refer to some comments emanating from the South West Development Authority which have been embarrassing local communities. Some of those comments should have been further researched in my view before they were released.

I refer to a report in the *Busselton-Margaret River Times* of 15 November 1984 headed "Agreement on \$5.1 m harbour, marina" to be

built at Point Picquet, which is half way between Dunsborough and Cape Naturaliste. The article states—

This was said on Tuesday by Bunbury 2000 Minister Julian Grill, who is also Regional and Transport Minister when he visited Busselton to have discussions with the shire council.

The shire and the community looked forward to that decision being made, only to find that some 12 months later, the Environmental Protection Authority said that because of environmental restraints there would be no harbour built at all.

A Press announcement by Dr Ernie Manea stated that there would be a 3 000 metre bitumen surface runway and airport in State forest about five kilometres south-east of the Margaret River. When that statement was announced the heading in the local media was "Council was caught red-faced over the airport plan". The local council did not know that the announcement would be made, or when it was to be made or even the detail.

Since that period a great many people have protested most vigorously about the manner in which the agreements have been entered into. I received petitions from literally hundreds of people opposed to the airport site. I also relate that a meeting held in Margaret River was called by the local conservation group and attended by some 200 people who were most concerned.

That meeting was addressed by a director of the South West Development Authority, a Mr Kevin Strapp. At that meeting I was quite concerned that Mr Strapp announced that the South West Development Authority was acting

as a result of discussions with the local authority, a statement which the local authority certainly questioned in response to some of the actions of the South West Development Authority, and in response to a question about the former executive officer of the SWDA, Mr Peter Beeson's comments over the airstrip, Mr Strapp told the meeting that Mr Beeson had been moved sideways. He got out of the road and was given another job.

I take strong exception to those sort of comments particularly when Peter Beeson did not attend the meeting. I believe the statement to be completely untrue. Comments of that type made at public meetings, do not stand the authority members in good light in the community.

The airstrip at Margaret River was certainly a good idea, but it was a classic example of a good idea going wrong. I suspect the SWDA was used during an election campaign to drum up support for the Government by announcing in advance a project such as the airstrip for Margaret River.

A further example was the announcement of the zoo to be built on land owned by the Department of Agriculture at Wokalup. That caused a great deal of interest and excitement in the south-west until the SWDA backed down at the eleventh hour and said that Wokalup was not to be the zoo site.

More research needs to be done and more understanding must be given to local people and communities than is currently coming out of the SWDA executive.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Pearce (Leader of the House).

House adjourned at 10.41 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

FIRE STATION

Mt Magnet

32. Mr CASH, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) Will he provide details of the proposed new fire station at Mt Magnet?
- (2) When is construction due to commence and when is the station due to be completed?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

- (1) The proposed new fire station will be of a prefabricated transportable design with a reinforced concrete slab floor and the overall dimensions of 16.9 metres in length and 8.4 metres in width.
- (2) Construction tender is expected to be let by July, and the fire station completed on site by September-October of this year.

TRANSPORT: STATESHIPS

Joint Venture

105. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it intended that Stateships Service will enter a joint venture arrangement with Australian National Line?
- (2) If so, would he provide details of this arrangement?
- (3) When is the service expected to commence?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) The answer is "No" in relation to the normal commercial interpretation of the term "joint venture"—where two or more participants pursue an undertaking in which each participant is tied directly to the benefits and liabilities of the venture in proportion to their respective shareholding.

However, ANL and Stateships have agreed to operate a joint service which my predecessor announced on 27 March 1986. Under this arrangement the ANL is permitted to slot charter spaces on the *MV Irene Greenwood* which may not be fully utilised by Stateships. The objective of this ar-

rangement is to maximise the utilisation of the ship in the trade and to enable ANL to market independently to its clients.

- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) This arrangement came into operation in April 1986.

TRANSPORT: BUSES

Students: Behaviour

117. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has there been an increased level of apparently rowdy and unacceptable behaviour by students travelling on Metropolitan Transport Trust buses in 1986 when compared with previous years?
- (2) What action has been taken to reduce the level of unacceptable student behaviour on Metropolitan Transport Trust buses?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) During the first school term of 1986 there was a definite increase in rowdy and unacceptable behaviour to the degree that the safety and comfort of bus passengers, operators, and other road users was being put in jeopardy. This was not just a passing phase, but a trend which had been developing over a period of time and, unfortunately, it became far more serious in the last two years.
- (2) Because of the failure of measures used in the past the MTT set up a working party which involved other interested parties so that a policy could be formulated which was both workable and acceptable to law-abiding passengers. Apart from the obvious objective of gaining control, other major objectives were to introduce a policy which would—
 - (i) Ensure the safety and comfort of bus passengers, operators, and other road users;
 - (ii) make the identification of offenders possible;
 - (iii) ensure as far as practical that innocent parties were not inconvenienced;
 - (iv) enable appropriate action to be taken against continual offenders.

The organisations involved in the working party were—

Education Department
WA Council of State School Organisations
Catholic Education Commission of WA
Police Department
Australian Tramways and Motor Omnibus Employees' Association
Metropolitan Transport Trust.

As a result of the deliberations of that working party, a policy was formulated that—

required all secondary school students in year 8 and above to be in possession of a permit for bus travel;

enabled bus operators to confiscate permits from any student who misbehaves—where a permit is confiscated on a particular bus trip that student is allowed to complete his/her journey;

allows the operator to use discretion as to whether to apply any of the restrictions detailed in the new policy;

enables bus operator to refuse travel to any student without a permit on a special school bus;

enables the operator to charge a non-concessional fare on a route service bus where the student is not in possession of a permit.

The MTT has noticed a marked improvement in student behaviour since adoption of the new policy.

NATURAL DISASTERS: CYCLONES

Power Poles: Danger

119. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Has he or his department been advised that a number of power poles in the municipality of the Shire of Exmouth are considered to be unsafe during cyclonic conditions?
- (2) Will he take the necessary action to investigate the validity of such statements and advise me of the results of his inquiries?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The State Energy Commission took over the electricity undertaking from the Shire of Exmouth in 1976.
All poles erected since then by the commission are manufactured from steel and erected to withstand cyclonic conditions.
Of the poles erected before that date, some are steel and others are wood.
The wood poles were inspected 12 months ago and found to be sound.
In recent years a number of cyclones have occurred in the area without pole failures.

PRISONERS

Telephones: Use

120. Mr CASH, to the Minister representing the Minister for Prisons:

- (1) Under what conditions may a prisoner have access to a telephone while in custody?
- (2) Is the use of a telephone by a prisoner the subject of supervision, and if so, by whom?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Access to a telephone by prisoners is controlled by a director's rule made pursuant to section 35 of the Prisons Act. The Minister will make a copy of the rule available to the member.
- (2) Yes. By authorised staff members in accordance with the director's rule.

HEALTH: DRUGS

Persons in Custody: Use

123. Mr CASH, to the Minister representing the Minister for Prisons:

How many persons were charged with the use of illegal drugs while in custody during—

- (a) 1982;
- (b) 1983;
- (c) 1984;
- (d) 1985;
- (e) 1986?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

Prisons Department records indicate the following—

	Charges laid under S.70 (d) Prisons Act	Persons Charged
1982—July to Dec.	14	12
1983	15	14
1984	92	66
1985	52	46
1986—to May 14	27	23

PRISONERS

Drugs: Supply

125. Mr CASH, to the Minister representing the Minister for Prisons:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of claims that illegal drugs are being supplied to prisoners in some of the State prisons?
- (2) Will the Minister advise of details of such claims and the preventive action being taken to alleviate this problem?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The presence of drugs in prison is a matter of continuing concern.

Various allegations have been made. Any allegation reported to the Prisons Department or the police is fully investigated. If substantiated, appropriate action is taken.

If the member has received any information or allegation in respect of drugs being supplied to prisoners, he should provide that information to the Prisons Department or the police to enable the matter to be fully investigated.

The Prisons Department works in close liaison with the police, customs, Alcohol and Drug Authority, and other related organisations. As well, the department operates education programmes on substance abuse for prisoners and conducts special training courses for staff.

MANJIMUP CANNERY

Purchase

128. Mr WATT, to the Minister for Industry and Technology:

- (1) Has the Government received an approach for the purchase of the Manjimup cannery?

(2) Does the approach propose or include the use of the cannery for a production plant for french fries?

(3) Does the proposal require any financial support or commitment by the Government?

(4) Is he aware that Southern Processors Ltd, which has recently purchased the failed Hunts Food Pty Ltd operation in Albany, is planning to install equipment at Albany for french fries production early in the new year, without additional State Government financial assistance?

(5) In view of the fact that the Albany and Manjimup ventures would be competing for the same raw materials and markets, will he give an assurance that further taxpayers' funds will not be used to assist one venture to compete against the other?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) The proposal requires no new financial commitment on the part of the Government. Of course, the cannery's existing debt structure must be cleared before any sale can proceed.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) It is not the Government's intention to provide further taxpayers' funds to assist one venture to compete against the other, although it is noted that Southern Processors in Albany is already in receipt of substantial Government assistance.

TRANSPORT: WESTRAIL

Employees: Redundancy

129. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

Will he outline details of the redundancy package being offered to Westrail employees who are to be retrenched?

Mr TROY replied:

There are no involuntary retrenchments occurring within Westrail. However, surplus staff have the option of being released under Westrail's selective voluntary severance scheme, and I will be happy to supply the

member with full details of the scheme in writing.

ROAD: NEWMAN-PORT HEDLAND

Sealing

131. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How much of the highway from Newman to Port Hedland has been sealed to date?
- (2) How many kilometres of this highway will be sealed in the 1986-87 financial year and at what cost?
- (3) When is it intended that this section of highway will be completed?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) Approximately 202 km out of a total of 418 km has been blacktopped to date.
- (2) A contract for \$22.6 million has been let for a further 21 km to be completed in 1986-87.
- (3) Subject to the availability of Commonwealth funds, by December 1988.

ROAD: FITZROY CROSSING-HALLS CREEK

Completion

132. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How much of the highway from Fitzroy Crossing to Halls Creek has been completed to date?
- (2) How many kilometres of this highway will be sealed during the 1986-87 financial year and at what cost?
- (3) When is it expected that this section of highway will be completed?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) 258 km has been blacktopped to date.
- (2) The remaining 30 km gap between Fitzroy Crossing and Halls Creek will be completed to the bitumen stage this year at an estimated cost of \$8.85 million.
- (3) The contract completion date is 26 October, but current expectations are that the work will be completed in September.

FAMILY COURT

Access Orders: Advice

135. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Does the Attorney General have any knowledge of the widely alleged fact that Government welfare officers and solicitors are advising wives in separation and divorce cases to leave Western Australia, thereby avoiding, or at least delaying orders of Family Courts, particularly access orders by fathers, and causing a considerable increase in the cost and time spent in litigation, rendering it at times practically impossible?
- (2) Is such advice, according to Government policy, proper?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) and (2) I do not have any knowledge of such advice being given.

FAMILY COURT

Interstate Orders

136. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Is the Attorney General aware that the Family Court of Australia outside Western Australia makes orders denying litigants from Western Australia the ability to make applications to the Family Court of Western Australia?
- (2) Would the Attorney General endeavour to take the appropriate steps with relevant State and/or Federal authorities towards proposals to change the material and/or procedural law for such orders not to be taken?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) and (2) The Family Law Act applies throughout the Commonwealth and is administered by courts in all States and Territories.

A Family Court in any State may be called upon to decide the venue for the resolution of court proceedings. When a court has made a decision as to the proper venue, taking into account all relevant matters, the Family Court has sometimes found it necessary to enforce its decision by making consequential orders restraining one or both parties from instituting or continuing litigation on the same sub-

ject matter in Family Courts in other States. This provision applies in all States, and not only to Western Australia.

COMMISSIONERS FOR DECLARATIONS

Appointments: Recommendations

137. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

Are appointments as commissioners for declarations approved by the Attorney General without the appointee being recommended by his local member of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

Yes.

Nominations are accepted for appointment from any member of Parliament in whose district an applicant resides or works. In isolated cases, nominations have also been accepted from members of Parliament other than those representing the area in which the applicant resides or works.

Bank employees may be nominated by the chief manager of their head office in Western Australia.

ELECTORAL ROLLS

Floreat: Alterations

144. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Reform:

Would he please inform me of the reasons why, whereas in previous computer printouts of the alterations to the electoral roll of Floreat, the deletions and additions have roughly balanced out in numbers—indeed the additions exceeded deletions—but lately, especially in April and May, deletions outnumbered additions by three to one?

Mr BRYCE replied:

The incidence of deletions in relation to the Floreat district roll is a result of the effect of a combination of the extensive habitation review conducted in late 1985 by the Australian Electoral Commission on behalf of the State and Commonwealth, and an assessment of non-voters at the 1986 State elections who no longer reside at their registered addresses.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Alexander Drive-Grand Promenade: Turning Signals

152. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has his department been approached to provide turning signals to the traffic lights at the intersection of Alexander Drive and Grand Promenade, Dianella, to facilitate northbound and southbound traffic in Alexander Drive turning right into Grand Promenade?
- (2) When is it anticipated the requested modifications to the traffic signals will be carried out?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Observations at the site in February indicated that right turning vehicles cleared the intersection during the normal cycle on most occasions. The Main Roads Department considers that the introduction of an additional phase to cater for right turn movements out of Alexander Drive cannot be justified at the present time. An additional phase would cause a reduction in the percentage of overall green time for the other phases and drivers would experience more stops and longer delays.

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

Equipment: Voluntary Units

155. Mr CASH, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) In assessing the particular equipment to be supplied to each voluntary unit, does the State Emergency Service headquarters have regard for the climatic or other special conditions prevailing at individual unit locations?
- (2) What specialised equipment has been provided to the State Emergency Service volunteer unit at Exmouth?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The unit has been provided with the following equipment, which was selected on the basis of the Exmouth shire counter-disaster needs—

One four-wheel drive vehicle;

communications equipment;

rescue equipment, including a recent issue of cliff rescue equipment.

The latter was provided by the Shire of Exmouth.

ROAD: MARMION AVENUE EXTENSION

Cost

160. Mr CRANE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the estimated cost of the Marmion Avenue extension and the associated widening of West Coast Highway?
- (2) Where will the funds for this road be obtained?
- (3) What level of Federal Government support has been promised?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) \$2.6 million.
- (2) Application has been made to the Federal Government for approval to spend funds provided by the Australian land transport programme on the Marmion Avenue extension. In the event that this approval is withheld, State funds normally available to the Main Roads Department would be utilised.
- (3) Answered by (2).

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

South Street-Vahland Avenue: Installation

162. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Transport:

When will traffic lights be installed at the junction of South Street and Vahland Avenue in Leeming?

Mr TROY replied:

The Metropolitan Transport Trust would like to see traffic signals installed at this intersection to assist its bus service in the area. It is hoped the work will be done this year.

ROAD LIGHTING

Leach Highway-Marjorie Avenue: Installation

166. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Transport:

When will street lighting be installed at the intersection of Marjorie Avenue and Leach Highway?

Mr TROY replied:

The lighting of Leach Highway near the intersection with Marjorie Avenue is likely to be undertaken in 1986-87.

LANDBANK

1984-85 Accounts: Tabling

174. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) When will the review of the Urban Lands Council activities for the year ended 30 June 1985 be presented to the Parliament?
- (2) Why have these accounts not yet been presented?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

- (1) Due to Landbank's non-statutory status there is no requirement to present an annual report. However the annual accounts for 1984-85 are contained in the Auditor General's report on the financial statements of statutory authorities for 1984-85. However, I now ask Landbank to prepare an annual report in future.
- (2) Answered by (1).

TRANSPORT: RAILWAYS

Three Springs: Transfer Point

191. Mr TUBBY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Westrail transfer point at Three Springs is to be closed, and that train crews will no longer be based in Three Springs?
- (2) Will this mean that about 13 Westrail employees and families will be transferred from the town?
- (3) Where will train crews and families be located to service the Midland line?
- (4) What is the reason for this action?
- (5) Is he aware of the impact this will have in Three Springs on businesses and the fact that 10 children will leave the primary school?

- (6) Bearing in mind that the line still has to be serviced, where can it be claimed that costs can be pruned?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Trains will be worked by crews based at Forrestfield and Geraldton. Crew barracks will be provided at Coorow and this will be the changeover point.
- (4) Improved economic working made possible by the current track upgrading programme which will enable greater track speed in turn enabling trains to be operated over longer distances before changing crews.
- (5) Yes, social implications are known. However, Westrail has an obligation to contain operating costs. People in rural areas benefit from this by Westrail's being able to contain freight charges.
- (6) There are cost benefits in faster services, reduced manpower, and reduced costs from not maintaining facilities at Three Springs.

TRANSPORT: RAILWAYS

Robb Jetty: Removal

197. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Government yet made a decision on the proposal by the City of Cockburn that the railway line south of Robb Jetty, which Westrail wants to remove, be left in place?
- (2) If not, when is it anticipated a final decision on this matter will be made?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) I have not yet had the opportunity to examine this matter. However, I will be giving attention to the proposal in due course and will advise the member of my decision when it has been made.

HEALTH: HOSPITAL

Margaret River: Budget Allocation

213. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Health:

Will the Government commit funds in the 1986-87 Budget to build a new hospital at Margaret River?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

Consideration will be given to the inclusion in the preliminary 1986-87 capital works programme for the construction of a new hospital at Margaret River. The ability to proceed with the project will be dependent on the level of funds available when the Budget is framed, with due consideration for the State's total health facility needs.

TRANSPORT COMMISSION

Report

233. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

Will he please let me have a copy of the Transport Commission report upon deregulation of transport for the year 1984-85?

Mr TROY replied:

Yes.

(See paper No. 171.)

TRANSPORT: BUSES

Minibuses: Forrestdale

234. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When is the minibus service to be introduced for Forrestdale and adjacent communities?
- (2) Is this service to include Bedforddale, Karragullen, Byford, Oakford, Jarrahdale, Mundijong, and Serpentine?
- (3) What is the cost of introducing this service?
- (4) What will be the routes and frequency for this service?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) Unfortunately the MTT has not yet been successful finding a minibus which would be suitable for its type of operation. It is currently liaising with Leyland Australia relative to the possi-

bility of importing a particular type of bus from Japan. Because of the problems mentioned above no date has yet been set for introduction of this type of bus.

- (2) Apart from Forrestdale other areas to be serviced have not as yet been finalised. However, at this stage it is most unlikely that Serpentine would be included.
- (3) Until a suitable bus can be found it will not be possible to establish an accurate cost.
- (4) These aspects are still to be finalised and the availability of a suitable bus will have an important bearing as to the routes and frequency.

TRANSPORT: BUS-RAIL TRANSFER STATION

Armada: Completion

235. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When will the new bus-rail transfer station be completed at Armadale?
- (2) Will he please table a plan showing the buildings and ground layout for the transfer station as it relates to the approximately 17 acre railway reserve in this area?
- (3) What other uses are planned for this railway reserve?
- (4) How is it planned to incorporate the railway reserve into the Armadale sub-regional development plan?
- (5) What is the detailed cost of providing the new transfer station and associated works?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) The planned completion date is July 1987.
- (2) I am tabling a plan.
- (3) Some further development of park-n-ride areas in addition to that shown on the plan may be required. The remainder of the land has good potential for future commercial development.
- (4) The layout ensures the northern end of the reserve between the station and Forrest Road is preserved for future commercial development over the rail lines to allow expansion of the business area to the western side of the

railway reserve. This is as envisaged in the Armadale subregional plan.

The Government has been especially conscious of the need to facilitate the expansion of the City of Armadale as a subregional centre and has initiated the construction of the transfer station for this purpose. Its construction should make the possibility of further expansion of the business area more attractive to a developer and further enhance development of the City.

The planning of the station redevelopment has been carried through in consultation with the City of Armadale.

- (5) The total cost estimate is \$1.05 million.

(See paper No. 170.)

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Financial Interests: Disclosure

236. Mr RUSHTON, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it intended to have members of Parliament disclose financial interests, including stamp collections and works of art?
- (2) Will the proposed legislation include gifts of collectors' items of stamps and their value?

Mr BRIAN BURKE replied:

- (1) and (2) The Government proposes to introduce legislation to require members of Parliament to publicly disclose their financial interests. The legislation will be in the same terms as the Members of Parliament (Financial Interests) Bill 1985. Part III of that Bill indicates the financial interests required to be disclosed. These include gifts.

TRANSPORT: RAILWAYS

Rolling Stock: Refurbishing

237. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What has been the cost of refurbishing the railway cars and trailers brought back from redundancy to reinstate the rail passenger service to Fremantle?
- (2) What has been the cost of maintaining these vehicles for each of the years—
 - (a) 1983;
 - (b) 1984;
 - (c) 1985?

- (3) What has been the number of minor and major breakdowns of railway cars and carriages causing loss of time in the metropolitan rail passenger service for the financial years—

- (a) 1983;
- (b) 1984;
- (c) 1985; and
- (d) 1986 to end of May?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) to (3) This information will take some time to collate and I will advise the member in writing.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS: MUSEUM

Albany Residency: Extensions

238. Mr WATT, to the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Does the Government have any plans for extensions or additions to the Albany Residency Museum to provide for the display of the former Eclipse Island lighthouse light?
- (2) If so, would he please provide details of the proposed timing, cost, and location?
- (3) If "No" to (1), as it is now several years since I and others were successful in securing the light for the Albany Residency Museum, would he give consideration to housing the light in the 1986-87 Budget?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Timing is dependent on funds being made available under the budgetary process. The cost is estimated at \$239 000. Location—in Major Lockyer Park, to the north-west of the Albany Residency Museum.
- (3) Not applicable.

HEALTH: NURSING HOMES

Licensing: Responsibility

239. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the licensing of nursing homes a State or Federal responsibility?

- (2) Does he monitor the demand for nursing home accommodation in Western Australia?

- (3) If so, what is the current position with regard to supply and demand?

- (4) Does he intend to licence any new nursing homes in the immediate future?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

- (1) The Commonwealth and State Governments both have responsibilities for nursing homes.

Persons wishing to establish a nursing home for which Commonwealth nursing home benefits will be paid must obtain approval from the Commonwealth. There is a combined State-Commonwealth committee that considers applications for nursing homes and makes recommendations to the Commonwealth within the guidelines set down.

The Health Act stipulates that a licence from the State Health Department is required to ensure conformity with building safety, staffing, and other patient care requirements.

- (2) No specific monitoring programme is carried out.
- (3) Since the vast majority of applications require some form of Commonwealth subsidy, the Commonwealth has this information.
- (4) Yes, for those nursing homes that comply with the requirements of the Health Act.

PORTS AND HARBOURS: DREDGING

Swan River: Licence

241. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

On what date was the licence issued for dredging of the Swan River, North Fremantle in front of lease 3116/3340?

Mr HODGE replied:

A dredging licence was issued on 6 January 1986 to Pier 21 and Precision Marine to carry out maintenance dredging of their marine pen system.

WATER RESOURCES

Goldfields: Extensions

242. Mr SCHELL, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) In reference to question 39 of 1986 concerning extensions to goldfields and agricultural water supplies, his reply covered only needs of the short-term. Does the Government have a long-term plan—five to ten years or more—for extensions to the goldfields and agricultural water supplies to designated water-deficient areas and growth areas in the goldfields?
- (2) Do any long-term projections include upgrading of present supplies and the research and development of new supplies?
- (3) Is he prepared to table these documents?
- (4) Of these contingencies, which does he intend to implement during this term of Parliament?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) The Government has no plans to extend the goldfields and agricultural water supply scheme. Growth in demand will be met by upgrading the existing scheme. Adequate water is available to meet future demands in the goldfields because of the integration of Mundaring with the metropolitan sources.

The provision of adequate water supplies to marginal rainfall areas is being examined by the Western Australian Water Resources Council and I have already requested the Water Authority to look at the practicability of providing reticulated water supplies to small towns, with priority being given to the south-eastern wheatbelt.

- (2) Answered by (1).
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Answered by (1).

TRANSPORT: WESTRAIL

Western Quarries Pty Ltd: Investment

244. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) With regard to Westrail's involvement in Western Quarries Pty Ltd, what has been the capital investment in—

- (a) the development and equipment of the quarry;
- (b) the provision of transport equipment;
- (c) the development of the depot at Kewdale;
- (d) any other capital items?
- (2) (a) What contribution to capital was made by Westrail;
- (b) how was Westrail's capital contribution funded?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) and (2) (a) Western Quarries Pty Ltd is a company jointly owned by Quarry Industries Ltd and Westrail. Both parties have contributed equally to providing the capital requirement, which totals \$10.65 million. Contributions to loan fund capital are in equal share by both parties. Any information which is not required by law to be publicised is, by agreement, confidential between the parties.

Particulars of all shares issued, and of the considerations therefore, would have been filed at the Corporate Affairs Office by Western Quarries in accordance with the law.

- (2) (b) By contribution of assets, with balance funded from public borrowings through the State Treasury.

TRANSPORT: WESTRAIL

Western Quarries Pty Ltd: Freight Rates

245. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What will be the cost per tonne charged by Westrail for transporting quarry products for Western Quarries Pty Ltd from the quarry to Kewdale?
- (2) Is this a competitive rate that will give an adequate return on Westrail's capital and operating costs for this transport task?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) Westrail's contract rates are confidential between the parties.
- (2) Yes.

PLANNING DEPARTMENTS

Staff

246. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) What was the total number of persons employed by the Town Planning Department and the Metropolitan Regional Planning Authority as at—
 - (a) 30 June 1983;
 - (b) 30 June 1984;
 - (c) 30 June 1985?
- (2) How many persons are now employed by the State Planning Commission?
- (3) How many vacant positions are presently to be filled in the State Planning Commission?

Mr PEARCE replied:

	TPD	MRPA	TOTAL
(a)	149	2	151
(b)	156	2	158
(c)	174	9	183

(2) 200.

(3) 17.

ANIMALS

Dog Act: Amendment

247. Mr RUSHTON, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) When does the Government intend to bring into Parliament amendments to the Dog Act?
- (2) Is he prepared to modify—
 - (a) the presently announced extensive power to seize dogs;
 - (b) remove the onus of proof on the defendant?

Mr CARR replied:

- (1) Amendments to the Dog Act are currently being drafted by Parliamentary Counsel for introduction in the spring session.
- (2) I anticipate public discussion on these important matters and will take public responses into account in determining the final detail of the Bill.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

"The Sphinx": Contents

248. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Is he aware of the contents of a book entitled *The Sphinx* by Graham Masterton?
- (2) Is this book classified as being pornographic or is it considered to be fit for public circulation?
- (3) Should this book be considered to have pornographic tendencies, would he cause it to be withdrawn from public libraries and bookshops?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) The book has not been submitted to the State advisory committee on publications for assessment.
- (3) A decision on the book cannot be made without an examination by the committee and the submission of a report and recommendation.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Unofficial Quota

249. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) What is the "unofficial quota" either per electoral districts or in aggregate for the State for the number of justices of the peace?
- (2) How many justices of the peace appointed in this State are there presently in Western Australia?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) There is no "unofficial quota" of justices of the peace, either for electoral districts or for the State.
- (2) 2 853.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Appointments: Applications

250. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) How many applications for appointment to the commission of the peace have been received since the Government took office in 1983 until now?
- (2) How many applications were outstanding at the time the Government took office in 1983?

- (3) How many of these applicants under
 - (1) above have been—
 - (a) recommended for appointment;
 - (b) refused appointment;
 - (c) are still awaiting decision?
- (4) How many of these applications under
 - (2) above have been—
 - (a) recommended for appointment;
 - (b) refused appointment;
 - (c) are still awaiting a decision?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) 1 340.
- (2) Approximately 94.
- (3) (a) 505;
(b) 578;
(c) 257.
- (4) (a) 38;
(b) 56;
(c) nil.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Appointments: Applications

251. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) How many applications for appointment to the commission of the peace have been received since 13 February 1986?
- (2) How many of these applications received—
 - (a) have been recommended for appointment;
 - (b) have been refused;
 - (c) are still awaiting a decision?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) 65, plus 12 resubmitted for reconsideration.
- (2) (a) 2;
(b) 6;
(c) 69.

COMMISSIONERS FOR DECLARATIONS

Appointments: Applications

252. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) How many applications for appointment as a commissioner for declarations have been received since 1 May 1986?

- (2) How many of these applications received—
 - (a) have been granted the appointment;
 - (b) have been refused appointment;
 - (c) are still awaiting decision?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) 49.
- (2) (a) 2;
(b) nil;
(c) 47—no action has been taken in respect of these applications pending expiration of the current moratorium.

COMMISSIONERS FOR DECLARATIONS

Appointments: Applications

253. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) How many applications for appointment as a commissioner for declarations have been received since the Government took office in 1983 until now?
- (2) How many applications were outstanding at the time the Government took office in 1983?
- (3) How many of these applicants under
 - (1) have been—
 - (a) recommended for appointment;
 - (b) refused appointment;
 - (c) are still awaiting a decision?
- (4) How many of these applications under
 - (2) above have been—
 - (a) recommended for appointment;
 - (b) refused appointment;
 - (c) are still awaiting a decision?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Records do not reveal the exact number of applications received since the Government took office. There have been 2 311 applications since the commencement of 1983.
- (2) Records do not reveal this information.
- (3) (a) Applications approved since commencement of 1983—2 063;
(b) figures for 1983 and 1984 are unavailable; there were 51 applications refused in 1985, and none so far in 1986;
(c) 218.

- (4) (a) and (b) Records do not reveal this information;
 (c) nil.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Powers: Downgrading

254. Mr MENSAROS, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Is it the Government's policy to "downgrade" the powers and responsibilities of justices of the peace and subsequently to open up the number of appointments to a wide field instead of the restricted numbers as has applied so far?
- (2) If so, is the Attorney General going to legislate to this extent?
- (3) If not, can the Attorney General state the Government is not planning any changes?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) to (3) The Law Reform Commission is expected to report on Courts of Petty Sessions within the next two or three months. The report will include recommendations in respect of the powers of justices of the peace. The Attorney General will then consider the report and recommend appropriate action, if any, to the Government.

MOTOR VEHICLE LICENCES

Caravans: Computerisation

255. Mr MENSAROS, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) Are licences for caravans and trailers recorded within a computer programme that is adjusted by a simple formula?
- (2) If "Yes", are the relevant notices printed from that programme?
- (3) What is the approximate yearly cost of—
 - (a) proportional depreciation and maintenance of that part of the computer operation which relates to (1) and (2) above;

- (b) entering the appropriate data into the computer relating to (1) and (2) above?

Mr GORDON HILL replied:

- (1) Yes. All licences for caravans and trailers are recorded on the Police Department's computer data base. The programming involved in the adjustment of those licences is identical for all vehicle types.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) (a) As the licensing of caravans and trailers is a small component in terms of usage of the department's computer hardware and software, it is not feasible to determine the yearly costs in regard to depreciation and maintenance;
 (b) the yearly cost for processing caravan and trailer licences is not currently available; to arrive at a cost it would necessitate considerable cost benefit analysis which would require at least two weeks to complete.

WATER RESOURCES

Country Centres: Position Paper

256. Mr MENSAROS, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Water Resources:

Would he please table the "position paper" dealing with measures affecting water resources at 14 country centres.

Mr BRIDGE replied:

I am not aware, nor is the Water Authority, of any "position paper" dealing with measures affecting water resources at 14 country centres.

The Water Authority has, however, been considering implementation of the Government's policy on providing water supplies progressively to small communities. Several towns are on the authority's five-year capital works forecast, and financial assistance is about to be sought from the Federal Government under the country towns water supply improvement programme.

WATER AUTHORITY

Fabcast Products: Orders

257. Mr MENSAROS, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Water Resources:

What is the reason for the lack of orders by the Water Authority of Western Australia for Fabcast products, which has apparently caused considerable hardship and/or unemployment for a number of workers and the closure of a Western Australian manufacturing plant?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

Fabcast Pty Ltd has been forced to close its cast iron pipe manufacturing plant at Wembley because the lease on the site will expire on 30 June 1986. The closure will occur independently of any orders by the Water Authority of Western Australia for Fabcast products.

Fabcast sought to obtain a commitment from the Authority to purchase a ductile iron pipe, to be manufactured at a new plant yet to be established, at a level over five years much higher than the authority's level of use of iron pipe. Such a commitment was not acceptable. The authority through the Minister, however, offered to purchase, subject to agreement on price, ductile iron pipe from Fabcast for five years at the present level of use of iron pipe.

It should be noted that there is an overall downturn in the demand for pipes throughout Australia and the pipe industry has an excess capacity which is causing widespread problems.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR

Wiluna Shire Council

259. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has a local government inspector visited the Wiluna Shire Council in recent weeks?
- (2) What was the purpose of the visit?
- (3) Did the inspector identify any matters requiring specific action by either the council or its officers, and if so, will he advise of the action required?

Mr CARR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) To provide advice and assistance on accounting matters and the preparation of financial presentations to council.
- (3) Yes. Recommendations have been made to the council and its officers with regard to administration and accounting matters.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Wiluna Shire Council: Minister's Visit

260. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) When did he last visit the Wiluna Shire Council on official business?
- (2) What was the purpose of the visit?
- (3) Is he aware of a recent motion of no confidence being moved in the current shire clerk by a member of the council?
- (4) Has he discussed this matter with either officers or members of the council?
- (5) What was the outcome of these discussions?
- (6) Is he aware of allegations that Aboriginal councillors are being instructed how to vote by council officers?

Mr CARR replied:

- (1) 27 May 1986.
- (2) I was invited by the CSCA to visit the Shire of Wiluna along with other shires in the Murchison ward.
- (3) A motion of no confidence in the shire clerk, relating to an industrial dispute, was defeated 5 to 2.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) The discussions were for information only.
- (6) No.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Electors' Meetings

261. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Can a local authority have an annual electors' meeting prior to receiving its audited financial statements?
- (2) If "Yes", will he please give details?

Mr CARR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Section 171 (8) of the Local Government Act sets out procedures to be adopted in the event that an annual electors meeting is held prior to the receipt of the auditor's report on the annual financial statements.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Wiluna Shire Council: Financial Accounts

262. Mr CASH, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Have the financial accounts of the Wiluna Shire Council been audited for the period 1984-1985?
- (2) Who audited the accounts?
- (3) Were there any qualifications attached to the financial statements, and if so, will he outline the qualifications?

Mr CARR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) McLaren and Stewart, chartered accountants, 39 Richardson Street, West Perth.
- (3) The report noted that "the books of account have not been maintained in a satisfactory manner".

TRANSPORT: WESTRAIL

Albany Yard: Relocation

263. Mr WATT, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has Westrail agreed to relocate significant parts of its Albany yard as part of the proposed Frederickstown development?
- (2) If so, what is the basis of that agreement?
- (3) If not, when is it anticipated that such agreement will be finalised?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The Albany foreshore precinct study and its implications on Westrail's operating requirements are currently being considered. A decision on the Westrail land will be made when these considerations have been finalised by the Government.

EDUCATION: COMPUTERS

Pre-election Commitment

265. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What was the Government's pre-election commitment concerning the provision of computers in schools?
- (2) How is that commitment to be implemented?
- (3) How will that commitment affect schools that already have some computing facilities?
- (4) Will existing computing facilities in schools be taken into account as a part of the Government's provision of such facilities to schools?
- (5) How are these computing facilities to be selected?
- (6) Are parents or parent organisations to be consulted in any way about the selection of this computing equipment?
- (7) Will any support be provided by Government to the private school system to enable them to provide similar facilities in their schools?
- (8) Who will be preparing the software to be used on the computing facilities provided?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) The Government will provide 1 000 computers to secondary schools so as to enable them to achieve a ratio of one computer per 40 students, and 1 600 computers to primary schools to enable them to achieve, on average, a ratio of three computers per school.
- (2) The computers will be phased in according to a schedule to be decided following negotiations with the equipment supplier.
- (3) and (4) Account will be taken of approved equipment in schools. All secondary schools will be supplied with equipment which will allow them to reach the designated ratio of approved computing equipment per student enrolment. In the case of primary schools, account will be taken of previous Government subsidies for computer purchases when calculating a school's entitlement to additional equipment.

- (5) and (6) The Government will select the type of equipment after taking account of the educational requirements, costs, and associated benefits to the State. The decision will be based on advice from a number of sectors including industry, Government departments, schools, and parent groups.
- (7) The Government will negotiate with the equipment supplier to provide the computers to private schools on the same per unit cost as for Government schools.
- (8) The software to be used will be provided from commercial and Education Department sources.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Great Southern Development Authority: Establishment

270. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Regional Development:

- (1) When will the Great Southern Development Authority be established?
- (2) Will legislation be required to legitimise its establishment?
- (3) Who will comprise the members of the the authority?

Mr CARR replied:

- (1) Early 1986-87.
- (2) The authority could be established under the Public Service Act or through separate legislation.
- (3) Membership of the board has still to be decided.

MINERAL: BAUXITE

Mitchell Plateau: Agreement

273. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) With regard to the Mitchell Plateau bauxite agreement, has a further extension been formally given to the venturers before development details have to be given to the Government?
- (2) If so, when was such an extension given?
- (3) When are development proposals now required by the Government?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) to (3) No formal extension for development proposals has been given since the agreement was varied in 1985 to provide for proposals by 30 June 1990.

ENERGY

Liquid Petroleum Gas: Price

275. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Is the Government concerned at the level of liquid petroleum gas prices in Western Australia?
- (2) Is liquid petroleum gas pricing in Western Australia the same as other Australian States?
- (3) If not, what variation exists between Western Australia and other States?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Yes, the Government is always interested in the level of commodity prices in the State, but in the case of LPG is satisfied that prices are at a reasonable level, taking into consideration distribution costs.
- (2) The maximum wholesale price of LPG is set by the Prices Surveillance Authority and is the same in all States. The retail price depends on distribution costs and commercial pressures, and thus varies from State to State. In particular, LPG prices are lowest and most variable in Victoria where there is an abundance of locally produced product and a particularly high level of competition between marketers.
- (3) Current estimated retail prices for automotive use in capital cities are as follows—

Adelaide: 24.9c/l

Brisbane: 29.0c/l

Sydney: 28.9c/l

Perth: 29.4c/l

Melbourne: 21-27c/l

Hobart: 30-33c/l.

Prices in country centres will vary depending on distribution costs.

ENVIRONMENT: PEEL-HARVEY SYSTEM

Report: Recommendations

276. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) Which recommendations contained in the Peel-Harvey estuarine system proposals for management—Department of Conservation and Environment report No. 14—have been adopted by the Government?
- (2) If the recommendations have yet to be considered, when and by whom will they be considered?

Mr HODGE replied:

- (1) and (2) All recommendations contained in DCE report 14 have been adopted by the Government, except that the construction of the Dawesville channel is subject to review via the environmental review and management programme process, and only partial purchase of land for the channel has occurred. Refer to response to question 277.

PRISONS: WORK RELEASE CENTRE

St Brigid's Convent: Demolition

278. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Prisons:

- (1) Is the Government still planning to proceed with the demolition of the St Brigid's Convent in West Perth which is currently used by the Prisons Department as a work release centre?
- (2) If so, when will that work commence?
- (3) If not, what alternative uses are being considered for the centre?
- (4) Has the request from the Italo-Australian Welfare Committee with respect to this centre been considered?
- (5) If so, what has been the outcome of that consideration?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) to (3) Long-term plans for the site are subject to further consideration.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) See (1).

EDUCATION: HIGH SCHOOL

Bridgetown: Library Resources

279. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What plans are there for improved library resources and administration be provided at the Bridgetown High School?
- (2) Have those plans actually been prepared?
- (3) When is it anticipated that work will commence on these facilities?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) There is a proposal for improved library resources and administration facilities, and these will be accommodated on a future capital works programme.
- (2) No.
- (3) No firm date can be given at present.

INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Petroleum Products: Report

280. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Minerals and Energy:

- (1) Will the State Government be making a submission to the Industries Assistance Commission with comment on its draft report on certain petroleum products?
- (2) If so, when will that submission be made?
- (3) Will the submission be made public?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Submissions commenting on particular aspects of the first draft report on certain petroleum products were made by the Minister for Transport, the Treasury, SECWA, and the Department of Resources Development. The Department of Resources Development's submission drew together the various elements of the Government's position and commented on the economic arguments underlying the IAC's proposals.
- (2) See (1) above.
- (3) Except where expressly forbidden by the submitter, all written IAC submissions are public documents and can be purchased directly from the Secretary, Industries Assistance Com-

mission. All of this State's written submissions are public documents.

(4) See (1) above.

EDUCATION: SCHOOLS

Paper Used: Standard

282. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the Government instruct schools as to the quality of paper they should use as part of their normal school requirements for letters and the like?
- (2) If so, what is the quality of that paper?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) and (2) The Government provides each school with an entitlement to a standard issue, from the education supplies branch, of stationery requirements such as letterheads, envelopes, and the like.

Many schools, however, choose not to use this entitlement, and arrange printing of their own requirements from school funds. No instruction on the quality of paper is given for these purchases.

HEALTH: HOSPITALS

Visiting Surgeons: Emergency Surgery

284. Mr BRADSHAW, to the Minister for Health:

Is it a fact that currently only emergency surgery is being carried out by visiting surgeons at teaching hospitals in Western Australia?

Mr TAYLOR replied:

No.

SMALL BUSINESSES

Fringe Benefits Tax: Effect

289. Mr COURT, to the Minister for Small Business:

- (1) Has he been advised by his officers the effect the new fringe benefits tax and capital gains tax will have on small business in Western Australia?
- (2) If "Yes", what advice has been received?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) and (2) The Small Business Development Corporation has acquainted me with the possible implications of the

proposed fringe benefits tax and capital gains tax on small business; but the true effect will not be known until it receives a fair trial from all sectors of the Australian public.

The taxes referred to in the member's question are of course part of the Federal Government's overall tax reform package. As such, it is necessary to consider the reason the taxes have been introduced and also to view their impact in the context of the complete package.

I have requested the Small Business Development Corporation to monitor the effect of the tax package when it is applied and to keep me informed of its implications on small business.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

GAMBLING

Lotteries Commission: Advertising

27. Mr MacKINNON, to the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Lotteries Commission advertising agency was in South Australia last week producing an advertisement for the commission?
- (2) Is the Minister also aware that in *The West Australian* of 7 October 1985 the Premier was reported as follows—

The Premier, Mr Burke, has warned advertising agencies with government contracts about using an unacceptable number of people from the Eastern States in advertisements?

- (3) Why, if this information is correct, was—

- (a) approval given for the advertisement to be made in South Australia;

- (b) the Premier's instruction disregarded?

- (4) What action will the Minister now take to ensure that future Lotteries Commission advertisements are made in Western Australia?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) to (4) I have no knowledge of the matters raised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, but if he puts those questions on notice I will take them to

the Lotteries Commission and get a detailed answer for him.

TRADE: EXPORTS

Policies

28. Mr P. J. SMITH, to the Minister for Industry and Technology:

To what extent have State Government policies been consistent with measures outlined by the Prime Minister to increase exports?

Mr BRYCE replied:

I am pleased to be able to announce two new programmes to help boost Western Australia's export drive. I know that members opposite are only too pleased to receive the information and add their support. They love to hear stories of good constructive initiatives.

The two moves which come into effect from Friday of last week are the export market support scheme and the industry export consultant scheme. The new schemes will provide funding and expertise to local industries looking for new international markets. These measures are designed to increase Western Australian exports and stimulate business activity.

The export market support scheme will encourage Western Australia's manufacturing, processing, and export-orientated service industries to discover and develop new national and international markets. It is fascinating that we are probably one of the few provinces in the world that regard shipping of commodities from one side of the continent to the other as an export, but that is the case. That perception seems to be fairly deeply ingrained.

The scheme will provide financial support for industry groups visiting export markets and groups participating in trade exhibitions. The export market support scheme will operate on a self-help basis where five or more companies operating in the same industry sector have carried out marketing surveys to assess their export opportunities. However, consideration will be given to smaller groups where special circumstances exist. In-

dustry groups employing approved marketing techniques in seeking new export markets and those taking part in specialised trade exhibitions and displays will be eligible for assistance. This assistance will be in addition to specific trade exhibitions already sponsored by the Department of Industrial Development.

The industry export consultant scheme will provide resources to assist local companies to maximise their export potential and maintain their marketing drive. These two schemes are constructive and positive initiatives. They will be administered by the Department of Industrial Development and, for the benefit of the member for Murdoch, they will basically replace the scheme that was initiated by him as Minister because the Commonwealth Government finally caught up with its act, and the gap that existed in that finance market—and for which the loan scheme was instituted—has been closed by the Commonwealth itself.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTS

Payment

29. Mr WILLIAMS, to the Deputy Premier:

- (1) Does the Deputy Premier recall stating in a Press statement dated 11 December 1984 that in future it would be a "requirement that all government departments, statutory authorities and agencies pay their commercial accounts within 30 days, a matter with special significance for small business"?
- (2) Is he aware that quite a number of companies have reported to the Opposition that they have Government accounts that are up to three months overdue?
- (3) Will the Minister ensure that if this commitment is implemented it is effectively implemented?
- (4) Can the Minister assure the House that all Government accounts payable at 31 May this year will be paid on or before 30 June 1986?

Mr BRYCE replied:

- (1) to (4) I am very pleased that the member for Clontarf asked me that question. The Burke Government took

that very worthwhile step in the right direction during its first term in office.

Incidentally, the idea has been stolen since by the national Liberal Party spokesman for small business, Wilson Tuckey, and introduced into the national Parliament as a Bill. At no stage did Mr Tuckey concede the source of his idea, but we are happy for good ideas to be picked up, borrowed, and transmitted into action in other places, irrespective of the source of those stolen ideas.

I am beginning to be concerned that Mr Tuckey may be intercepting the postie on his way to my place early in the morning, because Wilson Tuckey lives between my house and the highway. I am beginning to be a little worried that details of that sort of material may have been off-loaded by the postie on the way down the street. Nevertheless, I know that Wilson Tuckey will find it in his heart one day to concede that he borrowed the good idea from the Government of Western Australia.

Within three months of that Cabinet resolution's having been conveyed to the Government agencies—

Mr Cowan: They are all still waiting for their money.

Mr BRYCE: I do not want any money from Wilson Tuckey; we just want recognition from Wilson that he got his idea from us.

Mr Williams: What has Wilson Tuckey got to do with my question?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! If members of the Opposition would stop interjecting I would appreciate it, because I am waiting with bated breath for the answer.

Mr Brian Burke: They don't even take question time seriously any more. It's a joke.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am beginning to believe that.

Mr BRYCE: That Cabinet directive was introduced just prior to Christmas 1984. By April 1985 a survey of departments conducted by the Minister for Budget Management estimated that at that stage up to 85 per cent of all accounts were being settled by

Government agencies within 30 days without any additional staff. The objective was that the percentage would be 100 per cent by the end of the year. It is most interesting; I have received complaints like the one the member for Clontarf has raised in the 18 months that has transpired since Christmas 1984, yet never has the name and address of a company with a formal complaint and evidence of the invoices been handed to me.

The Confederation of Western Australian Industry, with which I meet every six weeks, listed this particular item as one for discussion between the Minister and the confederation at the meeting before last. The day before the meeting took place I received a phone call to say that the issue would not be addressed because the companies that complained failed to come forth with the evidence. Mythology has it that Government agencies have been dragging their feet in certain respects, but I have yet to receive, despite having made invitations to a dozen different public forums, any evidence of that. I would welcome receipt of the complaints in a substantial form so that I could chase up the delinquent department or agency with that data. I ask that I be given the data and not the rhetoric.

TOURISM

Japanese Market: Development

30. Mr READ, to the Minister for Tourism:

The Japanese tourist market prior to 1983 was ignored. What action has the Western Australian Tourism Commission taken to develop this important market?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

I thank the member for Mandurah for some notice of the question.

Mr Laurance: Here is a Dorothy.

Mrs BEGGS: The member should know by now that my name is Pam.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! My records show that the member is the Minister for Tourism, Racing and

Gaming and I would like the Opposition to accord her the same privilege which I accord them when they are speaking.

Mrs BEGGS: They do not like good news and I am about to give them some.

Mr Brian Burke: But good news for the State is invariably bad news for them.

Mrs BEGGS: That is true.

The Western Australian Tourism Commission has made great leaps forward in developing the Japanese tourist market. I am pleased to say that the America's Cup period is not really an important element for that Japanese market. Therefore, the development of the market is one of the many areas in which the Government is maintaining its strategy of developing long-term tourism growth after the America's Cup.

Mr Laurance: The Tourism Commission is a disgrace.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! If the member for Gascoyne wishes to interject, I point out that Standing Orders allow me the privilege of letting him spend a day or so in his electorate.

Mrs BEGGS: The member for Gascoyne might be interested in the initiatives the commission has taken since its inception on 1 January 1984, which have already seen a substantial increase in the number of Japanese visitors to Western Australia.

Mr MacKinnon: There were substantial increases in salaries and superannuation benefits payable to executives—well above the rate payable to the rest of the Public Service.

Mrs BEGGS: The Australian Tourism Commission has forecast a 135 per cent increase in the number of visitors from Japan to Perth between 1985 and 1987. The establishment of a direct weekly flight between Perth and Tokyo—a 767 Qantas-JAL flight—represents the single most important breakthrough in the development of the Japanese market. All parties—Qantas, JAL, and WATC—have de-

veloped marketing programmes which will be introduced in the next 12 months.

The most spectacular achievement, and one which will be a catalyst to long-term growth, will be the increase in the number of Japanese wholesalers now featuring Perth, Western Australia, in their tour programmes. At the end of 1984 not more than two tour programmes featured Perth. In January 1986 tour wholesalers featuring Perth, Western Australia, numbered 15. This success can be attributed to a number of factors, including the good work of the Western Australian Tourism Commission, despite the comments of the member for Gascoyne. There has also been the appointment of Mr Takata as a full-time Tourism Commission representative in Japan. Mr Takata has performed outstandingly since being employed in October 1985. He persuaded one of Japan's major TV stations to come to Perth to prepare a lifestyle tourism programme. The resultant 46-minute programme was shown on television in Tokyo in May 1986 and the advertising cost would be in tens of millions of dollars. The programme represented this wonderful State of ours in a most positive way. It was entitled "The world's most beautiful town—Perth". It is very interesting to find members of the Opposition constantly trying to politicise the Western Australian Tourism Commission.

Mr Thompson: We do?

Mrs BEGGS: Yes. If members opposite check among the people they think are their supporters in the industry they will find they are getting heartily sick of the carping of the Opposition on tourism. Tourism is a growth industry for Western Australia, and if members really cared about jobs and all the things they are supposed to care about they would be lending their wholehearted support. Young Western Australians have the opportunity to be employed in a new industry. If the Opposition took those comments on board, tourism would have a much better opportunity to flourish. This constant carping is not doing anything to inspire confidence in the operators in Western Australia.

SMALL BUSINESSES

Rural: Inquiry

31. Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Small Business:

When the Minister announced an inquiry into rural small business he indicated the committee would report by 31 May.

- (1) Has the committee reported?
- (2) If so, will the Minister table a copy of that report?
- (3) If not, why has the committee failed to report?
- (4) When is it expected to do so?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) to (4) I thank the Leader of the National Party for the question. It was intended that that committee would report at the end of the month. It was a very tight schedule. I think members will realise that. They have been working very hard. I do not have the report with me at the moment, but it is my intention to bring it forward as soon as possible. I understand as at today it is in its final stages and the committee will hold a meeting next week. As soon as that has been held, I shall make the member aware of the result.

MOTOR VEHICLES

Costs: Increases

32. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How much extra will a motorist have to pay per year to own and run a car when the Minister increases third party motor vehicle premiums by 10 per cent and also the fuel levy and licence fees from 1 July?
- (2) How much extra will commuters have to pay per week in order to travel to and from work when charges go up from 1 July?
- (3) How can the Minister, in the light of these increases, justify the opening of new railway stations such as West Perth station tomorrow, and the spending of \$150 million on electrifying the Perth suburban rail network, while taxpayers are reeling under the increases his Government is imposing?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) to (3) The question has a number of facets which do not address my portfolio, such as third party insurance, licence fees, and so on. The member is obviously unaware of my responsibility. However, the question deserves a detailed response. If the member cares to put it on notice I shall give the appropriate answer.

TRANSPORT

Taxi Drivers: Assaults

33. Mrs HENDERSON, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that taxi drivers in Carnarvon experienced a number of assaults by patrons in 1985?
- (2) If so, what has been done to overcome the problem?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) After attending a meeting at Carnarvon in January this year, people from the Department of Transport arranged a survey into the problem. This survey was carried out and as a result of the goodwill it generated and with the cooperation received from police, welfare, and Aboriginal groups, the situation has improved remarkably. An increased presence by Department of Transport field officers at Carnarvon has also been maintained for the past six months.

I must add that I recently approved a change to the Transport (Country Taxi-Cars) Regulations to enable drivers, police, or other authorised persons to require that taxi patrons alight from taxis under certain unsatisfactory circumstances. This change was widely sought by country operators. Legal advice has also been sought on the matter of legislation to deal with the increasing incidence of unpaid taxi fares.

An information and advice brochure is also being prepared for country taxi-drivers and owners. This will address certain areas that have created problems for both groups.

WATER AUTHORITY

Borrowings

34. Mr MENSAROS, to the Honorary Minister assisting the Minister for Water Resources:

Had the Commonwealth, through the Loan Council at the last Premiers' Conference, not restricted the aggregate amount Government instrumentalities can borrow in 1986-87, how much more would the Water Authority of WA have borrowed than presently projected, and for which capital works?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

The question is one I have no way of being able to answer because I was not privy to the discussions which took place at the Premiers' Conference. If the member would like to place that matter on notice—

Mr Mensaros: I asked how much more would have been borrowed.

Mr Brian Burke: How do you expect him to know that off the top of his head?

Mr MacKinnon: That is his job.

Mr Brian Burke: Put it on the Notice Paper. You are not even being tricky.

Mr BRIDGE: I am not able to answer simply because I do not have the details. If the member for Floreat would like to place the matter on the notice paper I shall do my best to provide an answer.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Chair recognises the honesty of that answer.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Labour Costs

35. Mr WATT, to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

- (1) Was the Minister correctly reported in today's *The West Australian* as saying he agreed labour costs were high because of generous oncosts?
- (2) If so, does he plan to take a case to the Industrial Relations Commission to reduce these overgenerous oncosts?
- (3) Would he detail those oncosts which he considers to be overgenerous?
- (4) If another application were lodged in the Industrial Relations Commission by the Confederation of WA Industry

for the removal of the 17 per cent loading, would he recommend that the Government this time support it?

- (5) In view of his publicly stated position, and in view of the serious state of the economy, will he make representations to the Prime Minister to withdraw support for the three per cent superannuation productivity case?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Before the Minister attempts to answer that rather book-like question, I ask the member for Albany for a copy of it because a couple of its parts seemed to be quite hypothetical, to say the least.

I have read the question and I accept all but the fourth part, which starts with the word "If".

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) to (3) and (5) Last night I made some comments at a meeting of the Australian Small Business Association. The member for Albany was not at the meeting although a number of his confreres were. I assume they are so disillusioned with the Leader of the Opposition that they are hoping James McDonald will lead them out of their misery and their wilderness. However, having regard for his singular performance last night and the fact that he makes the Leader of the Opposition look slightly left wing, I do not think he will be of much assistance to them.

Had the member been at the meeting he would have known that the context in which I made my comments was as follows: It is ludicrous for the community to think there is one single solution to the problems Australia is experiencing at present.

The tragedy of the attitude of the Opposition, and of Mr McDonald and the member for Nedlands—and I have no doubt the member for Gascoyne would be included if we could take him from his current activities of trying to gain the leadership of his party—

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr PETER DOWDING: In view of the particular sensitivity of the Opposition on this subject, I will not pursue it.

Mr Clarko: Western Australia's Neville Wran.

Mr PETER DOWDING: That is a great honour—and I still have my voice.

Points of Order

Mr WATT: I asked a question in five parts, Mr Deputy Speaker, from which you deleted one part. So far the Minister has not answered any part. He has a copy of the question. I would be grateful if you would allow the question to be answered so that I could get the information I sought.

Mr BRIAN BURKE: It really is time that someone made the point that under our Standing Orders the Opposition has the right to ask questions and, provided the answers are relatively concise, Ministers have the right to answer them. As far as this point of order is concerned, there is no substance to any claim by any Opposition member that because the answer does not suit him and is not the answer he wants to what he thinks was the question, the Minister is out of order. The Opposition is a disgrace.

Mr LAURANCE: Answers from these Ministers are not brief or to the point. They do not answer the questions. We have a perfect right to ask that the Minister answer the question that you, Mr Deputy Speaker, quite rightly put in its proper context by removing one part of it that you considered to be unsatisfactory. The Minister will not answer the other parts of the question.

That is why question time is a joke, so much so that the Speaker felt compelled to say that Ministers were taking too long with their answers and that he would go back to allowing a 45-minute question time if Ministers of this Government did not play the game properly.

It is quite obvious that they do not like being questioned. The Government is on the run on the subject of taxes and charges and so many other things. Its Ministers have no answers and prefer to play games rather than answer questions.

Mr Deputy Speaker, the Speaker is away, but you should bear in mind that he told the Opposition he had spoken to the Premier and his Ministers and asked them to be brief when answering questions in future, or he would have to take some action. In view of his absence it is incumbent on you to put into force those things the Speaker is demanding of this Government.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Firstly, the member for Albany did not have a point of order, because when he asked his question of which I deleted part (4)—

Mr Laurance: The Government is hiding behind—

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Laurance: My apologies.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I accept—and the Standing Orders book just happens to be open at that page with the paragraph headed "Contempt or Other Misconduct", and I will be a full bottle on that within a couple of hours!

After the member for Albany asked his question the Minister for Employment and Training was endeavouring to answer it, but seven people from the Opposition benches—seven all at one time—were making frivolous interjections, and the people in the Public Gallery could be excused for thinking they were in the Regal Theatre.

Mr LAURANCE: Those interjections from the seven members were frivolous only because they were in response to a frivolous answer. The answer was frivolous, not the interjections.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That might be the member's opinion, but in my opinion the Minister was not given the opportunity to answer. If Opposition members would desist from these ridiculous and persistent interjections we might be able to get some value from question time.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr PETER DOWDING: If these members had been at the meeting they would have known that I made my comments in the context that there are many things wrong in the Australian

community, and that in isolation we cannot pick out one group in the community and inflict all the pain and punishment on them. Equally, since the Opposition does not really care about the ordinary workers, the bread-winners in this community—

Several members interjected.

Mr PETER DOWDING: The demonstration that they do not care about the ordinary working people was in the Premier's comments earlier, because members opposite taxed the life out of the ordinary working people.

Several members interjected.

Mr PETER DOWDING: The member for Gascoyne does not seem to want to listen to the answer.

Mr Clarko: You are a silver-tailed carpet-bagger who has never done a day's work in his life.

Mr PETER DOWDING: My bank manager does not think so.

If we simply adopt the Opposition's attitude of looking at one section of the community and inflicting the pain and punishment on them, we would bring Australia to its knees and not solve its problems.

The point I made was that over the last 30 or 40 years—the bulk of which the Opposition was in Government

and mismanaging the economy—there has been a considerable tendency to increase conditions of employment, which makes, in many cases, the oncosts a significant component of labour costs. We cannot simply chop away some of the conditions that people have and assume that will solve the problem.

I do not hear the Opposition talking about the structural problems of the community, or the failure of business to invest in training or to put aside renewal funds. Members opposite just want to chop the workers off at the knees.

We are examining all of the options open to a State Government to try to improve the situation for all the community of WA, not simply a small vocal section who have very largely been left alone in terms of their ability to gain resources, like the members of the Opposition. We see the Jags and the Mercs out the front. We do not see too many of them parked in the Premier's electorate or my electorate. In the consideration of all the options open to the Government, it will take account of the needs of the ordinary working people of WA.