

Government at that time as compared with the Governments in other States. That was a set of figures I obtained on the 6th March, 1974, for the purpose of election campaigning.

Those figures compare favourably with others in respect of other services that have been provided. At the time we were able to boast that in Western Australia we had cheaper water supplies and power supplies than any other State, and with the exception of the Northern Territory we had the cheapest motor vehicle license fees. Those were the sort of charges we fought to keep down. It appears as though the present Government has reviewed them and has said, "Put them up; the people will pay for them somehow." The charges will have to be met." The veiled promises that have been made by the Government did not count for anything. The Government made statements to the effect that it was concerned about rates and taxes and that it would conduct an inquiry into them. However, it did not make many inquiries, or, if they were made they have been hushed up.

In any event this Government did not do anything about rates and taxes and I am sure, Sir, that if you had been on the floor of the House you would have been critical of the Government for its action, as you were when you moved your motion couched in similar terms some years ago against a Government that was responsible for a rise which was only half the amount that has been applied by the present Government.

I feel that the present move is quite justified because the people of the State should know the ilk of the Government that is in office. It is a money Government. It looks for money to do all sorts of things, but it does not seem to care where the money is obtained. The Government has little regard for those who find it difficult to meet these increases and I would venture to say that we have not seen the last of such increases. I predict we will have further increases in water charges, electricity charges and the like because I do not think that this is a Government capable of overcoming the problem that arises in regard to economics by adjusting other things to accommodate the difficulties faced by the Treasury. The Government will continue to take the easy way out as it has done on past occasions. In view of that the Government deserves the censure of this House.

Amendment put and a division taken with the following result—

Ayes—17

Mr Barnett	Mr Hartrey
Mr Bateman	Mr Jamieson
Mr Bryce	Mr T. H. Jones
Mr B. T. Burke	Mr May
Mr T. J. Burke	Mr Skidmore
Mr Davies	Mr Taylor
Mr H. D. Evans	Mr J. T. Tonkin
Mr T. D. Evans	Mr Moller
Mr Harman	(Teller)

Noes—23

Mr Blaikie	Mr McPharlin
Sir David Brand	Mr Mensaros
Sir Charles Court	Mr Nanovich
Mr Cowan	Mr O'Connor
Mr Coyne	Mr O'Neill
Mrs Craig	Mr Ridge
Mr Crane	Mr Shalders
Dr Dadour	Mr Sibson
Mr Grayden	Mr Sodeman
Mr Grewar	Mr Stephens
Mr F. V. Jones	Mr Young
Mr Laurance	(Teller)

Pairs

Ayes	Noes
Mr Bertram	Mr Clarko
Mr Carr	Mr Old
Mr A. R. Tonkin	Mr Thompson
Mr McIver	Mr Rushton
Mr Fletcher	Mr Watt

Amendment thus negatived.

Debate (on motion) Resumed

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Young.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [10.59 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 10.30 a.m. tomorrow (Thursday).

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 11.00 p.m.

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 27th March, 1975

The **SPEAKER** (Mr Hutchinson) took the Chair at 10.30 a.m., and read prayers.

Closing Time: Announcement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr Hutchinson): I have an announcement to make regarding questions. Questions on notice for Tuesday, the 8th April, will close at noon on Friday, the 4th April. I trust that those members present will inform other members of this, as we have a rather lean House.

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL BILL (2nd)

Introduction and First Reading

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

SUPERANNUATION AND FAMILY BENEFITS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Treasurer) [10.35 a.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This measure seeks to amend the Superannuation and Family Benefits Act for the purpose of overcoming the problem created by the unduly high contributions which older members of the fund are currently required to meet in order to maintain their full pension entitlement.

Members will appreciate that in a unitary scheme contribution rates are structured to ensure that any unit taken up during an employee's working life will be fully paid by the time retirement occurs, and consequently, the older an employee is when a unit is taken up, the higher is his rate of contribution to the fund.

The problem created by the high cost of units taken up in later years of service has always been regarded as a weakness in unit type schemes. Moreover, the problem is seriously aggravated in times of high inflation.

Due to the rapid escalation of salaries in recent years and the resulting increase in unit entitlement, older members of the fund at all levels of remuneration are faced with unprecedented fortnightly contribution costs in order to take up the additional units required to preserve their full pension entitlement.

As a consequence, many of these members are not continuing in service on attaining the age of 60 years simply because their take-home pay after income tax and superannuation deductions would not be very much higher than the after-tax pension they would receive if they retired.

For those who remain in service beyond 60 years and maintain full pension cover, the position becomes progressively worse as contribution rates rise sharply after that age. Indeed, because of this and the progressive rate structure of the income tax scale, many of these employees face the unpalatable prospect of an ever-reducing take-home pay as their salaries increase. In fact, the stage can be reached where an employee who keeps up his contributions to the fund is left with no take-home pay at all.

Members might find that hard to believe, but there are actually at the present time some senior members of the Government service who are key people and who, if they stayed in Government employment, would be paying out more than they earn. I will develop the reason for this as I proceed.

We are aware that other Government superannuation schemes in Australia have experienced the same problems associated with high contribution costs and that measures have been adopted or are proposed to overcome them.

The Superannuation Board and senior Treasury officers have examined these moves and agree that similar steps might eventually have to be adopted here.

However, a major reconstruction of our scheme would be required and this would take some considerable time to carry out.

It is therefore proposed as an interim measure—I emphasise that—to allow members of the fund who have attained the age of 60 years to obtain relief from the high cost of superannuation contributions in the latter years of their service.

In essence, the Bill proposes to permit members of the fund, if they so wish, to elect to have their pension entitlements determined at age 60 or such later age up to age 65 as they elect, thus relieving them of further superannuation contributions. I emphasise that it is at the election of the person concerned. Contributors so electing would then be regarded—but only for the purposes of superannuation—as being retired, with the exception that they would not be paid a pension until they actually terminated their service.

As the purpose of the Bill is to relieve older contributors of the burden of the high contribution costs required to maintain full pension entitlement, it is proposed that only those holding their full primary entitlement be permitted to make an election. Provision has been made for eligible contributors holding less than their primary unit entitlement to qualify for pension determination if they so desire, by taking up the required additional units.

The Act contains a provision that under normal circumstances of retirement, at least one year's contributions must be paid for all units held before pension can be paid, and accordingly, the same requirement is proposed for all units held at the date of determination of a contributor's pension.

A retired member of the fund is barred by the Act from taking up further units except as a result of a retrospective salary increase. It is proposed to apply a similar rule to contributors whose pensions are determined. They are not to be entitled to further units after the date of determination of their pension unless entitlement arises from a salary increase effective from a day prior to that date.

It is usual for retiring members to surrender any units held in excess of their primary unit entitlement and to receive a refund of the contributions paid in respect of those units. Similarly, a refund is to be made of contributions for units in excess of primary entitlement on determination of a contributor's pension.

Members will be aware that all pensions paid under the Act are updated in January each year according to the percentage movement in the Consumer Price Index. Contributors electing for determination of their pensions under the provisions of the Bill, will also have their pension entitlements so updated where applicable, over the period that payment of pension is held in abeyance awaiting actual retirement.

As the next updating of pensions will not take place until January, 1976, and because it will relate to the movement in the Consumer Price Index from the 31st December, 1974, it is proposed to allow eligible contributors, if they so wish, to elect for the determination of their pensions on a date not earlier than the 31st December, 1974. Such an election is to be made by the 30th June, 1975.

As the fund share of pension is to be fixed at the date of determination but is not to be paid until the contributor actually retires, it is proposed that the amount involved be accumulated together with interest thereon and in due course converted to pension on actual retirement. This is necessary to ensure an equitable payment from the fund.

The Bill provides for the payment of revisionary benefits to widows and dependants in the event of the death in service of a member who has elected to determine his pension. Provision is also made for the payment of the determined pension in cases of retirement due to ill-health.

The proposals I have outlined would not result in increased costs to the State. On the contrary, they would result in savings as many older members would remain longer in service and consequently the State's liability for pension payments would be deferred.

I want to emphasise that this measure is purely a holding one. The authorities and experts involved are making a thorough study of the overall superannuation and family benefits provisions in this State. Of course, we have regard for the problems that are being experienced in the Commonwealth and in other States, because this situation is not peculiar to Western Australia.

I should also add that private enterprise is experiencing the same problems, and in some cases to an even more serious degree because employees are feeling the effects of this problem at a lower age in some of the private enterprise superannuation schemes. Therefore, after reviewing the matter and considering a number of specific cases which have to be seen to be believed, I felt it was a desirable thing to bring down a holding measure so that those who desire to do so could elect, at the age of 60, to have their pensions determined at that point of time.

I want to emphasise that employees will not draw their money as a pension right while they are still in employment. So, for instance, if they carry on in the employment of the Government until the age of 65, they will not be drawing their pension. All that will happen is that the employee will determine it, and it will increase progressively up to the date of retirement by automatic cost-of-living adjustments which are already in force. However, their position will not worsen

as it is doing at the present time. For instance, if one senior officer does not retire by the 31st March, he will be \$2 000 per year worse off in his net take-home pay than he would be if he retired. It is a freak set of circumstances.

These schemes were drawn up in a period of comparative economic stability, and they were not planned on the basis of rampant inflation, or on the basis that wages and salaries would increase at an unprecedented rate. Of course, because of our peculiar system, income tax has escalated at an even greater rate. In other words, it is a combination of two things; the higher a man's salary becomes the more tax proportionately is taken out, and at the same time his contribution to achieve his maximum entitlement under the superannuation scheme increases. He then meets up with another factor—one which members of Parliament are confronted with—and he reaches the point where he runs out of tax deductions in respect of superannuation contributions. From that point onwards he is on his own—he gets no benefit by way of tax relief.

The combination of all these factors has induced the Government to bring down a holding measure. I again emphasise that it is a holding measure, because it is far too complex to bring down a revised scheme this year. I doubt whether a scheme could be properly organised by the end of the calendar year, let alone by the end of the financial year.

I want to emphasise also that it should not be assumed the measure is brought down to benefit only the people in the higher income range of the Public Service; it applies at all levels, and some anomalous situations can be found through the complete wage scale. In the interests of equity I believe we must do something of a holding nature, bearing in mind that the matter is entirely at the option of the employee of the Government, and not at the option of the Government. I commend the Bill to members.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr J. T. Tonkin (Leader of the Opposition).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR RUSHTON (Dale—Minister for Local Government) [10.49 a.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill proposes to amend the Local Government Act, 1960-1974.

The measure has two principal aims: Firstly, to require a petition before two or more municipal districts can be united to form one municipality; and secondly, to make it mandatory for ratepayers in districts which would be affected, to be given the opportunity to demand a poll where

a petition seeks certain boundary alterations, and for the alterations to be prohibited if the poll negates the proposal.

Clause 1 is a preliminary clause containing the title and other relevant particulars.

Clause 2 amends, repeals, and re-enacts certain provisions of section 12 of the Local Government Act to—

- (a) Include the union of two or more municipalities to form one municipality, as a power which may be sought to be exercised by a petition presented by one or more of the municipalities which would be affected.
- (b) Delete the existing provisions that a union of municipalities may be initiated only by a joint petition of the municipalities concerned, or by the Governor without a petition.
- (c) Make the existing provisions whereby boundary alterations recommended by the Boundaries Commission can be implemented even though they are different from that sought by a petition, subject to the poll procedures provided for later in this Bill.

Clause 3: Sections 27 to 30 in the Local Government Act as it stands at present confer a discretion on the Minister to require a poll of electors when a petition is submitted seeking the exercise of any power mentioned in subsection (1) of section 12. This would include a petition by ratepayers or electors for the severance of portion of a district and its annexation to an adjoining district, and the abolition of a district and the dissolution of the municipality of that district. As both these types of petitions are covered by the mandatory poll provisions dealt with later in this Bill, clause 3 removes them from the discretionary procedures under sections 27 to 30.

Clause 4 is complementary to clause 3. It deletes from section 30 a provision for the conduct of a discretionary poll in respect of a specific boundary alteration which is to be covered by the mandatory poll procedures in this Bill.

Clause 5 makes detailed provisions requiring the conduct of polls at the demand of ratepayers on a proposal in a petition which seeks the exercise of a power to—

- (i) Sever from a district a portion of the district and annex the portion to a district which the portion adjoins, except in the case of a petition where all the municipalities which would be affected by the exercise of the power are parties to the petition. The fact that all the municipalities were parties to a petition would of course indicate that there was complete agreement on the question.

(ii) Unite two or more adjoining municipalities to form one municipality, again except in the case of a petition where all the municipalities which would be affected by the exercise of the power are parties to the petition.

- (iii) Abolish a district and dissolve the municipality of the district. A petition of this nature may be presented only by electors of the district. Although this action does not constitute a change in boundaries in the usual sense, there are other provisions in the Local Government Act which allow the land contained in a district so abolished to be attached subsequently to an adjoining municipality. Because a combination of these actions would give exactly the same effect as a union of municipalities it is considered that the initial proposal to abolish a district should be subject to the mandatory poll provisions.

The clause requires the following procedures to be followed before any of the particular petitions referred to can be presented to the Governor for the exercise of the power sought—

Mr Jamieson: Are you going to extend this to the Electoral Districts Act, too?

Mr RUSHTON: To continue—

- (a) Where a petition for severance and annexation, or the abolition of a district and the dissolution of the municipality of the district, is submitted by ratepayers or electors, the petition must be referred by the Minister to the council to verify that sufficient eligible persons are signatories to the petition.
- (b) In the case of any petition which is subject to the mandatory poll procedures the Minister must direct each municipality which would be affected to publish notice of the proposal contained in the petition, firstly in a newspaper circulating in the district, and secondly in the *Government Gazette*.

If it is a petition submitted by ratepayers or electors he may take this step only if the council concerned has verified the eligibility, etc., of the petitioners.

- (c) Within one month of publication of the notice in the gazette, 50 or more ratepayers in any of the respective municipal districts may demand that the proposal be submitted to a poll of ratepayers in that district.

- (d) On the expiration of this one-month period, each municipality must advise the Minister whether a poll has been demanded.
- (e) If a poll has been demanded in respect of any municipality, the Minister must appoint a date for the conduct of such polls and the councils concerned are required to give appropriate notice in a newspaper that the polls will be held.
- (f) The Minister may direct that those councils which are parties to a petition must meet the cost of any polls, otherwise each council meets its own poll costs.
- (g) Within 21 days after a poll, the returning officer must notify the Minister of the results.
- (h) A proposal in a petition is rejected by a poll only if—
 - at least one-third of the rate-payers entitled to vote, do so vote; and
 - a majority of those voting oppose the proposal.
- (i) If a proposal is rejected by a poll, the Minister is prohibited from presenting the petition to the Governor.

This Bill will make a valuable contribution to strengthening the goodwill and confidence between municipalities and the people residing within their boundaries.

The Bill does not remove the present right of municipalities to negotiate boundary changes when desirable and to their mutual benefit. However, if agreement is not reached between the elected representatives of the ratepayers and electors, it provides the residents with the democratic right of expressing their point of view through a referendum.

During my visits to the municipalities in Western Australia, I have been strongly encouraged to introduce this legislation.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Taylor.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: SEVENTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 26th March, on the following motion by Mr Old—

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

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

MR SIBSON (Bunbury) [10.56 a.m.]: I would like to make a few remarks in the Address-in-Reply debate. Firstly I would like to support the Premier in regard to the Governor's Speech, which has received considerable criticism. The Premier has already demonstrated to us that the same thing has been done in the past by previous Premiers of different political colours; that is, the Federal Government, irrespective of its colour, has been criticised in the past.

Mr Bertram: Not in the same circumstances.

Mr SIBSON: The State Government has a responsibility to point out to the people of Western Australia just what problems it faces in the functioning of government and what inhibitions are placed upon it, in order that the people may understand better why some things just cannot be done. We must all understand that the reason certain things cannot be done is a lack of finance. If the State Government is not receiving the finance it requires for projects and it is the responsibility of the Federal Government to provide funds, then it naturally follows that blame is attachable to the Federal Government.

Mr Bertram: The State Government is now getting more than it has ever got by a mile.

Mr SIBSON: So I would like to record my support for the Governor's Speech and to compliment the Premier on the way it was presented in a factual, straightforward, and understanding manner.

Mr Bertram: You are getting more money now than ever before in history; more by a mile, and you know it.

Mr SIBSON: I would also like to make a comment about the twice-yearly speech of the member for Collie last night. I suggest to *Hansard* that perhaps next time he makes the same speech the reporters could take one of his previous speeches and simply include it in the record again.

Mr May: Why didn't you get up and say something last night? You were not game.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr SIBSON: I would like to refer to a few of the comments we hear repeatedly from the member for Collie. I am not particularly interested in whether or not he speaks again in this debate. I have written evidence which I was unable to present to the House when I spoke previously, but which I can bring along if members wish, to show that the member for Collie who was then secretary of the Collie Miners' Union supported actions being taken by the Liberal Government—and supported them very strongly.

Point of Order

Mr MAY: Mr Speaker, like the Premier I am very sensitive and pedantic. I feel the member for Bunbury is talking about a previous debate in this Chamber—a debate which occurred last night—and he should not refer to it today.

The SPEAKER: What debate was that?

Mr MAY: He is referring to the speech made by the member for Collie last night.

Sir Charles Court: If that is right we couldn't speak on the Address-in-Reply any more, because he covered so many things.

Speaker's Ruling

The SPEAKER: I must confess that I was doing other things and was not listening very closely to the member for Bunbury. However, the Address-in-Reply is a debate in which members can range worldwide on almost any subject.

As one member has spoken to this subject of coal during the Address-in-Reply debate, it seems to me that the member for Bunbury is entitled to make his comments. However, I will watch the situation and note what is said and try to evaluate the debate more closely than so far I have been able, to see whether or not I should reverse my decision. However, at this stage I rule that the honourable member may continue his speech.

Debate Resumed

Mr SIBSON: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Speaker. I should like to make only a few comments in relation to the subject of coal; I do not think the time of the House should be wasted in going back into history on the matter. Certain comments have been made on several occasions by the member for Collie relating to the coal issue and I believe that we should assess the situation in the coal industry in the 1950s.

With the advent of the cost-plus system, the industry became extremely overloaded due to the number of people working in it. The proof of this statement is the fact that when the numbers were reduced from about 1 200 workers employed in the industry to about 600, the same amount of coal was produced. These were very real problems, which somebody had to face.

I noticed Sir David Brand sitting quite comfortably in his seat last night when he was being criticised—very politely criticised—for the decisions he made at that time. I believe we should record the true situation now and finish with the matter for all time. The decisions which were courageously taken by the Government of the day were for the good of Collie and it is for this reason that Collie is on such a firm footing today.

My interest in this matter, of course, is that Collie is a town which greatly supports Bunbury; from now on, it is going

to support Bunbury even more because every additional tonne of coal produced in Collie means extra money and involvement from that town in Bunbury. That is why I make these few remarks now.

Mr May: But who was responsible for that?

Sir Charles Court: It was the Brand Government.

Mr May: Rubbish! What rubbish! It was the Tonkin Government.

Sir Charles Court: Nonsense! It was the Brand Government which was responsible for establishing the Muja power station.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr SIBSON: The decisions that were taken at that time were for the benefit of Collie and the State in general; they were decisions taken by a responsible Government.

Mr T. H. Jones: The Brand Government did nothing to help the coal industry.

Sir Charles Court: You do not know what you are talking about. We have always had a concern for the coal industry.

Mr May: That is absolute rubbish; you did nothing.

Sir Charles Court: Nonsense!

The SPEAKER: Order! There are too many interjections; it is most disconcerting.

Mr SIBSON: Thank you, Mr Speaker; I believe I have got my point across on this issue. Just in case the *Hansard* reporter had trouble hearing my remarks during that furore, I repeat that the decisions taken at that time by the Brand Government were for the long-term well-being and benefit of the Collie coal industry.

Mr T. H. Jones: What a lot of rubbish!

Mr May: What rot!

Sir Charles Court: You have really touched them on the raw.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr SIBSON: I could continue to talk about this matter until 3.30 this afternoon.

Mr Skidmore: We would provide the necessary extensions of time for you.

Mr SIBSON: I thank the honourable member; however, I may need that form of assistance on some future occasion. I should now like to refer to a few matters concerning my electorate. Last Christmas Day we all heard the very sad news of the Darwin disaster. I should like to record my thanks to the Mayor of Bunbury, Mr Pat Usher, his councillors and the people of Bunbury for the way they reacted immediately to assist the people of Darwin. I also thank the members of the service clubs and other organisations who went into action on Christmas Day and Boxing Day to ensure that whatever could be done

in Bunbury was done to assist the appeal which was launched. Some \$18 000 was raised in the appeal.

However, we went a little further than that. The town of Bunbury organised an operating committee to handle and assist all the problems faced by Darwin evacuees who arrived not only in the town of Bunbury but also in the Bunbury region itself. This committee was accepted by the Lord Mayor's committee as being a functioning committee to the extent that it was able to disperse its own funds. It provided a direct, personal, and helpful service to the unfortunate evacuees who arrived in the region and, to this date, has worked so exceptionally well that the amount of about \$5 000 which was set aside for the region was entrusted to the committee for dispersal and in fact more funds were sent to it from the central fund.

Although I sincerely hope such a disaster does not occur again, I believe that in future, if this sort of thing happens again, appeal funds will be diversified into various areas because the committee in the Bunbury region has worked so well, not only in the dispersal of money but also—and principally—in helping the unfortunate evacuees and in making the local people aware of the very real problems faced by these people.

Sometimes the problem was not related to money; relatives of evacuees had to be contacted, evacuees wanted to know when they could go back to Darwin, and generally, many other personal problems had to be resolved by the committee.

We have heard in Bunbury a lot of discussion about a new courthouse. Of course, the new courthouse was to be built some years ago, but due to circumstances at that time—the change of Government and that sort of thing—it has never been built. However, some progress has now been made in this area and negotiations are under way between the relevant department and several people in Bunbury over a possible site for the courthouse; I understand that things are progressing quite well.

I point out to the Premier and his Cabinet that one of the most important requirements in our town is a new courthouse; the expansion of work in this area has made it an absolute necessity. The conditions under which the judiciary and their staff presently are working certainly are not conducive to the best interests of the people of the region. I appeal to the Cabinet to do everything that can be done to ensure that the new courthouse becomes a reality as soon as possible.

I should like to comment on a new group which has been formed in Bunbury. It was formed in July or August last year and is known as the Bunbury Volunteer Community Group; it was established because it was felt there was a need in the

town to co-ordinate the work done by various bodies such as the Department for Community Welfare, the Department of Social Security, and various other Government and non-Government instrumentalities, including such bodies as the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Country Women's Association, and all those people who work towards the welfare of the community.

It became very clear last year to many people, including Mr Mike Penton from the Department for Community Welfare, that there was a great amount of duplication of effort in this field. In other words, people were crossing one another's tracks and there was no co-ordination in the work being done by these organisations. So, a meeting was held and it was decided that the best way to overcome this problem was to meet regularly and discuss all the problems around the town. It was surprising how quickly this proposal was formulated into something that was of real assistance.

For example, the CWA may come across a case which is not really in its court, but which perhaps could be handed over to the Department for Community Welfare or the Salvation Army for their attention. This group now meets regularly every Thursday morning from 9.00 a.m. until 10.00 a.m. Any business that is not concluded by 10.00 a.m. is passed over until the next meeting, purely and simply because if the time limit is not observed, the meetings will continue until 11.00 a.m. or noon. I have had the pleasure of attending many of these meetings and chairing two of them.

An outstanding example of the benefit that arose from this exercise was the formation of the Darwin Committee, which eventually found its place within this Bunbury group. As a result every Thursday morning when the group met all the problems concerning Darwin evacuees residing anywhere in the Bunbury region were brought to the one table. One morning it was pointed out that there was an urgent need for a refrigerator. A lady from the CWA said that she knew where a refrigerator could be bought for \$35. Money was taken from the fund and the refrigerator was bought within an hour or two, despite the fact that the person who needed it had been battling to obtain one for a week or so. I record this case in *Hansard* because I believe this is a move that could be followed by many towns throughout the State, particularly in regional areas, to ensure that this co-ordination can go on between organisations in any town.

Not only service organisations are represented on the committee; sporting organisations and the like are also represented; and quite often it is found the Boy Scouts' organisation needs some assistance. All these problems can be handled

by the committee. In only a few months the committee has been operating most efficiently, and minutes of the meetings have been kept and circulated each week.

I therefore believe the results it has achieved are worthy of being recorded in *Hansard* and worthy of being recognised by the Government with a view to encouraging this kind of operation in other towns, because it is not only time-saving for the people who belong to these organisations—and here I would point out that most members of these organisations regard their time as valuable because they are prominent members of the community—but all the work can be co-ordinated and brought to one centre so that the best results for the least cost can be achieved for those who need help. I therefore repeat that I believe this is a worthy cause that should be given every consideration.

If the organisation continues to grow, perhaps in the future there will be a need for it to be granted some funds. This organisation would never need a great deal of money because its operations are quite simple, but in the future perhaps a small fund could be established to finance the group's operations. At the moment steps are being taken to establish such a fund through the ministers' fraternity. Ministers are approaching service groups to establish a fund of \$1 000 which can be held in trust to provide immediate assistance to any family in the town that is in urgent need of it. It is possible that as a result of some tragedy a family may need assistance before it makes application to the organisations or departments from which it can obtain assistance. This fund will be established to provide bridging finance to any family which may be in need of it.

In most cases the total that would be needed would amount to \$500 or \$600, and after the group had rendered financial assistance to any one in need of this amount it could be recouped from an official source. It is often found that such groups are at a disadvantage in trying to carry out their work because they do not have any money available immediately to relieve some hardship that springs up virtually overnight or within a few hours.

I would now like to say a few words about the schools in Bunbury. I believe that Bunbury is well provided with schools at primary and secondary levels, but nevertheless some problems do arise in various areas. Only this morning we had discussions with the Minister in regard to these problems. We find that whilst most schools in Bunbury are providing adequately for the areas in the immediate vicinity of Bunbury, and also outside of it, two or three places could be described as growth areas where there is the ever-

lasting problem of a build-up in the number of students within a short period of time and it is most difficult to assess what the future requirements of such a school will be.

At the moment there is a very real problem at the Adam Road School in the Minninup Road-Withers area. The number of students at that school has built up rapidly to a total of 746 at present. This has created some problems in regard to classroom accommodation. It is difficult, within a short period of time, always to provide sufficient classrooms and, as a result, overcrowding occurs. I believe this is no reflection on the Education Department, because it has reviewed this situation and has done what is considered necessary. Nevertheless, with the rapid growth in Bunbury, particularly during this period when there is a downturn in the building industry generally, we have been fortunate in our town, because actually the building industry has expanded instead of experiencing a downturn.

Of course, the areas that are expanding rapidly are the Minninup and Withers areas. The only point I would like recorded is that I think the department and the Government have to look well ahead in order to provide adequate accommodation for the schools in those areas that are experiencing rapid growth. There are two reasons for this. One is that if insufficient thought is given to future needs overcrowding of existing classrooms results, because additional classrooms cannot be provided soon enough. There are also problems in regard to a school being provided with classrooms to cater for students who are in their first year at school and also for those who are in their eighth, ninth and tenth year, because after this stage has been reached the need for school accommodation tends to taper off. Therefore, if the provision of school accommodation is not considered early in the piece and, as a result, there is a shortage of accommodation for five, six, and seven-year-olds, overcrowding results; but after additional classrooms are provided a recession may take place and, in fact, the expenditure of money could be wasted.

I understand the Railways Department has been considering the discontinuance of the passenger rail service from Bunbury to Perth and return. This has caused a good deal of talk in the town of Bunbury. As is well known, a large number of people leave Bunbury at 6.00 a.m. to travel to Perth via the "Shopper" and return at 10.40 p.m. Also, the *Australind* leaves Perth at 9.40 a.m. and returns from Bunbury at 3.30 p.m. It is felt in some quarters that buses could provide a better service. Perhaps a better service could be provided by buses along this route and no doubt it would be a little faster.

Mr Skidmore: But not as comfortable.

Mr SIBSON: I accept that point; they may not be as comfortable as train travel. However, travel by bus may be cheaper than travel by train. We do, nevertheless, have peak times such as Easter which is nearly on us this year, and there are also peak periods at Christmas, school holidays, long weekends, and the like. I have a fear that if this passenger service were discontinued we would have very real problems. I know it is a crime to see a passenger train on occasion travelling to Perth from Bunbury or from Perth to Bunbury carrying only a few people. I would say that in these circumstances a passenger bus service would be more economical, but possibly we would encounter real problems in trying to cope with the number of people who travel backwards and forwards to Perth from Bunbury at peak times.

There is another very important factor. I travel on the *Australind* on many occasions, and when I do I find that a large percentage of the people who use this service are not those who reside in Bunbury or in the south-west. I would estimate that a good 50 per cent of the passengers on the *Australind*, if not more, would be people who are termed "one-day tourists". They take advantage of the service provided by the Railways Department in that they travel down to Bunbury on the *Australind* on a return ticket and then take advantage of the various tours and facilities that operate from the town of Bunbury.

There is a person in the town who operates a bus service in conjunction with the railways. He takes the tourists around the district and shows them points of interest. From that point of view, looking at the overall advantages of such a service, it might be worth while to take into account the benefits that tourism does derive.

Whilst the most desirable tourists to a town are the people who stay for a fortnight or three weeks, there is no doubt that the one-day tourist is also very beneficial because he is prepared to spend at least some money in the town.

Mr Skidmore: He has to eat.

Mr SIBSON: The one-day tourist generally buys something in the town either to remind him of it, or for his children and relations. Usually these tourists take advantage of the guided tours that are provided. This could be regarded as a service run in conjunction with the railways to cater for a very worth-while industry. Before any move is taken—I am quite certain the matter will be dealt with in that way in respect of any decision to reduce rail services—an investigation should be carried out.

We find that the buses may not provide employment for as many people as do the railways. This aspect is of vital importance to the town, because over a period of

time there has been a great reduction in the number of employees in the Railways Department. For that reason this proposal should be examined very closely. It might be necessary to discontinue the "Shopper" service—I am not basing this on facts or evidence—and to upgrade the *Australind* service to make it a little more attractive.

Criticism has been levelled by some people in Bunbury against the Government; they believe the Government will just go ahead and discontinue the rail services. I know that is not correct. The position is being looked at closely, and the Minister for Transport has the matter in hand. He is mindful of all the areas that will be affected by any such move. I am quite certain that a thorough investigation will be conducted before deciding on final proposals.

Before any move is made in this regard I would like to be assured that not only the economics, but the actual service and what it means to the town of Bunbury and its region will be looked at.

Mr Skidmore: The Minister for Tourism should take notice of this.

Mr SIBSON: I have always found the Minister for Tourism to be very receptive to any proposal that will prove to be of advantage to tourism. We have only to ring the Minister and point out something to him, and he promptly takes up the matter very readily. In that regard I have no fears, because I am sure the Minister for Transport will be negotiating with the Minister for Tourism on this very matter.

I wish to touch on another matter which affects my electorate, but I shall not deal with it too deeply otherwise I would be cutting across the province of the member for Wellington. I refer to the establishment of an industry by Wesply at Dardanup.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Blaikie): Order! There is too much audible conversation.

Mr SIBSON: I shall not refer to the operations of the company in great detail, but I wish to mention its impact on Bunbury. Wesply is to establish an industry at Dardanup at an estimated cost of \$11.5 million. I believe it will have a very great impact on my electorate, in view of the number of people which the industry will employ. It is anticipated that eventually 300 people will be employed in the industry. This is very much welcomed by the town. Whilst Bunbury itself might not supply all the labour that is required, I venture to say that it will supply a large percentage of it.

When Laporte established its industry in Bunbury in 1964 a very much needed impetus was given to the town. I believe that at the moment Bunbury is experiencing a trough in employment, and it requires an industry such as the one proposed by Wesply to give it an impetus and

create not only jobs, but career opportunities which companies like Wesply and Laporte can provide. This would enable people to become more than mere employees; they could be provided with jobs which give them some status and great interest. For those reasons we welcome very much the announcement by the Government that this industry is to be established in our region.

I shall refrain from commenting on the establishment of the industry by Wesply and what benefits it will bring to the whole region, and leave that aspect to the member for Wellington to develop. Another area which the industry will affect to a very great extent is in the field of transport, railways, and shipping.

I shall now deal with the theme of decentralisation, and the criticism that has been levelled at the Government. One of the pledges on which our Government came to office—and there were others—was that every endeavour would be made to decentralise wherever possible. We were warned by the Premier that decentralisation could not be implemented overnight, because research has to be undertaken, and expertise and staff have to be found to carry out the functions. This is something which cannot be implemented by a Government within a few weeks of its election. It is something which, in fact, could take the life of the Parliament to put into operation.

In that respect decentralisation applies to the provision of State Housing Commission homes at Bunbury, Albany, Geraldton, and other towns. This policy of decentralisation has been adopted by the Government, and it is working very well. Here we have a true example of decentralisation being put into effect. The staff employed at the Bunbury office of the State Housing Commission has been increased from four to seven, and eventually the number will reach 11. More importantly the staff of the offices of the commission at Busselton, Manjimup, Waroona, and Collie has also been increased. So, we can see the implementation of regional development in its very best form. There is a central office in Bunbury, and others have been established in towns within the region to provide for the local need.

Mr Carr: Do you think that enough is being done quickly?

Mr SIBSON: I support any move in this direction which is taken without too great haste. I believe that politically a Government can make moves with too great haste, by appointing officers, establishing departments or branches, and paying high rentals. In my view such moves eventually must collapse.

It is essential that when such moves are made, the long-term and not the short-term effect is taken into account; they should not be made for political gain or similar reasons. It appears to me that the

State Housing Commission has evolved in the right way. Irrespective of whether we contend that certain steps should, or should not, be taken I believe it is better to plant a seed and let it grow; in that way we can control it. That is preferable to trying to satisfy a few people by scattering a handful of seed and hoping no weeds will germinate.

The next move is to extend and to encourage various Government departments, to perhaps not decentralise in the true sense of the word but to implement regional development. Regional development should mean not only establishing Government departments and offices in towns like Albany and Bunbury, but also throughout the regions, so that every town will derive some benefit. Before such moves are made very close consideration should be given to the effects of such extension, because of the cost involved. Consideration must also be given to the advantages that will accrue to an area where regional development is undertaken. I have given one example of a department establishing offices. We can watch the result and determine whether it is a success; if it is not a success perhaps the decision on establishment could be reserved without great difficulty.

If it is a success it can be added to as time goes by. The situation is no different from that of a man who establishes a farm or business. If he does this in the correct manner he does it that way, particularly if he has limited resources. If a company can spend \$300 million that is a different matter; but I know the Government has very limited resources and therefore it is essential that when these things are done close consideration be given to the amount of money involved so that when it is spent it is at least of some value and not wasted. Money has been spent in various other departments at times without any long-term thinking having been given to its expenditure and to what is required to be done, and at a later date the work has been found to be a complete failure. Therefore, I endorse the move of the Government and would encourage further consideration of the regional development of these departments where possible.

The PWD has a very strong section in Bunbury and I believe that in time the responsibility for much more of the work to be done in this area will be given to these regional officers. The whole crux of the matter is that if a Government makes such a move it does expand into the regional areas and autonomy results. The department's staff in the area makes local decisions. The guidelines must be established and financial restrictions imposed, but with regard to the actual running of the department the regional officers make the decisions. This is the case with the State Housing Commission. I find it very rarely necessary to ring the SHC liaison officer in Perth to get any results.

Mr Davies: You would be the only one.

Mr SIBSON: The approach of the honourable member might be wrong. I have found the officer very co-operative.

Mr Davies: So have I, but nothing happens.

Mr SIBSON: Practically the only time I have to ring the parliamentary liaison officer is when a person is shifting from Bunbury to the metropolitan area and for obvious reasons it is necessary to liaise with the central department. However, concerning allocations, emergency lists, and all the aspects with which I become involved in the department, I find the decisions are made locally. This has resulted in a speeding up of the decisions. When someone is in urgent need of housing, a decision must be made fairly quickly. It is not always possible to find an empty house for that person, but at least the department decides that the particular person is an emergency case and can be placed on top of the list so that immediately a house becomes available it will be allocated to him.

This was one of the problems before when we had to deal with the Perth office. Correspondence had to flow and it was difficult to get the real message across and too much time elapsed in the process. Apart from the economics and operations of the office, the real service to the individuals themselves has been upgraded to such an extent that it is most acceptable to them.

Mr McIver: That must apply only to Bunbury. You are lucky you have a regional office.

Mr SIBSON: I take the point, and I sympathise with the member for Avon because he does not have such an office. Geraldton has one, but we cannot have them established everywhere at the same time. I still believe that if members have patience—and I have no doubt that the member for Avon is working very hard on this—eventually the right service will be provided; the important factor is that when it is provided it is the right one and is not something foisted on a town to relieve the situation at the time.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has four minutes.

Mr SIBSON: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for reminding me of the time I have available, but I will conclude my remarks and thank members for listening.

MR SKIDMORE (Swan) [11.35 a.m.]: I wish to raise three matters during this debate, two of which I will dispose of very quickly, and I hope the departments I criticise will get about their business and dispose of the items with like alacrity.

I first refer to the necessity for the staff of members to be able to work in their electorate offices in comparable conditions of employment. One would feel that this

should be a prerequisite for the staff to be able to carry out their duties in such a manner that the member concerned could feel that his efforts were not in vain. The staff should be looked after, but unfortunately this is not the case in regard to the member for Swan.

I would like to give some of the reasons I believe it is time there was something of a shake-up on the question of offices of members of Parliament. On the 3rd July last year I wrote to the agent of the premises that were occupied at that time by the former member for Swan (Mr J. J. Brady), which I took over, to inform him that for several reasons, the offices were not satisfactory to me.

The situation was that an air-conditioner placed in the office because of the inability to provide proper levels of ventilation had to be removed as it overhung an adjoining property the owners of which were complaining about the noise. When it was removed the hole that was left was blocked up with a piece of mas-onite and last year the rain came in that area and ran down the wall. Because of the hole being blocked up the only ventilation for the staff has been an open window facing the traffic on Great Northern Highway.

Mr O'Neill: What is the address of your office?

Mr SKIDMORE: It is 43 Great Northern Highway.

Mr O'Neill: Who owns the building?

Mr SKIDMORE: The Swan Building Society. The point I make is that the situation is serious. In July last year I started to move on this matter by writing to the PWD on the 8th August when I pointed out the disadvantages applying to my staff and myself, but more so my staff. On the 2nd September we rang the PWD to complain about the noise and I received a reply to the effect that my first letter was still under consideration and that I should be patient and things would settle down soon.

I did not bother to write any further letters. The situation might be evident even at this stage because since July last year I have not received any satisfaction.

I have made further approaches. There is other room available in the same building and the owner has moved to put in a partition to ensure that the PWD can come in and complete its work. Then some strange things happened.

A Mr Clark called in with a Mr Calleja of the PWD to study the situation. After several months of waiting I contacted these gentlemen and one of them said he did not know what was going on, but would find out for me. He came back and said he did not know anything about it; but he had been in my office some three or four months previously speaking about the matter. Then I had a Mr Fulford of

the PWD maintenance section call in and he is at least trying to do something. He said he could not understand why nothing had been done previously.

The owner of the building put in a partition dividing up the area and at the same time could have put in a partition subdividing the office space which could have been made available to me. All the work necessary could have been done in six hours on one day and I would have been in my office months ago. This is what I want, not so much for myself, but for my staff. I do hope the Minister will expedite matters so that my staff can be accommodated under reasonable conditions.

It is obvious my criticism is not of the Minister, but of his officers, who seem to think it is not necessary to listen to the complaints of members of Parliament who have genuine cause for alarm because of the conditions under which staff have to work. The situation is not good enough and I believe it should be attended to immediately.

Mr Sibson: Surely the member could discuss this with the Minister directly.

Mr SKIDMORE: I do discuss these things with the Minister, as I discuss many other matters with Ministers.

During the last Address-in-Reply debate I criticised the lack of maintenance on some homes in the Maylands area. My remarks appear in *Hansard* for 1974 at page 297, and were as follows—

I do not wish to belabour the question any longer, but in the issue of the *Swan Express* of Friday, June, 1974, the following headline appears—

SHC Flats Neglected

I ask members to read the article, because it is truthful. If the Minister for Housing does not think so I will take him to those flats and, in going through this Press report paragraph by paragraph, point out to him the faults that have been mentioned. They do exist. They are not a figment of journalistic imagination. The truth is that people have been asked to suffer indignities in regard to housing and it is time this was stopped.

Arising out of my rather trenchant criticism of the Housing Commission, through the good offices of the Minister for Housing I was advised that the Acting General Manager of the State Housing Commission wished to see me to discuss the issues I had raised in the House. I met Mr McKenna and I was subjected to the greatest public relations exercise I have ever experienced in my life. I say that without further qualification because at the time I felt that a senior public servant would at least say truthful things, and at last something would be done to alleviate the distress of the people I represent.

Only yesterday I raised the question of the homes which have been subject to orders by the Swan Shire Council. They are a health hazard and are in a dilapidated condition, but what response did I get? Nothing will be done because a redevelopment programme is to take place. Mr McKenna promised me, in his office, that he would authorise the necessary maintenance to bring those houses up to a livable standard, bearing in mind the proposed demolition. I accepted that statement. However, I would like to say to the Minister that I hope the proposed demolition gets under way so that reconstruction can commence because there is a desperate need for homes in the area. The houses are dilapidated and should be demolished in order to provide decent housing. The provision of four walls, a floor, and a roof is not the criterion on which housing should be provided for our people.

The next issue I want to speak about is rather contentious. At times it behoves all members of Parliament to look at themselves to see where they are heading with regard to their attitude towards social problems. I suppose that if I wanted to keep myself out of a hornet's nest I certainly would not bring up this subject during the Address-in-Reply debate. However, I believe all members are concerned with the problem. It affects every member in some way and, unfortunately, at times it becomes a political football to the discredit of all concerned; the discredit of members, the discredit of people who indulge in unnecessary discussion, and to the discredit of the Minister. It seems that people allow themselves to be used. It is also a discredit to those people who make certain utterances in an effort to achieve what they are trying to do. I refer to our Aboriginal population.

I am aware this is not a popular subject and that one should not be outspoken. However, I intend to be outspoken today because I am concerned with the Aboriginal people in my area. I am aware that other members, too, are concerned about the conditions of the Aboriginal people.

I have already said that everybody has problems with the Aboriginal population but it seems that most people run for cover when it comes to the question of trying to resolve the issue. There are one or two exceptions and I must say that the present Minister for Housing is one of those who does not run for cover. It is to his credit that some effort is being made to provide housing for the Aborigines.

At this stage, I want to point out that I am dealing with this matter on a non-political basis. That is the attitude we should all adopt. I intend to refer members to some remarks made by responsible people. I will condemn some, and commend others, and in turn I will also slate

the journalists who go out of their way to distort facts and figures and statements in the newspapers. In many instances the journalistic element is completely wrong and articles are different from the intention of the person making a statement. There are many glaring examples of where fuel is piled upon the fires of dissension between white and black and it is to the discredit of the Press that that feeling should be allowed to exist.

The Laverton issue has been freely discussed, and more and more articles have appeared in the Press. One article appeared under the heading, "W.A. Federal rift grows on Laverton". The article, in part, reads—

An assistant commissioner of Police Mr A. J. Parker, will be in charge of the police investigation into the role of the police in the Laverton incidents.

The article states that there is to be a Federal-State group to examine ways of improving relations at Laverton and in other areas of the State between the police and citizens of Aboriginal and European descent. Members of the group were to be Mr B. Mason, of the National Aboriginal Consultative Committee, Mr G. M. Budge, regional officer in Kalgoorlie for the Aboriginal Affairs Department, and several others. The committee was set up in an effort to overcome the problems in Laverton. The article stated—

The coordinator of the Aboriginal Legal Service, Mr J. Huelin, said yesterday that the State Government was trying to evade the issue by deciding against a public inquiry.

It might be said that a public inquiry would have been better than the inquiry which has already been held. At least let us have an inquiry to see whether it is necessary to hold a further and more exhaustive inquiry. People who criticised the committee of inquiry in its early stage were stepping into a hornet's nest.

I will refer to an article which appeared in the Press on the 11th March, 1975, which states that the Ministers said some Aboriginal leaders did little to advance the cause of their own people. The article states—

The Minister for Police, Mr O'Connor, and the Minister for Community Welfare, Mr Baxter, both today criticised Aboriginal leaders who attacked them yesterday.

I suggest Ministers ought to be a little more patient when it comes to the question of criticising Aboriginal leaders and likewise, Aboriginal leaders should give more thought to their remarks which can be blown up by screaming headlines to emphasise the problem which exists between all parties. It is unfortunate, and it should not be indulged in because this

is a problem which we should face fairly and squarely in an effort to solve it. The article continues—

The Ministers said some Aboriginal leaders did little to advance the cause of their own people.

I agree with that statement because some of the leaders do little to advance the cause of their own people. However, the same as other Aboriginal people they, in turn, become emotional and make statements. Their problems are real. Articles appear in the Press stating that Mr Baxter said so-and-so; Mr Colbung was critical; Mr Baxter said it was nonsense for Mr Colbung to make claims; Senator Cavanagh said he would give some money. The whole thing becomes attack and retreat and there is a problem in trying to understand what is going on.

The General Secretary of the WA Police Union saw fit to defend the members of his union, and I agree he has that right. He placed an advertisement in the paper.

Mr Coyne: He put many other people on a spot.

Mr SKIDMORE: Yes. I do not intend to read the whole of the advertisement which appeared under the name of the General Secretary of the WA Police Union. However, it was headed "Laverton—the facts" and was published on the 18th March, 1975. In part, it read—

... enquire into the role played by his department and to the various Government sponsored Aboriginal Agencies who have fostered anti-police attitudes and created racial hatred ...

I agree that the General Secretary of the WA Police Union has grounds for complaint against the attack which has been made on the members of the Police Force. Rightly or wrongly, the prejudging of the situation at Laverton should not have been allowed to appear in an article in the Press. I do not think the general secretary of the union did his cause any good by saying that anti-police attitudes exist amongst the Aborigines, and others. Neither do I believe he should engender the thought that there is hatred between black and white, one against the other.

Further on the general secretary of the union says—

We also anticipate that if the Royal Commission does exonerate the Police, as we believe it will, then another witchhunt will be on in another town unless some practical recommendations are forthcoming, devoid of political pressures.

That is again a provocative statement which should not have been made by a person in a responsible position, and I feel it should be condemned. It is not good enough that these statements should be made, because we all have to face up to

the solving of this problem. I am critical of my own efforts in this regard because I should have done more. I have skipped out from under. Since I have been in Parliament, like many other politicians I have run for cover when I should have spoken out on certain issues.

Let me make a quick analysis of the true position at Collie. It was a small bubble between a group of youths who have been dealt with summarily by the court and told that type of behaviour is not on as far as Collie is concerned. A youth ran his car into the back of an Aboriginal's car and the group got out and proceeded to bash him up. The story was written up by Doug Cunningham, a Collie reporter, who said that 100 people armed themselves with axes, pieces of wood, and other crude weapons and went on a rampage through Collie looking for natives. What a thing to print! What an issue to put forward to overcome a problem which was by that time probably well taken in hand by the people in Collie. That report certainly did nothing to overcome the stress and strain. It added fuel to the fire and should be condemned.

No conciliatory attitude is taken in journalism. Newspapers highlight for sensationalism the fact that there are some difficulties between black and white people. The difficulties are of our own making and it is time we stopped using people, both black and white, as political footballs. That practice is not good enough and should cease.

There is a faint hope on the horizon. The *Daily News* of the 26th March contains an article which indicates that at long last some fruitful talks have taken place between the Government and the Federal department responsible for Aboriginal affairs, and that there could be co-operation and an investigation into the Laverton incident, which no doubt will bring forward many reasons why we should have a fresh look at the situation. I hope that comes about and that it will be dealt with on the basis I have put forward today.

I would like to speak about some of the Aboriginal leaders who have been outspoken and critical. I will mention one in particular but there are many others in this State and throughout Australia who seem to think they should get on the bandwagon by protesting and making statements which can be taken to mean they are having a running fight with the system because they happen to be black.

The headline "Colbung warns of uprising" appeared in the Press on the 6th March. It was reported that Colbung said, "There is going to be some trouble. We are not going to allow our people to be downgraded. We will protect them." This is typical sensational journalism which takes statements completely out of context. Colbung did not say that at all.

He said, "If there is any move to evict tenants unfairly". But the screaming headline said, "Colbung warns of uprising". It did not go on to say, "if tenants are tipped out of their houses unfairly". This sort of thing adds fuel to the fire. I hope journalists will become more responsible in their attitude in this regard.

Mr Clarko: Did he not also make other threats?

Mr SKIDMORE: Yes. I do not know what they were but I would condemn them if they were made in a manner which prejudices the cause he espouses, and I would say it is time he shut up and that some white people did likewise until they get to the conference table to try to solve this very vexatious question.

I now turn to the problems affecting my area. In the last two years two families in Midland have caused me deep distress. They are Aborigines and I have received serious complaints about their behaviour. All the complaints have been investigated by me personally and I have come to the end of my tolerance. One speaks to the people who have complained that the Aborigines are destroying the normal pursuits of their neighbours, and when one speaks to the Aboriginal himself he says, "I am sorry. It will not happen again. I will behave myself." For a few weeks peace reigns supreme, then all of a sudden it is on again.

What does one do? For how long can a member of Parliament say to himself, "I will not be classed as a racist. I do not want to take the side of the white against the black." I take the side of the people. I evaluate these matters on the basis of whether or not society will allow people to destroy the peaceful life of their neighbours. I say without qualification that both Aboriginal and white people have a standard to live up to, and if they do not do so I agree with the Minister for Housing that the State Housing Commission will have to put them out. Colbung agrees with that.

I do not see why the Aboriginal people should receive any more consideration than anyone else in that situation. On the other side of the penny, one can ask where they will go and what we will do with them when they are put out of their houses. I ask: What does one do with the white person who, under the same circumstances, is put out of his house because he does not conform? Does anybody become concerned about him or say he should receive any assistance? Of course not.

Perhaps we have been tolerant in the extreme with these people. When we give to them they say, "You are treating us like serfs. We do not want your charity. We want to be like you." When we offer them the opportunity to be like us they cannot reach the standard and have to fall back on another system.

The Swan Shire Council is complaining to the police and the Department for Community Welfare about Aboriginal grape pickers and other itinerants who are living on the banks of the Swan River. They are quite happy there. We must realise that for centuries they have camped out in the weather. But because it does not conform with our way of life and standards we harass and hound them. Under our standards we have a toilet with a sewerage or flushing system, showers, and so on. The standard of the Aboriginal over the years in his dream time is that when the piece of land on which he camps becomes foul he moves on to another piece of land.

That is his way of life but we do not like it. We say, "You have to conform to our standards", and that is where the understanding breaks down. The destruction of the future of these people is something that is very hard to overlook. Their whole background is so different from ours. I feel it is well worth quoting Councillor Georgeff who says—

"Unfortunately most of these natives are extremely hard to help.

"The Community Welfare Department has known most of them for ages and can make little progress.

"The problem is they are quite happy with their lot and trying to make them change is failing to work."

That is a very good comment to come from a councillor. The *Swan Express* reported incidents that took place in Cope Street, Midland, last New Year's Eve. Apparently the Aborigines had a party and went on a rampage. On that particular New Year's Eve, I wonder how many white families went on the same sort of rampage after they had been drinking and annoyed their neighbours in the same way, or even in a more sophisticated way with screaming music at a high decibel level. How would I go if I went next door while such a party was in progress to suggest that they turn their noise box down? Having taken that action once, I will not do it again because the same thing would happen. We want to make a division between black and white, and that is the whole problem we are facing.

I would like to refer to a heading in an article that appeared in the Press on the 14th March, 1975. It read, "Ken's the man for the job". The heading refers to Ken Colbung, and the article outlines many facets of this man. I know him and I have spoken with him. He is a fine man, and I do not denigrate him in any way for the work he is doing in trying to assist his people. However, like all of us, at times he becomes so exasperated with things that are happening that he makes comments he should not make. It behoves all of us to count to three or four so that we do not say things in haste and then repent at leisure.

Ken Colbung is a tremendous man, but he has a problem with his own people, in the same way that we have a problem with ours. His is not an easy row to hoe. When he attempts to help his people, they treat him in much the same way as I am treated when it comes to a question of Aborigines. Do not condemn him or other Aboriginal leaders. In turn, they are assailed by the very forces they try to assist.

I will conclude about criticism which appeared in the Press. On the 15th March, 1975, under the heading, "Australian destroying Aborigines: Warning", we find the following—

Mr Fabre, a leading member of the Young Men's Christian Movement in the U.S.—

We are given the benefit of Mr Fabre's observations from a quick visit of his to our country. I will be generous and assume that he was here for a month before making the statement. However, he makes a profound comment that Australia is destroying the Aborigines. What right does he have to come here to tell us how to solve a problem that has been with us for many years, and which will be with us for many more years? He may have something to offer, I do not know. However, when reading the article I do not think his views add anything to the job of cementing the relationship between our peoples.

I want to deal with some of the reports which have been brought down, although I cannot deal with all of them. We have the *Report of Royal Commission into Aboriginal Affairs*, the annual report of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority and the Aboriginal Lands Trust—I read these reports thoroughly, in an endeavour to find recommendations which I feel could have some good in them—the submission to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Affairs by the Department for Community Welfare of Western Australia, and *Notes on Aboriginal Advancement in the East Kimberley* by Bruce Shaw.

I wish to quote from some of these documents because certain points are germane to the issue I am raising. I believe we must look at the problem in an unbiased way and certainly not as a political issue.

On page 8 of his notes, Bruce Shaw makes some comments about white attitudes. I will just pick out some of these to read to the House. He says—

The children are not told things by their parents (sic), just allowed to run and play.

A lot of Aborigines are spoiled by evil white man influence including prostitution and drink.

Most Aborigines are untidy and dirty and smelly.

Aborigines are lazy.

They are always looking for a hand-out.

Provided they are educated and clean I am quite happy to talk with them and mix with them.

Those assimilating quite well are accepted as equals; those not, are not accepted.

And so it goes on and on. What a travesty of justice; what an admonition of those who are doing something to try to overcome the problem! This could apply not only to Aborigines, but also to white people, because the same set of circumstances exist. If one likes to go to the creek behind the H. L. Brisbane & Wunderlich property in East Perth one will see white people there as well as Aborigines. In his notes Mr Shaw comes to this conclusion—

Ideally, what I have written is designed to stimulate thought and discussion. It is a significant and encouraging fact alone that local Aboriginal self-help has begun to develop in the East Kimberley, as it has in many other parts of the country, for it reflects essentially the growth of a problem-solving attitude among Aborigines. Such attitudes help to give the lie to criticisms that Aborigines do not help themselves.

I would like to pause here to say that if one looks at the efforts of the Aborigines in the Kimberley, where they have been given some sort of goal and where there has been understanding given to help the natives to do something for themselves, the results are remarkable. We must bear in mind that we came to this country some hundreds of years ago, and we destroyed the Aborigines' culture and way of life. To continue with Mr Shaw's comments, he says—

Although the points raised in this paper are derived from observations in a particular setting, readers from other Aboriginal and European communities will recognize many difficulties which they share.

I would now like to quote from the submission of the Department for Community Welfare to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Affairs. This is a very good submission, and all members should read it and become cognizant of the conditions of the Aborigines. The submission refers to the conditions on camping reserves, and it sets out the different types of accommodation. Type 1 is a single-roomed zinc-anneal dwelling with verandah. There is no lining, no internal water, sink, or toilet. The room is 10 ft x 10 ft and it has an internal wood stove. After placing a bed and table in the room, very little else can fit. This is absolutely staggering.

Type 2 is a very similar dwelling, but with two rooms, the stove being located in one. There is no water or toilet. Type 3 contains three rooms, but again no toilet or water.

Just let us consider a person who, by virtue of his efforts to establish himself is moving from a native reserve into a home

of the standard we desire for him. This man has become used to using the confines of his house and possibly the area adjacent to it as a urinal and toilet. There does not seem to be anything else for him to do, because he would have to walk a long way to the toilet on the native reserve. We put him into a State Housing Commission home, and we ask him overnight to switch off the thinking of centuries. We ask him to conform with our standards, and it is just not possible. This is the problem; surely it is not too much to ask for more toilets at the camp sites.

I am mindful of the fact that when I was in Kalgoorlie some time ago I was able to pay a visit to the Aboriginal reserve. I met a very good woman there who had a very close affinity with the Aborigines. She told me it is a strange thing that when toilet blocks were built on the reserve the desert natives who had just come in from the bush used the toilets as a place to wash their feet. They said, "Hasn't the white man got funny ways?" Of course, that was a logical and natural thing for those Aborigines to do.

Mr Hartrey: They even used them as a well.

Mr SKIDMORE: That is right. It may seem funny to some members, but it is not funny to the people concerned. To me it is a matter we must consider if we are going to do anything about the problem.

I turn now to the annual report of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority and the Aboriginal Lands Trust. One might say that for a trust which has been in existence for such a short time to achieve so much is certainly outstanding. Of course, it is now funded by the Commonwealth Government, which has become increasingly involved in Aboriginal affairs. The transfer of the staff of the authority to the Australian Public Service is now taking place, and the Australian Government is to take full responsibility for Aboriginal affairs, while the State will have a certain amount of responsibility for administration. The following is stated on page 7 of the report—

During the whole of the year under review, as a precursor of its future role, the Authority has acted as the agent for the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. It has appropriately dealt with requests for Commonwealth funds from State Government departments; Aboriginal communities, Aboriginal social and cultural organisations; local government bodies; educational institutions as well as individuals. In all, \$11 090 000 was provided for Aboriginal affairs in Western Australia—a healthy and rewarding partnership.

I think those last words reflect something we should all be looking for in respect of this problem: a healthy attitude towards the assimilation or integration of these people.

Coming to the end of my address, I would like to refer to a Press statement issued by the Minister for Housing on the 4th March. He had several things to say in the statement. In fact, the whole of the statement virtually revolves around the basic requirement of the community and the attitude the State Housing Commission should adopt towards its tenants. In no way does it reflect upon the Aboriginal community; it sets a standard, which is what we should all be trying to achieve. I commend the Minister for his statement, and I will quote some remarks from it. I point out that this is a most important statement because throughout it the Minister expresses the view that I and others have been at fault. He said—

"In this regard paternalism could be said to be inhibiting the programme of integration which is the accepted policy of Governments, both Federal and State. I am sure that this is a matter of serious concern shared equally by both the Aboriginal and European communities."

The SPEAKER: The member has seven minutes.

Mr SKIDMORE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is that very paternalism that gets us into trouble with Aborigines. If we give something to an Aboriginal he says it is charity and he does not want it; and if we take it away from him he wants to know why we have done so. If we give him money people say we should give him food and clothing, because he spends the money on drink. We cannot allow that to happen if we accept the International Labour Organisation treaty on equality of rights without question of colour or creed. That is a code we should all accept, but in respect of the Aborigines it must be a matter of learning and not of paternalism as it has been in the past. The Minister went on to say—

"If any family occupying Commission accommodation persistently refuses to pay rental and arrears, and shows no desire to meet its responsibility, the Government is expected to act."

"This is done whether the tenant is Aboriginal or otherwise," Mr O'Neil said.

I feel that attitude should be adopted. I have no desire to move people who do not conform—whether they be white or black—out of their homes in the Midland area. I worry about where they will go. But there must be a desire to protect not only the property of the State Housing Commission, but also the well-being of the tenants adjacent to and surrounding the area.

I suggest to some members that they may like to accompany me to my electorate when one of these rip-roaring parties is in full swing. I invite members to

accompany me to a party and to do as I have done: to step into the arena and to see whether they receive the same abuse I have received from both black and white when I have endeavoured to act as a mediator. This is a very vexatious problem. I believe all concerned should show more responsibility. Hasty, temperamental, and emotional remarks should be curbed. I believe some of the officers of the Federal department have made outrageous statements and should have been taken to task for their utterances. It could be said also that some members of Parliament and—with a little reservation—some Ministers could take a leaf out of the same book and be a little more tolerant in respect of this problem.

It will take a long time to deal with the situation. We came to this country, raped it, and took it from the Aboriginal. We destroyed his culture and told him to conform to our culture; and we gave him little assistance to make that conformity become a reality.

I hope the progress made in 1975 is continued in the years ahead. We have already made progress, and I trust it will be accelerated in years to come with the help of understanding and tolerance. My final plea is that we do not allow such a complex and demanding problem to become a political football. I feel it is becoming that at the moment and I hope in the future when we deliberate upon problems associated with Aborigines we will not indulge in the tactics of saying, "In 1952 you said so-and-so, and in 1962 you did something else."

I would like us to go forward with a collective viewpoint in the best interests of these people, who have been so much maligned by our society for so many years. Surely they are entitled in 1975 to some relief from the degradation and the actions heaped upon them by a succession of Governments throughout the continent of Australia. That has not been good enough; tolerance and forbearance should be our aim. I sincerely hope my address today will assist towards that end.

MR A. R. TONKIN: (Morley) [12.18 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, there are sinister forces at work in Western Australian politics. I refer firstly to the very obvious link between the Liberal Party and big business. This explains the conspiracy of silence and secrecy, which could be called a grand cover-up, in which the Government is indulging.

I have not made an exhaustive list of topics upon which the Government has been silent and, indeed, conspiratorial in its silence; but I do have a list of 18 items in respect of which the Government has refused to disclose information, showing that its policy is to be secretive, to cover up, and to keep from the people things they have a right to know.

The Government has been in office for only one year and yet, as I said, I have a list of 18 items. One can imagine what the list will be like as the Government begins to feel surer and surer of its position as days go by.

I believe I should help the Premier in his work. For this reason I have given each Minister a mark out of 10 for secrecy, and I will be awarding those marks later in my speech.

Mr Stephens: You can't get out of the classroom.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr O'Neil: I suppose I'll have to stay behind and clean the blackboards.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I believe this secrecy indicates the Government has a fear of debate, a fear of change, a fear of frankness, and a fear of the people. I think the Government is afraid that if the people know what is going on they may rise in wrath and take the Government to task. Therefore, we have this cover-up; and as I have pointed out I have uncovered 18 items without trying to be exhaustive in compiling my list.

Dealing with the first of the two strands, the tie-up between the Liberal Party and big business, I refer to a statement by the Premier of this State that the greatest statesmen in the world were businessmen. He was quoted as having said that by the *Daily News* of the 22nd January this year. I wonder what kind of businessmen the Premier had in mind. Perhaps he had in mind those very astute businessmen who are chaining up helpless dogs and muzzling them and forcing them to smoke cigarettes, not in the interests of science or humanity but for a profit motive.

We notice that the companies concerned with this are Imperial Tobacco and ICI and we see a profit motive in their actions. We have here cruelty to animals which leads to a profit on cigarettes which, of course, leads to the production of cancer, which means a profit by ICI on the sale of pain-killing drugs—all by the one company. We see a company which is selling cigarettes for profit—which, as we know, cause cancer—also selling the pain-killing drugs to alleviate the distress caused as a result of cigarette smoking. This is the kind of morality which apparently the Premier admires.

We see an example of big business when we talk of greed. We notice the greed of the Liberal Party, when it sends to a recent seminar two members of the Liberal Party, the member for Bunbury and the member for Vasse; it is the attitude of taking everything for itself, and not seeing to it that the Country Party or the Australian Labor Party were represented at the seminar. So, we were not surprised the other night when I was referring to

big business and how it does things much better than Governments to hear, "Hear, hear!" from the somnolent backbenchers on the other side of the House. They believe that private enterprise does things better than Government; this is how the Government acts.

Mr Sibson: You must have said it the wrong way round.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I should like to refer members to a list of drugs and the profits on drugs made by a very large drug company, Parke-Davis. On E Caps 50—a vitamin tablet which is probably quite useless for what it is supposed to do—a profit of 212 per cent is made by the retailers. We see why the Liberal Party admires big business. If the retailers buy 144 of these E Caps, they receive 123 free, and their profit is 212 per cent on these vitamins. If the retailer buys 72, he gets 54 free, a 98 per cent profit.

Looking down this column we see that the profit range on Myadec 30 is 155 per cent, 141 per cent, 127 per cent and 113 per cent; on Paladac 100, there is a profit range of 134 per cent, 127 per cent, 113 per cent and 99 per cent; on Flavettes 50 mg. 100, the range is 169 per cent, 141 per cent and 127 per cent; and, on Benadryl Expectorant 100 ml the profit range is 177 per cent, 170 per cent, 141 per cent and 127 per cent. We now know why the Premier admires businessmen so much; we know why the Liberal Party is closely tied up with big business because, of course, a lot of that profit flows into Liberal Party funds.

Mr Sibson: Do you not consider you are an astute businessman?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I should like to refer to a constituent of mine who probably believed in the euphemism, "private enterprise", until she went to buy a Renault 17TL and was told that the purchase price had been reduced by \$280 as a result of the reduction in sales tax by the Australian Government.

She did not think that a reduction of \$280 on the old price of \$5 098 was sufficient and contacted me. I made inquiries on her behalf and discovered that the correct reduction should have been \$504; this represented the reduction in sales tax effected by the Australian Government. This company was going to chisel her out of this benefit. We see once more why the Premier admires businessmen.

We have recently read the findings of the Consumer Protection Bureau in Canberra of their investigations into babies' nappy washes. If people will do things to harm babies, it clearly shows their morality and the way in which they do not mind preying on anyone in order to make a fast buck. Laboratory tests showed that the nappy washes were not only useless but, in some cases, actually harmful to the baby. These are the great statesmen of the world, according to the Premier.

This continuous tie-up between the Liberal Party and big business accounted for the continuous caving in by the Federal Liberal Party when it was suggested that restrictive trade practices legislation should be introduced; it continually caved in under business pressure. We saw Sir Garfield Barwick, one of the prime movers in the suggestion that restrictive trade practices legislation should be introduced, kicked upstairs to become Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia. He was elevated to that position by Sir Robert Menzies, who now seems to be regarded as some great elder statesman. I certainly do not regard him as anything of the kind.

Mr Clarko: Because you are a poor judge.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Menzies kicked Barwick out. Does the member for Karrinyup support drug company profits of 212 per cent? I wonder how many people in Karrinyup who buy vitamin capsules are being fleeced. This action is supported by their representative—the member for Karrinyup.

Mr Clarko: That is not what my interjection was related to, and you know it. Why are you not honest when you present your argument?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: So, we have Barwick kicked upstairs.

Mr Sodeman: Are you quoting the gross or the net figures? You never qualify anything you say and here you are, distorting again.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Instead of producing legislation which would have introduced some genuine competition into Australian capitalism, the Government chose to kick the chief supporter of the legislation upstairs to the High Court. The Trade Practices Act which was eventually promulgated during the time of the McMahon Government was so bad that the High Court decided—

Mr Clarko: Try to be honest with yourself.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: —that it was invalid. In fact, Sir Garfield Barwick, a former Liberal Minister and now Chief Justice of the High Court went further and said the Government could have legislated validly under the Constitution, had it so desired. In other words, the Liberal Party deliberately legislated for something which it knew would be declared unconstitutional by the High Court. This occurred because of the tie-up between the Liberal Party and big business; we can see why the Premier so admires big business.

We saw the blatant interference with the Liberal Party when John Gorton was Prime Minister; Sir Frank Packer was the person most instrumental in having that gentleman sacked. This case has been extremely well documented. There is no question among political scientists of any repute in Australia that Sir Frank Packer

was instrumental in having a man who was supposed to be chosen by the Australian people removed from office because of his attitude to big business and because of the way in which big business was able to interfere in the machinery of the Liberal Party.

Mr Young: If you consider that to be fair comment in regard to big business and the Liberal Party, would you also say it is fair comment for us to say the same thing about any connection between the Labor Party and the trade union movement? In other words, would it be fair for us to say that all the sins of the trade union movement could be visited upon the Labor Party?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Young: I am asking the honourable member whether he agrees with that, because that is his premise. As he would say, it is very poor scholarship.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: It comes as no surprise to hear someone like J. H. Valder, the Chairman of the Sydney Stock Exchange, complain about the Prices Justification Tribunal interfering with so-called private enterprise, and complain about the Trade Practices Commission, especially when we have seen the kind of dishonesty that has occurred in the stock exchanges around Australia as revealed by the Senate Select Committee on Securities and Exchange in a unanimous report to the Senate. That committee contained a majority of Liberal and Country Party senators, yet it unanimously agreed that there had been dishonesty on the stock exchanges.

We hear the Chairman of the Sydney Stock Exchange complaining about the Trade Practices Commission; of course he complains, just the same as a burglar complains about burglar alarms.

I also believe that the Premier's antics can be shown to be similar to those of big business, because big business treats employees as raw materials. Recently we saw GMH, not worrying about the enormous profits it is taking out of the country, treating employees just like any other raw materials in the industry; like so much scrap steel to be thrown on the heap.

I wonder why this Government, which professes to be an admirer of big business, has done nothing in connection with the report made by the securities and exchange committee. I wonder why the Government has not acted on that report drawn up by a committee on which there was a majority of Liberal and Country Party Senators.

We have heard the Minister for Police saying that faulty cars on the road are a worry. Yet, when a certain John Green was refused a license to continue as a used car dealer, the Minister for Police came forward with a personal affidavit.

We know that John Green had the dubious honour of being the worst used car dealer in town, as revealed in the Consumer Protection Report. On the one hand we hear the Minister for Police saying that faulty cars on the road are a real worry and on the other hand he takes action to keep in the used car business one who is regarded by the Consumer Protection Bureau as being the worst in that group. The tie-up between big business and the Government is well documented. In fact, I asked the Minister a question in the House last year in regard to this.

We have seen TAA being prevented from operating in this State, and we well recall how that great Liberal, Sir Henry Bolte, came to the rescue of one particular man—Reg Ansett. He was saved from a takeover by Sir Henry Bolte. We know that normally Liberal Governments regard interference in takeover bids as somewhat socialistic. Having been saved by Bolte, Ansett said, in his cynical way, "How can I bring pressure on the Government? How can I do that? I have only one vote like the rest of them." That is the sort of cynical remark from someone who has shown himself to be quite unscrupulous.

I quote from *The West Australian* of the 22nd January of this year, in which the Premier is reported as having said—

Meddling by government, either by socialist policies or by the environment lobby, has frustrated enterprise.

Yes, the environment lobby has frustrated private enterprise because it has shown its concern for our rivers, our seas, and the very air we breathe. Let us look at what private enterprise has done at False Bay, at Whyalla where BHP has dumped cyanide into the sea, causing a great loss of fish life. Under the BHP Steelworks Indenture Act of 1958, passed by the Playford Liberal Party Government, BHP is allowed to dump waste into the sea and emit smoke and dust into the atmosphere. Under the Act of Parliament I have just mentioned it is not held responsible for such action, so once again we see a definite tie-up between big business—in the form of BHP—and a Liberal Government, by that company being given the right to perform such acts.

We on this side of the House were not surprised when Mr McNeill, the Chairman of BHP, said he did not consider it was the duty of corporations to be socially responsible for such acts. They had a job to maximise profits and it was not the job of corporations to worry about society. I would regard that as an immoral statement. I believe that all people in society who benefit from the environment should be concerned about the social consequence of their actions. However, that was the statement that was made by a representative of big business, and I can understand how such a man would be admired by certain people.

Sir Charles Court: Are you quoting that from a newspaper?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Some time ago the Justice Department of the United States urged the criminal prosecution of large manufacturers for conspiring to suppress the development and installation of a modern anti-pollution device. These are the great businessmen whom the Premier, during his overseas visit, was professed to admire as being the statesmen of the world. Nine months later, on the 11th September, 1969, the Justice Department decided not to prosecute the companies—and we know the enormous wealth these large corporations are capable of turning over to political recipients. Such corporations include the General Motors company, the Chrysler motor company, the American motor company and other automobile manufacturers in the United States.

These large corporations were not prosecuted for the acts they had committed. Certainly, there are many people in the United States who would agree with the Premier that the environment lobby is interfering with private enterprise. We know that when the Premier was in New York in 1969 he said he would not let conservationists and anti-pollutionists stand in the way of developing the large mineral resources of this State. We all know the kind of development big business is capable of carrying out when we realise that Bell Brothers drove a road through the Fitzgerald River reserve without permission, a reserve that had been proclaimed by the Tonkin Government. Big business drove a road through that reserve and obviously they believed in their code; the maximisation of profits. That particular company drove the road through the reserve quite illegally—its act was one of vandalism. Therefore it is no wonder that big business is not keen on the environment lobby.

We then come to the Country Party. That party did not always have the same tie-up with big business as the Liberal Party. Costs have always been a big problem to farmers, but the sell-out of country interests began with John McEwen who continued to overrule the Tariff Board in the decisions that board made. As I have said, country people are certainly concerned with their costs of production and tariffs undoubtedly increase such costs. John McEwen presided over an increase in tariffs. Since then Doug Anthony has continued the sell-out of country interests by the Country Party by advocating an increase in the price of oil and the oil companies have contributed very handsomely to Country Party funds.

Sir Charles Court: On what authority do you say that?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Prove that I am wrong.

Sir Charles Court: What about the amount of money they paid to the Labor Party in the 1972 election?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr A. R. TONKIN: The Speaker has called for order, but the Premier seems to ignore him.

The SPEAKER: I will deal with the situation.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. If I am wrong—

Several Government members interjected: "You are wrong!"

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Will members of the Liberal Party reveal the source of the money? Let them throw the matter open and say, "We will prove you are wrong." What did they do with the legislation to require disclosure of the source of party funds? What did they do with that legislation in the Senate? No wonder they are bleating in agony because they know what that legislation would reveal.

Sir Charles Court: You will be wanting people to disclose what they contribute to their church next.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I now want to deal with the Government's mania; that is, its mania for secrecy and its fear of public debate, change, and of frankness. In a word, its fear of the people. I will give Ministers a mark of 10 for secrecy. I cannot give the Premier ten out of ten. I am giving him a mark of nine out of 10 for secrecy. I could not give him 10 out of 10 because he repeatedly reveals his ego.

Sir Charles Court: You will have the Actors Equity after you seeking your membership.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Let us look at some of the things the Premier has refused to reveal. Last year he came out with a classic statement. I asked for an analysis of the waters of the Swan River to be revealed by the Minister for Conservation who, in this House, refused to do so. When questioned on the matter, the Premier said, "This is a public place."

The Premier seems to be of this view: "We cannot let the public know what is happening to their river; it is my river and I am Premier; we will retain this paternal attitude".

Sir Charles Court: You used to be funny, but now you are getting stupid.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: The Premier retains that attitude just as he adopted it in respect of the riot at Forrest Place. He seems to think that the people must not know what is going on. Even in respect of a question I asked, the Premier would not supply the names of the companies in whose private jets he flew while in the United States recently.

Sir Charles Court: I did answer your question.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: In an unreasonable way. I asked for a list of companies.

Sir Charles Court: Would you like the list?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: The Premier would not supply the list. In this respect I am reminded of the inquiry by Magistrate Syddall into the incident at Skull Creek involving the police and Aborigines; the report of the inquiry has not been made public. The hearings of the committee to examine the introduction of a uniform scale of water rates were not open to the public, as revealed in the question asked by the member for Mt. Hawthorn on the 5th September, 1974; and neither has the Premier revealed the names of or the fines imposed on stockbrokers who have been fined by the Stock Exchange.

Mr Bryce: There is good reason for that.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Here we come back to the question of protection of businessmen. The Premier is prepared to let a person be prosecuted as a vagrant for lying under a bridge. The name of that person appeared in the newspapers. However, supposedly respectable people, cheating and acting in the manner indicated in the inquiry conducted by the Senate of the Australian Parliament—the majority of members of that committee comprised Country Party and Liberal senators—are safeguarded, and their names are not revealed.

We evidenced the refusal of the Premier to table the findings of a Queen's Counsel in relation to the fuel and energy Bill; and furthermore he refused to comment on a matter of policy. This is revealed in a question which I asked on the 20th March relating to Government interference in international markets.

Mr Clarko: A question? You must be joking.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: In the question I referred to the statement made by the Premier in Washington, as reported in the Press, that interference in international markets was a danger to world development. The next part of my question was as follows—

(2) If "Yes"—

- (a) does this mean that he is a free trader and does not believe in tariffs;
- (b) does he believe in import quotas, and if not, how would he protect the jobs of Australian employees threatened by a flood of cheap imports, and how would he control the balance of our overseas reserves;

Mr Sibson: You should ask that question of the Federal Government.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: To continue with my question—

- (c) what other forms of Government interference in international markets would he advocate should be dispensed with;
- (d) does his philosophy apply to Government interference in markets forces within an economy, and if so, what interference would he proscribe?

You, Mr Speaker, quite correctly ruled that question out of order under our Standing Orders. I asked the Premier whether he would elaborate in a statement to the House, but his reply was "No". Yet he comes up with grand statements such as "I do not believe in interference with market forces" while all the time he believes in the provision of subsidies on superphosphate and other forms of subsidies to big businesses and mining companies.

At certain times the Premier condones interference in markets, but at other times he will not even indicate to this House his views when he is asked to comment on whether he believes in interference in international markets. The Premier gets nine marks out of 10 for preserving Government secrecy.

In the case of the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning I give him eight marks out of 10 for preserving Government secrecy. He shows a lot of promise, and I am sure he will improve as his term of office proceeds. He has not prevented the MRPA from conducting a secret inquiry into the Kwinana Freeway extensions. I do not believe he has used his influence in order to bring about open inquiries—a course which members on this side of the House support.

The Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning has refused to table a report on social and urban factors involved in the planning of the jumbo steel mill, although, irrespective of the site on which such a steel mill is established, it will have a tremendous impact on the people of Western Australia; but in his paternal way he says, "I know best; the people will not be told." He has failed to table a report on the preservation and utilisation of coastal areas prepared by the Town Planning Department; so he has done very well in keeping the actions of the Government secret.

Sitting suspended from 12.45 to 2.00 p.m.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: When we move on to the Minister for Health who is unfortunately not in this place, we find something is seriously wrong as the presence of mercury in fish was not revealed to this State although analyses had been made for as long as 18 months. The people of

Western Australia were treated like babies and were not allowed to know to what degree fish was contaminated.

Under constant questioning from the member for Rockingham and myself the Minister admitted eventually that he thought there was no need to worry; yet a few short weeks later when the Australian Government revealed the presence of mercury in fish in Victoria, the Minister for Health then said that pregnant women had better not eat shark. He had had the results for over a year, but said that there was no need to worry. Yet as soon as there was panic in the east, the Minister woke up out of his trance and told pregnant women they had better not eat shark, and that there was cause for worry after all.

This year the Australian Government has moved to increase the penalties drastically for those who sell fish with mercury in it. In my opinion our Minister for Health is incompetent. He attacked the Australian Government and said it would not co-operate whereas one would think that a Minister, realising the irreversible brain damage which can be caused to unborn children, would have welcomed any Government which was tackling the problem of mercury in fish. Such a Minister, for his continued refusal to reveal the result of the extent of mercury poison in Western Australia, must get only eight out of 10.

But I give him 10 out of 10 for the silliest remark I have ever heard a Minister make when he said that most of the fish sold has mercury a bit above the limit. He went on to say that there was no need to worry and that no evidence had been revealed in Western Australia to prove that anyone had ever come to harm. Of course there was no evidence, because no research had been done.

We do not know to what extent some unborn foetus, or some child recently born will be affected. We do not know whether a person suffering with blinding headaches has been affected by mercury because no research has been done. That must take the cake for the silliest remark by any Minister.

Mr Speaker, could you please tell me how much time I have left at my disposal?

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has almost 14 minutes.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Thank you. When we come to the Minister for Education who also is not in this place, we find that ever since the Government came into power and this House met, he has had to face a barrage of questions relating to the Government's policy, particularly that portion concerning the lowering of the school entry age. By the way, what a terrible smokescreen that was. It was stated

that there would be a lowering of the admission age and now it seems that the Education Department is indicating that the money is not coming from the primary school grants, but from the pre-school grants. So the money is being taken from the pre-schools to cater for what is claimed to be a lowering of the admission age for entry to primary school.

This is a very confused area and the Minister refused constantly last year to answer questions regarding it and for this I believe he is to be condemned.

Last week or on Tuesday of this week I asked a question relating to the Leederville Technical School. I asked what amount of money had been spent on the bricklaying, plastering, and plumbing sections. The Minister replied that the figures were not known. This amounted to secrecy and cover-up because he does know that an enormous sum has been spent on the plumbing section and practically nothing on the bricklaying and plastering sections. He said he did not know how much had been spent. That was a ridiculous answer because when one builds a whole new area and puts in new equipment it must cost money and to suggest that the Education Department or the Leederville Technical School does not know the amount spent is quite ludicrous. The Minister is treating Parliament and the people with contempt because the people's money is not being accounted for.

When we come to the Minister for Conservation and Environment we respect the very difficult position in which he finds himself with a Premier who made remarks which I quoted before lunch. We know that the Country Party in this State has been weak. It has not been able to cope with the Premier, so much so that when in the east the Country Party delegates from Western Australia even talked about pulling out of the coalition. The Premier, while overseas, said that the Country Party was lucky to have as many Ministers as it had and that it had done very well in the circumstances.

We sympathise with the Minister for Conservation and Environment, but we cannot agree that the information regarding Alwest should be kept secret. We believe that all matters dealing with the environment of the people—not the Government's environment—should be revealed and we cannot agree that there should be this secrecy. That is another point against this Government.

When I mention again the analyses of Swan River water which the Minister refused to reveal, I just remind the House once again—

Mr Stephens: Did I not give it to you?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I asked for it to be made public. I asked that it be revealed to the people. I am not interested in confidential reports.

Mr Stephens: I did offer to reveal it. Don't try to twist things.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Why did the Minister refuse to table it in the House, and why did the Premier say that this is a public place, in supporting the Minister? The Minister refused to table it in the House.

Mr Stephens: A public reading room was mentioned.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: I am not interested in running down to read it in the Minister's room and then not being able to speak about it.

Mr Stephens: I referred to a public reading room in the environmental office. You have been there before.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: The Parliament is not given the courtesy of this information and the Premier supports the Minister by saying that this is a public place.

When we come to the Minister for Police we have, of course, the Forrest Place disorders and the refusal of the Government to reveal the report related to it, the Government's refusal to reveal the report into the exchange of numbers by the police at North-West Cape, and the refusal in an answer to a question by the member for Collie, to table a report on prostitution. The member for Collie made that request in a question on the 29th August, 1974. We do not believe that, by these things being kept secret, the Minister is, in fact, serving the good name of the police.

I know that the Minister is concerned that the police are sitting ducks and are shot at by people all over the place, and I appreciate his concern and agree that this is a problem; but I do not believe that by covering up and condoning, for example, the swapping of numbers at North-West Cape, or by refusing to reveal the extent to which it occurs, the best interests of the police are served. These would be served by a frank and open revelation. I believe most policemen have nothing to hide, but this could be proved by throwing the reports open to the public. I give eight out of 10 to the Minister for Police.

When we come to the Minister for Labour and Industry, I am afraid he is not due for promotion, and I think the Premier would agree with me, because I can find only one thing he has refused to reveal. He is down almost to the bottom of the class. He has refused to reveal the report into the SCIO. We are told the report is still being studied, yet the report was received nine months ago. Perhaps the Minister for Education could give some of those concerned a few reading lessons because that seems to be an awfully long time for anything so important to be—

Mr Clarke: A lot of important things take nine months.

Mr Bryce: Is that why you were premature?

Mr A. R. TONKIN: The Minister for Electricity has refused to release the studies into the management structure of the SEC.

The Minister for Forests has refused to reveal—not to myself, but to the Hon. G. E. Masters in another place—the price paid to the people per tonne of sandalwood because the information is confidential. That being so, apparently the company concerned is more important than the people in this case, and it seems we should not worry ourselves how much the people are receiving per tonne for sandalwood.

When we come to the matter of water supplies we see that the Minister has refused to reveal the Fried Report.

Mr O'Neill: I am more interested in my score than the report, at the moment.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: The Minister said that no good purpose would be served in tabling the report. We observe this paternalistic attitude of the Government knowing best what is good for the people.

Mr O'Neill: I gave the report to the Shire of Stirling; it is interested.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: It is time the Government treated the public as adults, and the Opposition as adults, so that the people can decide.

The SPEAKER: The member has another five minutes.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: The attitude of the Government is not good enough. It is not good enough for the Government to say that it knows what is in the report.

Mr O'Neill: Your party will never make you a Minister if this is your attitude.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: The Government says it will decide whether certain information will be revealed. I have mentioned 18 counts on which this Government stands condemned for secrecy.

Mr O'Neill: You did not give us our points score; we have been waiting.

Amendment to Motion

Mr A. R. TONKIN: Because of those 18 counts of secrecy, I move an amendment—

That the following words be added to the motion—

; but we regret to have to inform your Excellency that this Government has consistently and wilfully withheld information on many matters of public concern which the people have a right to know and which it is the duty of the House to debate publicly.

In moving that amendment I say I believe there are solutions to this kind of development. In looking at some of the legislation which exists in the United States I noticed that this State is about on a par with Mississippi with respect to public information and the revealing of reports. To be on the same level as a State which is known throughout the

world as one of the most backward and prejudiced is something we should not be proud of at all.

A solution to the question of secrecy would be to have a series of standing committees in this Parliament so that members of Parliament could be kept informed of what is occurring. The smallest shire council has a committee system, even if it has only 10, 12, or 13 members. The committees set up by shire councils take their responsibilities seriously. If such a system could operate in this Parliament it would be possible for the people and the Parliament to obtain information on many matters. It would also mean that members of Parliament would be properly organised and the Government back-benchers, who do very little except sit in a somnolent position day after day warming their seats, would be able to make some contribution to the debate rather than just accepting any legislation pedalled by their Cabinet. We believe a standing committee system in this Parliament, such as exists in all progressive Parliaments throughout the world—and which also exists in even the smallest shire council—would give the people the information which should be available to them.

The Opposition condemns the secrecy of this Government in going about its work. We remind the Government that it is the people who pay for government; it is the people's State; and the people own all the minerals we take out of the earth.

Mr Bryce: They used to.

Mr A. R. TONKIN: If we are to be regarded as a democratic State it is essential that this Government should mend its ways and should be prepared to take the people into its confidence. At the moment it does not do that, and it is afraid of public debate.

Mr MOILER: I second the amendment.

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [2.15 p.m.]: One would be entitled to treat this amendment with the contempt it deserves.

Mr Jamieson: The Premier has commenced his remarks to each amendment in the same way.

Mr Bryce: You are a contemptible Premier.

Mr Clarko: How would you know?

Sir CHARLES COURT: It is the time of the House which is being used up.

Mr O'Neill: It seems we will have to sit after 3.30 p.m. if that is the attitude of the Opposition.

The SPEAKER: Order! Will the Premier resume his seat please? A number of members are continually interjecting after I have called for order. I would ask all members to observe some order. Each

speaker is entitled to make his speech and I ask those members who expect the correct treatment to be accorded them by the Speaker to give the same sort of treatment to the member who is on his feet. I call on the Premier.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I return to where I started. One would be entitled to treat this amendment with the contempt it deserves.

Mr Moiler: Will the Premier explain why?

Sir CHARLES COURT: The only reason I rise to make any comment—and then only briefly—is that I do not want to leave ourselves exposed on this side of the House to the same sort of criticism to which the previous Government was subjected—and justifiably so—because on more than one occasion it treated amendments as though they did not have any substance. However, we will pay the Opposition the courtesy of replying.

Mr Jamieson: The Premier played this record last year.

Sir CHARLES COURT: And the Opposition will hear it again because when it treats the parliamentary institution frivolously and with a lack of courtesy, as has been demonstrated by the member for Morley, it must expect to be reminded of what has occurred.

If it were not so serious it would have been amusing, to a certain extent, to hear the member for Morley, on his feet, speaking like a school teacher, as my teacher used to speak in the days when I was at school—but I think things have changed since then—when we used to receive our rating for the week. I can almost see my old school teacher standing in front of the class and doling out the marks. If one received top marks one got a free ticket to the local pictures!

On this occasion the last thing we would want to take seriously would be a rating from the member for Morley.

Mr Bryce: The Premier got top marks.

Sir CHARLES COURT: That is what I was hoping to get because if I had been badly rated by the member for Morley perhaps I would have been in some trouble over here! The comments were similar to the support of the Opposition for Mr Snedden last week. If ever there was a "kiss of death" the Opposition certainly gave it.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: The Premier should be careful; we are thinking of starting on him.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I would be worried if the member for Morley started to praise me.

Mr Jamieson: Irrespective of the result, the newspapers carried the Premier's comment, and not mine.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The member for Morley is now becoming quite notorious in this place for jumping on hobby horses, or bandwagons, in relation to any issue at all. At the moment his pet subject is the environment and he continues to ask a whole series of questions. The asking of those questions has no great merit.

Mr Jamieson: The Premier ought to talk, after the performance of the Minister for Local Government when he was in Opposition.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! One interjection at a time, please.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The honourable member has been treated with great courtesy by the Government because we have endeavoured to answer his questions—frivolous though some of them are and tedious though some of them are—in a very frank and effective manner. He then comes to light and starts to talk about secrecy! I want to say to the honourable member that it is quite obvious that his teammates on the other side of the House have evaluated him far more accurately than I did at first because they did not give him a place on the front bench.

Mr O'Neil: Hear, hear!

Sir CHARLES COURT: Members are selected for the front bench by other responsible members who make an assessment of how that person would perform as a Minister. When one is a Minister one has a very great responsibility.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: What about dealing with the motion instead of with the member for Morley?

Mr Bryce: It is a personal attack.

Mr Ridge: What about the member for Morley's personal attacks?

Mr Bryce: He is the trail blazer with the flaming sword in his hand.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I remind members opposite that the member for Morley spent the last 15 minutes of his speech attacking me personally. I am trying to put things in their proper perspective. Let me get this matter in its proper perspective. The honourable member has made very sweeping claims about secrecy on the part of the Government, and in all of the cases he has mentioned there has been very good reason not to make public certain information at a particular time.

I come back to the point in respect of the honourable member himself. I am assuming his colleagues in making an assessment of him have said to themselves, "How would this person react as a Minister?" They have apparently made a judgment which is much wiser than I thought it at the time, because he is a very hard-working member who is diligent in his electorate and in his work in the House; I do not question that at all. But here is a man who has come into this Parliament and

said, "As far as I am concerned, if I were a Minister the public could have everything".

Just imagine the situation of a person in the position of a Minister who is dealing with personal files, some of a medical nature, some in connection with character, some in connection with personal matters so far as they relate to police actions and reports, and the like. Does the honourable member mean to tell us today that if he were a Minister all of that information would be open for the world at large to see?

Mr A. R. Tonkin: Tell me when I have asked you to reveal medical secrets about anyone.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I am talking about what was raised in this particular debate, leading up to the motion the honourable member has moved. He has referred to secrecy and listed some 18 items. He went on to say—and what he did not say he implied very strongly—that if he were in the position of the Government all this would be public information as would all the rest of the information available to the Government.

I want to tell the honourable member that if he is ever a Minister he will find he has to exercise a judgment which his Premier of the day would counsel him to exercise very carefully because the Government has a tremendous responsibility not only to the Parliament but also in the final analysis to the people. Anyone on the other side of the House who has had ministerial experience will tell him that one of the most difficult things in ministerial life is to exercise a judgment and to draw the line between what should be disclosed at any time and what should not be disclosed.

Some matters are permanently confidential, no matter what Government is in office, if it is to survive. Some matters are confidential for a time. For instance, in the middle of a negotiation matters are confidential. Does the honourable member say that if he were asked a question in the middle of a big negotiation he would make the information available? Does he mean to say if he were a Minister he would make all of it public? Of course he would not, otherwise he would not last 10 seconds in a Government. The fact is one has to regard some matters as confidential, sometimes permanently, sometimes for a limited period. Because of the passage of time, the completion of agreements or litigation, or the turn of events, for a whole host of reasons matters cease to be confidential; they are confidential at a particular time but made public at the appropriate time.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: Mention one matter that is confidential.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I will give one example. The honourable member keeps quoting environmental information

concerning Alwest. I remind him that his own Prime Minister whom he appears to adore—

Mr A. R. Tonkin: I do not adore him.

Sir CHARLES COURT: —did not ask for that information to be made public at that time or even now. He asked for it to be made public after a certain event. We have no objection to making the information public after that event; in fact, we might not even wait for it. The Prime Minister made it clear that after a certain event had taken place the information could be made public, and we said, "Fair enough." The honourable member does not mention that side of the story. He just says that we refuse to make the information public. Neither the Prime Minister nor even Dr Moss Cass has asked that the information be made public at this time. I ask the honourable member to take stock of himself, what he has said, and where he is going. Surely every member of this place aspires to become a Minister one day, and while he serves as a back-bench member, whether in Opposition or in Government, his performance is judged, not only by members in this place and his own party but also by the public, as to whether he is a person in whom they could have confidence and trust if he were a Minister. In view of the comments made by the honourable member today, we must assume that if he were a Minister nothing would be sacred—

Mr A. R. Tonkin: I have not said that.

Sir CHARLES COURT: —and the sky would be the limit.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: A lot of information you refuse to give.

Sir CHARLES COURT: If the honourable member in stating his case is not prepared to draw a line and is prepared only to attack the question of confidentiality and the actions of this Government in respect of certain situations, we must assume he says nothing is confidential.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: Draw that assumption if you like. I would not make public confidential information concerning people, and I would not ask you to do so.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The honourable member is saying he would not make public confidential information concerning people, and he does not expect us to make such information public. If the information concerns people's financial affairs, for instance, would he make that public? I ask him because from something he said this afternoon I assume he would make it public.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: To you, financial affairs are secret. There are more important things in life.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I am asking him outright whether he would consider it fair and proper to make public financial information concerning a person.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: I would weigh up all the facts concerning the transaction.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Come in spinner. The honourable member says one must weigh up all the facts of a particular case. That is exactly what is being done by this Government, by its predecessors, by the Government in Canberra, and any other Government that is worth its salt, in making a deliberation as to what is and is not to be confidential. I repeat that some matters are permanently confidential and some cease to be confidential through the effluxion of time and the happening of certain events.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: How long does it take for mercury to affect a person's brain? You had the information for 18 months. Your Minister said there was no need to worry but suddenly decided there was need to worry.

Mr Nanovich: Did you have fish for lunch?

Sir CHARLES COURT: The honourable member asks me how long it takes for mercury to affect a person's brain. He tempts me but I will not give him the answer.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: You treat it as a joke—that shows how seriously you take your responsibilities. You are asked about—

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr A. R. Tonkin: —damage to a person's brain—

The SPEAKER: The member for Morley.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: —and yet you—

The SPEAKER: Would the Premier resume his seat. I would like the member for Morley to take notice of the call when I ask for order. He is continually interjecting, yet when he is speaking he expects other members of Parliament to have regard for the call to order. Indeed, at times he appeals to the Speaker. I ask him especially to have regard for my call to order.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I have very little further to add. I will conclude by saying that we reject this amendment out of hand.

Mr Moiler: You have not said much at all.

Sir CHARLES COURT: We believe that the amendment is absolutely frivolous, and that it is an insult to Parliament. The amendment is a display of insincerity on the part of the honourable member, and he stands condemned from his own lips.

Mr Moiler: You stand condemned—you won't accept the challenge. You have the numbers, and you will not answer the challenge.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Is the member for Mundaring aspiring to the front bench too?

Mr Moiler: No.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I can tell the honourable member that if he talks too much in the back bench, it will kill his chances for the front bench.

Mr Barnett: Dead right!

Mr Moiler: My numbers in my electorate continue to increase, what about yours?

Sir CHARLES COURT: As Opposition speakers obviously have more comments to make on the amendment, I will conclude now. I make it clear that we oppose the amendment entirely.

MR B. T. BURKE (Balga) [2.31 p.m.]: The Premier argued very cogently, and with great clarity, in support of his contention that on some occasions there must necessarily be certain subjects or certain pieces of information that must be kept confidential. I do not believe that the member for Morley or any other member on this side of the House would argue with the Premier in his contention. It certainly is true that at times certain subjects must be guarded very carefully, and certain items must retain their confidentiality.

The point made by the member for Morley was that he disagreed quite sharply with the subjective decision made by this Government, and by the Premier in particular, as to where the cut-off point should be; that is, he did not believe that when weighing up the circumstances and factors in any given situation this Premier and this Government had made the correct decision in some cases when it decided to retain the confidentiality of certain subjects and in certain areas. So by trying to shift the ground of the member for Morley, the Premier very effectively made out a case for confidentiality in some circumstances. I personally do not argue with that case, but I do take very strong exception to the point at which the Premier says confidentiality needs to be retained.

I believe that on many occasions this Government has erred in deciding that some things should be kept confidential and should not be released to the public. I think this Government has in fact insulted the public to some extent by saying to them that there are certain things about which they shall not know, and that there are certain things about which information provided to them could prove dangerous. However, I wish to make only one point in this debate, and to illustrate to the House quite clearly what can happen when confidentiality is maintained, and to illustrate to the House what I see as some of the reasons for maintaining confidentiality.

In the example I am about to give, the Minister for North-West is involved as well as the Premier, and perhaps he or the Premier could correct me if some of

the facts to which I refer are not accurate in their opinion. We all remember that prior to the last election the Premier made very great show of the fact that he would provide air travel to pensioners living in the north-west—

Sir Charles Court: Not air travel.

Mr B. T. BURKE: —free travel to pensioners in the north-west who could not take advantage of the previous Government's offer of travel by rail within a 12-month period. At that time I thought it was a very good promise, a worth-while one, and one which, if promoted properly, would gain votes for the Opposition as it was at that time.

I understand that the Office of North-West, acting on instructions from the Government, costed the proposal and came forward with an amount somewhere in excess of \$420 000. This figure was then related to the Premier, because after all it was his promise. Back came a memo that the cost of this promise was not to exceed \$100 000.

Mr Ridge: I would say you are entirely misinformed.

Mr B. T. BURKE: The Office of North-West returned to its labour and came back with an estimate of \$350 000, or a figure in that vicinity.

Sir Charles Court: Where are you dreaming this up from?

Mr B. T. BURKE: Once more the Premier instructed the Office of North-West that the figure was not to exceed \$100 000.

Sir Charles Court: This matter is before the committee considering all the fringe benefits for pensioners. I do not know from where you are getting this information.

Mr B. T. BURKE: The figures should have been considered before the promise was made.

Sir Charles Court: We have our own scheme for doing it.

Mr B. T. BURKE: If the Premier would like to say quite clearly that he did not sign any memo instructing the Office of North-West to keep the figure down to \$100 000, I would very much like to hear him.

Sir Charles Court: I would not say "Yes" or "No", but I will have a look. I want to tell you that we are very much interested in the proposition and it will be implemented when we get the result of the inquiry. If you know anyone who is interested, I hope he will make his submission.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: I thought you were going to say the climate had changed.

Mr Ridge: Why did you not implement something like this?

Mr B. T. BURKE: The Minister, by way of interjection, said that the Opposition was not interested in the people of the north.

I wonder how cruel it is to hold out a carrot to a horse and then pluck it from his mouth. That is what the Premier has done.

Mr Ridge: That is a lot of rubbish, and what is more, the people in the north will get their carrot.

Mr B. T. BURKE: The Office of North-West is in complete turmoil because the Minister does not have the courage or the gumption to stand up to his Premier. The Office of North-West is working in all sincerity trying to provide the information requested.

Mr Ridge: What a sick and misguided person you are.

Mr B. T. BURKE: This Minister is prepared to promise things that he cannot deliver, because, in secrecy, his Premier is instructing him.

Mr Ridge: You sure have imagination.

Sir Charles Court: You should have stayed on television—in the children's hour.

Mr Davies: He is entertaining you.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr B. T. BURKE: There is no doubt that the member for Morley expounded a very reasonable argument about the need to take the public into our confidence on more occasions. There is no doubt that this Government has made a decision about confidentiality, if not secrecy, in government, which is not in tune with the philosophy or with the theory that we on this side of the House would espouse. The worrying thing about the decisions that this Government has made with respect to confidentiality and secrecy is that they are so beyond question and beyond reason that it inspires in the minds of many people a doubt and suspicion that perhaps all the things that have been done by this Government are not above board and are not well.

MR BRYCE (Ascot) [2.38 p.m.]: I would like to make a few points in support of my colleague, the member for Morley. In moving an amendment as he has done on the question of secrecy, there is no doubt or question in the mind of any person in Western Australia after 12 months of the Court Government that it is a Government of secrecy.

Every member in this Chamber was treated to a list of instances of this secrecy from my colleague, the member for Morley. He instanced 18 very illustrative points where the Government had decided to keep the people in the dark. I would like to suggest that members of this House should ask themselves the reason for this.

Why it is that a conservative Government seems to be so closely associated with this hallmark of secrecy? I suggest there is a very good reason for it and the reason is that knowledge in itself has its own dynamic. To express it simply, it means that once knowledge is revealed to the people there is a dynamic force that often demands change.

This is the very reason that a conservative Government with an arch conservative Premier, such as we have, should on so many occasions seek to keep knowledge from the people. Not only does this bring the Government into contempt in the eyes of the populace and treat the people themselves with contempt, but also a conservative Government has a vested interest in keeping knowledge from the people. In the many instances outlined to the Chamber by the member for Morley we find that the Government had a vested interest in keeping the information from the people.

I would like to make some particular reference to the Forrest Place incident. Mr Speaker, the very day that you celebrated your 25th anniversary in this Parliament was also the first anniversary of the Forrest Place incident. That incident, in the words of the Premier, was the subject of a very detailed, exhaustive, top-ranking police inquiry.

In his remarks in reply to the member for Morley the Premier said there are certain situations in which it is in the best interests of the public for them to be kept in the dark. I respectfully submit to the members of this House that it was in the best political interests of the Premier that the people of this State should be kept in the dark about the precise facts of that issue; because had the facts revealed by any sincere and dinkum police report been presented to the people, every man, woman, and child in this State would have had evidence before their eyes of the hypocrisy and the total inaccuracy of statements made by the Premier in respect of who was responsible for the trouble in Forrest Place on that day. The very reason that our Premier should indulge in secrecy to the extent he does is due to the extravagant, unjustifiable statements he so frequently makes.

I would draw the attention of members to the situation shortly after the Forrest Place incident when the Premier set himself the task of whitewashing the farmers in this State. It was utterly galling to him to accept that the trouble in Forrest Place on that day was caused by the behaviour of people who support his political party. So in the days that followed he set about making lavish statements to whitewash the farmers. I am not suggesting, nor have I ever suggested, that the farmers were exclusively responsible for the trouble.

Mr O'Connor: You were partially responsible.

Mr BRYCE: They were not solely responsible. However, the point is that the extravagant statements, to which we have become so accustomed, made by the Premier to whitewash his allies in the situation simply could never have been substantiated by any dinkum and serious inquiry. That is the sort of reason why we have come to expect secrecy from our Premier. This is part and parcel of the reasoning associated with the other reports which have been kept secret. My colleague, the member for Morley, referred to reports relating to the police number swapping in the north, the mercury content in fish, and numerous others.

The point the Premier fails to realise is that he places the entire Public Service in a position where it can be held in contempt, because secrecy breeds more secrecy. The moment any Administration sets about the task of being secretive in respect of certain decisions it implies in the minds of the people that something is wrong. It encourages people to believe any suggestion at all. Some people will argue and talk about corruption, which is probably totally inaccurate and unnecessary; but this comes back to the question of secrecy because once a Government has been secretive and has refused to reveal details of some simple inquiry it is so often led into the position of being forced to be further secretive about subsequent decisions. Unnecessary secretiveness breeds further unnecessary secretiveness.

That is the type of situation to which we have become accustomed. It is the hallmark of the Court Government after 12 months in office, and it is the sort of situation which will remove that Government from office and ensure that it is sent back into Opposition in 1977.

Mr Mensaros: Wishful thinking.

MR HARMAN (Maylands) [2.46 p.m.]: I wish to support the amendment moved by the member for Morley because I believe he has been able to demonstrate to the House the real attitude of the Premier of Western Australia. During the seven years I have been a member of this House, on at least one occasion each year while I have been in Opposition I have requested the House to approve of a Select Committee to inquire into various things. I recall on one occasion I moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into land rights for Aborigines; on another occasion for a Select Committee to inquire into the problems confronting single parents; and on a further occasion for a Select Committee to inquire into the industrial safety of our workers in Western Australia.

On each occasion—as has been the case with all Select Committees for which members of my party have moved in this House—the Premier has voted to veto the inquiry. That describes the basis of the attitude adopted by the Premier. He does not wish to see an inquiry conducted into

any matter, and he does not want to see any inquiries made public. So wherever possible he will stop the source of the inquiry by vetoing Select Committees.

When it comes to an inquiry which he is forced to hold as a result of public pressure, secrecy still prevails. This occurred in the case of the Laverton incident, and that is a most interesting case. Had I been Magistrate Syddall I would have told the Premier where he could put his inquiry. Subsequently we heard the Premier say that had he not asked Magistrate Syddall for a confidential report, his report would have been less than frank.

Sir Charles Court: You are distorting the situation. The magistrate would not undertake the inquiry unless he was given an assurance of confidentiality. That is the reverse of what you are saying.

Mr HARMAN: On that occasion the Premier guaranteed the magistrate that his report would be kept confidential. If a magistrate is given a commission to write a report on the results of an inquiry into the facts, I cannot see that whether or not the report is confidential should make any difference to him.

Sir Charles Court: It does. He is not protected any more than you are.

Mr HARMAN: The magistrate can only make recommendations and findings upon the evidence presented to him. If he wishes to present his own conclusions about the evidence he may do so, but it is up to the people who study the report to determine whether he has arrived at the correct conclusions from the evidence presented to him.

Let us consider another case which occurred recently. I refer to the investigation of the price of beer by the Commissioner for Consumer Protection. The commissioner was requested by the Minister for Labour and Industry, to make that investigation to ascertain whether increases in the price of beer were justified. This is something to which we on this side have been trying to get the Parliament to agree to for some time, and particularly in the years from 1971 to 1974.

We wanted some sort of provision written into the legislation whereby an investigation could be made of the rise in prices of selected goods. One of those selected goods may well have been beer. We are grateful that the Minister agreed to ask the Commissioner for Consumer Protection to investigate the matter. However, when the report was furnished to the Minister for Labour and Industry, he refused to make it public.

Mr Grayden: On the advice of the Commissioner for Consumer Protection, because the report contained confidential information which had been obtained from the hotels. Subsequently it was published and sent to you.

Mr HARMAN: I wrote to the Minister and asked him whether I could have a copy of the report. It took the Minister two months to make a decision as to whether he would let me have the report, and he finally agreed.

Mr Laurance: What did you do with it?

Mr HARMAN: I sent it back to the Minister on practically the same mail because one of the qualifications the Minister had placed on letting me view the report was that it was confidential and I was to observe that confidentiality.

Mr Grayden: At the request of the commissioner. However, later, I sent it back to you and said that you could do what you liked with it.

Mr HARMAN: Did the Minister?

Mr Grayden: Yes I did. If you did not get it, there must be something wrong with your staff.

Mr HARMAN: The Minister had better check out that claim; I cannot recall receiving the report with no strings attached.

Mr Grayden: The entire report was published several weeks earlier, anyway.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr HARMAN: The point I wanted to make is that this indicates the confidentiality and secrecy of the Government. After two months, the Minister was prepared to make the report available to me on the proviso that I observed confidentiality.

I refer now to a report commissioned by the Tonkin Government; namely, the report of the Royal Commission which inquired into the desirability or otherwise of extending the franchise of the State Government Insurance Office to include life insurance matters. The Tonkin Government commissioned a judge from a District Court to undertake this inquiry and the major part of the inquiry was conducted during the reign of the Tonkin Government. The report was presented to the Government as long ago as May, 1974, shortly after the defeat of the Tonkin Government. However, it has not been made available. I cannot see any reason for that report not being made public.

Mr Grayden: There is a very good reason. The entire matter must be considered in conjunction with Commonwealth rehabilitation compensation legislation. The report will be made public very shortly.

Mr HARMAN: I am pleased to hear that, but I cannot for the life of me see how the holding back of this report will in some way or another affect the Australian Government.

Mr Grayden: It must be taken against the background of Commonwealth legislation, which has still to be passed.

Mr HARMAN: Having made my protest over those three reports, I express my support for the member for Morley in his continual submissions that we should establish a committee system in this Chamber. When I was in America last year, I had occasion to spend a few days in Washington and I witnessed at first hand the committee system operating in that country. I was most impressed by what I saw and came away with the firm belief that one day I would see such a system operating here in Western Australia; I hope that that day will not be far away.

Finally, I think the failure of the Government to release the three reports to which I have referred—namely, the Laver-ton report, the beer price report, and the report of Royal Commission into the franchise of the SGIO—certainly supports the motion moved by the member for Morley and underlines the attitude we have witnessed on so many occasions adopted by our Premier that all reports must be secret. His attitude is, "We will stop any inquiries before they even commence."

MR J. T. TONKIN (Melville—Leader of the Opposition) [2.55 p.m.]: I am fully conscious of the limited time available to us this afternoon, and I certainly have no intention of using up an undue proportion of it. However, as the motion expresses what I sincerely think, I would be lacking if I did not say so during this debate.

I very strongly believe that this Government has done more to suppress reports than has any previous Government I can recall. I appreciate some of the views expressed by the Premier that there are reports which, by their very nature, must be kept confidential; there are special circumstances surrounding them, and in those circumstances it would be wrong to make them available to the public. However, there are other reports, the contents of which the public is entitled to know.

We are not a dictatorship; we are supposed to be a democracy where the rule of the people should prevail. As a matter of fact, that is why this Government decided to hold a referendum on daylight saving, so that the people could express their wishes.

Mr Shalders: Which your side did not support.

Mr J. T. TONKIN: How on earth can public opinion be properly moulded and determined if the public is not to be in possession of the information which is the necessary criteria to enable it to come to the right conclusions? It is an old dodge to withhold vital information, which is authoritative, and then to use the media to put forward an opposite opinion so that the public generally can be brainwashed in connection with the matter.

I say very deliberately that in my opinion this Government has consistently and willfully withheld information which should have been made public; that is our complaint. We hope as a result of this motion that the Government will realise the public will not continue to accept this attitude. It is entitled to know and it wants to know.

What greater evidence can one put on this matter than the fact that *The West Australian*, which is a known supporter of the Government, has come out quite often and stated that certain reports which the Government refuses to make public should be made public, and that certain inquiries should have been held in public? We would not want any more evidence than that, because that newspaper protects the Government to the absolute limit.

We repeat: This Government will be noted for the fact that it is secretive, that it wants to keep the public in the dark and that it withholds reports and holds inquiries in secret for no other purpose than to prevent the public from knowing what is going on. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Young.

QUESTIONS (96): ON NOTICE

1. WESTERN AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL

Members

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

Who are to be the members of the Western Australian Education Council?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

The membership has not been finalised.

2. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

Noise Level

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Conservation and Environment:

- (1) What, if any, study has been made to protect Mt. Henry hospital from the effects of noise and emission pollution?
- (2) If noise measurements have been taken along the proposed route of the freeway, could these be made available?
- (3) Will the Noise Abatement Act requirements affect construction of the proposed extensions to the freeway?
- (4) If so, how is it intended to comply with the Noise Abatement Act?
- (5) Will he state the noise grading (levels) acceptable to the Government along the route of the proposed extensions?

- (6) What effect will noise levels have on the residential areas immediately adjacent to the proposed extensions to the freeway and in particular to the Mt. Henry hospital area?
- (7) Will he state the noise gradings (levels) considered to be acceptable to the residential areas immediately adjacent to the feeder roads of Hope Avenue and Manning Road?
- (8) What action is to be taken to achieve the acceptable noise levels?
- (9) What proof is there that appropriate noise levels can be achieved and maintained?
- (10) What compensation or other assistance is contemplated for people likely to be affected by the increased noise pollution?
- (11) Have noise levels been taken on the western bank of the Canning River?
- (12) Will special measures be taken to prevent the new bridge acting as a sound source?
- (13) What noise levels are likely to obtain from the new bridge?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) This will be done as part of the detailed design.
- (2) The results of the field measurement of ambient noise levels are tabled.

The document was tabled (see paper No. 113).

- (3) No.
- (4) Answered by (3).
- (5) An important objective in the finalisation of the detailed design of the freeway facility will be the least deleterious effect from noise on the community.
- (6) Some areas adjacent to the proposed extension of the freeway will experience some increase in ambient noise level. However, many more residences in other areas will have a reduction.
- (7) and (8) Answered by (5).
- (9) Experience elsewhere indicates that satisfactory results can be achieved.
- (10) Any claims for injurious affection will be considered in accordance with normal procedures. However it is not expected that claims for increase in noise will be covered under this provision.
- (11) Yes—answered in (2).
- (12) and (13) Answered by (5).

3. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

Brentwood Community: Division

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What effect will the proposed freeway extensions have on the community at Brentwood if the preferred route is adopted, thus splitting the area in two?
- (2) Why are Perth engineers and consultants supporting radial and CBD oriented freeways when their contemporaries elsewhere are discarding this outmoded theory as disproved in practice?
- (3) Why is it considered necessary to divide established communities when the simple and acceptable solution elsewhere is to upgrade arterial systems in use?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) It should have little or no effect and the route through Brentwood has been known since before 1960.
- (2) The Kwinana Freeway is basically a by-pass route, not specifically a radial or CBD-oriented freeway.
- (3) No established communities are being divided.

4. CANNING RIVER

Geological Information on Basin

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What geological information regarding the Canning River basin between Canning Bridge and Riverton Bridge is on file in the Main Roads Department?
- (2) How is the geological information in the Main Roads Department indexed?
- (3) Under what conditions is the geological information on file available to the public?
- (4) Why does the Main Roads Department not have geological data relevant to the 1967 alignment on file?
- (5) What would be the cost of a set of cores down to 20 metres spaced at intervals of 100 metres across the bay north of Mt. Henry peninsula?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) A summary is shown in the MRPA report, page 4, appendix 3.
- (2) On micro film, indexed in books of plans.
- (3) Copies of relevant plans can be made available on written request to the Main Roads Department.

- (4) Sufficient information was available for the preliminary design developed in 1967.
- (5) Depending on soils encountered, the cost could vary between \$5 000 and \$15 000.

5. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

Noise Level

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

What is the probable noise level of a tunnel—

- (a) 100 metres from a ventilation port; and
- (b) 300 metres from a ventilation port,

and how does this compare with the corresponding noise levels near the proposed bridge structure for the southern extension of the Kwinana freeway?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Unknown. It would depend on the design details of a tunnel.

6. ROADS

Ruhr Motorway Tunnel: Exhaust Stacks

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

Does he know and, if so, would he supply information as to the height of the exhaust stacks for the Ruhr motorway tunnel in Essen?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

No.

7. KWINANA FREEWAY

Provision of Six Lanes

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When will the Kwinana Freeway be upgraded to six lanes, and what will the cost of that upgrading be?
- (2) Is the Kwinana Freeway-Mitchell Freeway system a radial freeway system or a by-pass road?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No date has been fixed and until a detailed design has been developed an estimated cost is not known.
- (2) Basically a by-pass system.

8. NARROWS BRIDGE

Traffic Capacity and Cycle Paths

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the peak capacity (in vehicles per hour) of the Narrows Bridge in its present mode of operation?
- (2) Assuming the usual distribution of traffic between peak and off-peak periods what is the capacity of the Narrows Bridge in its present mode of operation in vehicles per day?
- (3) How much would the capacity of the Narrows Bridge in vehicles per day be increased if the two central lanes on the bridge were used reversibly at peak hours?
- (4) Have any plans been made to construct cycle paths over the Narrows Bridge?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The theoretical capacity of the Narrows Bridge is 6 000 vehicles per hour in one direction.
- (2) Based on the usual distribution of traffic between peak and off peak periods, the theoretical capacity is 60 000 vehicles per day in one direction.
- (3) Assuming the same criteria as set out in question (2), reversible operations would only be advantageous in peak periods in one direction and therefore would not significantly affect daily flow.
- (4) No. However, an interdepartmental committee is looking at cycle ways and the Narrows Bridge will receive consideration.

9. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

Vehicles from Southern Suburbs

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What percentage of the vehicles using the Kwinana Freeway come from the Mt. Pleasant, Brentwood, Applecross, Ardross, Booragoon, Attadale, Melville, Myaree area?
- (2) What percentage of the vehicles using the Kwinana Freeway from the Mt. Pleasant, Brentwood, Applecross, Ardross, Booragoon, Attadale, Melville, Myaree area would also make use of the southern extension to the Kwinana Freeway on a regular basis?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) As indicated in my answer to a similar question yesterday, no traffic survey has been carried out to enable this information to be provided.

10. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

Speed Limit

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the additional cost involved in constructing the southern extension to the Kwinana Freeway for 80 km/hr rather than 70 km/hr?
- (2) What is the expected mean time saved per trip on the southern extension if the speed limit is 80 km/hr rather than 70 km/hr?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) It is not considered that there could be any significant difference in costs.
- (2) Under free flow conditions approximately half a minute between Canning Highway and Leach Highway.

11. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

Water Skiing: Effect

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

In relation to the southern extension to the Kwinana Freeway what will be the effect of the bridge in the Main Roads Department preferred plan on water skiing on the Canning River?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Normal practice is to invite comment from interested organisations and this will continue. In the construction stages there will be some inconvenience to recreational use. However, the long term effect will not be significant.

12. NARROWS BRIDGE, CANNING BRIDGE, AND KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

Maintenance Cost

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Have the effects of closure of the Narrows Bridge for major repair been ascertained?
- (2) What is the annual cost of maintaining the Narrows Bridge?
- (3) How much epoxy resin has been used in repairs to the Narrows Bridge?
- (4) What is the annual cost of maintaining the Narrows Bridge/Mitchell Freeway Interchange?
- (5) What is the annual cost of maintaining the Canning Bridge?

- (6) What is the expected cost of maintaining the southern extension to the Kwinana Freeway?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No major repairs are expected that will require closure of the Narrows Bridge.
- (2) \$12 000.
- (3) About 75 kg.
- (4) This breakdown is not readily available. However a maintenance allocation for 1974-75 amounting to \$44 000 has been made for the Mitchell Freeway which includes the Narrows and Hamilton interchanges.
- (5) \$15 000.
- (6) \$50 000-\$60 000 per annum—see MRPA report, appendix 3, page 25.

13. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

Sunken Routes and Overpasses

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does he know how many tunnel and bridge designs were considered in detail before construction of the Mersey Kingsway tunnel?
- (2) How many detailed designs have been considered in arriving at the Main Roads Department preferred plan?
- (3) What is the estimated cost of construction of a sunken freeway along the route shown in the Main Roads Department preferred plan?
- (4) What would be the cost of providing broad overpasses over such a sunken freeway?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Explained in MRPA report, appendix I, p. 38.
- (3) Information is in MRPA report, appendix IV.
- (4) This would depend on the width of overpass and location.

14. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

Preferred Route: Examination

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will the Government have the preferred route of the southern extension of the Kwinana Freeway examined in conjunction with the De Leuw Cather Report 1975 commissioned by South Perth City Council prior to any design work proceeding?

- (2) If "Yes" could these two related traffic plans be evaluated by a body of experts, independently of the MRPA and MRD executives and consultants regularly employed by the department?
- (3) If "No" does the Government consider that the proposed extension of the Kwinana Freeway could be viable without the support of other road links coming into it and leading out of it from South Perth?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) This report is still under consideration by the Perth City Council.
- (2) Should the De Leuw Cather Report be adopted by the council it will be given every consideration by the Main Roads Department before detailed designs of the freeway extension are finalised.
- (3) Yes, the Kwinana Freeway proposal would still be necessary.

15. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION *Landscaping*

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will the landscaping along the preferred route of the southern extension of Kwinana Freeway be similar to that provided for the people of Perth from the Narrows Bridge to the Canning Bridge?
- (2) If "Yes" would the Government initiate a public inquiry to precede any further detailed planning by those authorities and departments responsible for the present foreshore facilities between the bridges?
- (3) If "No" would the State provide a grant on an annual basis to South Perth City Council to ensure that the people can have some recompense for loss of most of their riverfront?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) While detailed landscaping proposals have not been prepared it is envisaged that landscaping will be very much improved on the standard of the existing Kwinana Freeway. Expert advice will be sought on this and recreational aspects of the design.

16. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

Population Projection Figures

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does the Government consider that facts and figures and conclusions of the PERTS 1970 study are out of date?
- (2) If "Yes" could traffic and population projection figures be updated and the effects incorporated in facts and figures used by Main Roads Department in their May 1974 publication entitled "Kwinana Freeway Proposed Southern Extension"?
- (3) If "No" does the Government consider that the latest facts and figures of the National Population Inquiry 1975 (Borrie report) could have significant effect on traffic planning for Perth?
- (4) If "No" would the Government examine a proposition to relieve pressure by establishing further crossings of the Swan River, above or below the water, using existing and upgraded routes to water gaps?
- (5) If "No" would the Government give consideration to having a feasibility study made of adding other lanes to Narrows and Canning Bridges and to reversing lane directions to meet peak demands for northbound and southbound traffic?
- (6) If "No" could the public be informed if grade separation of traffic proceeding east and west along Canning Highway has been considered for Canning Bridge, to do away with lights and interruption of traffic flow in four directions?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The data in the PERTS 1970 Report was updated in the recently completed Wilbur Smith study. Further updating will no doubt be necessary periodically in future. Conclusions are still valid.
- (2) This has been assessed and there is no significant difference to the traffic predictions contained in the MRD report. See appendix I.
- (3) to (6) Answered by (1) and (2).

17. SWAN RIVER BRIDGE *Burswood Island*

Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Transport:

What is the current position and programming for a bridge over the Swan River at Burswood Island?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

No date has been fixed for commencement of construction and the project has been questioned by the Commonwealth Bureau of Roads.

20. MANJIMUP HIGH SCHOOL

Pre-vocational Centre

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

Further to his answer to my question of 25th March, 1975 in which he stated that construction of the pre-vocational centre at Manjimup Senior High School would commence later in the year, can the Minister indicate the month during which construction is expected to commence and when completion is anticipated?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

As documentation is still proceeding, it is not possible to indicate with the firmness the community would desire, dates of commencement and completion.

21. COMPREHENSIVE WATER SUPPLY SCHEME

Extension: Evaluation by Department of Agriculture

Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Can he give an indication when the economic evaluation being conducted by the Department of Agriculture on the effect of extending the Comprehensive Water Supply into the Mt. Hampton, Muntadgin and Westonia areas will be completed?

(2) Will copies of the evaluation be available to interested members?

Sir Charles Court (for Mr McPHARLIN) replied:

(1) A report is expected to be available by the end of May.

(2) I would consider it appropriate to make the salient features of it available to interested members.

22. HOUSING

Kondinin and Hyden

Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Housing:

(1) Is he aware that four State Housing Commission houses to be transported from Kondinin to Hyden by W.A. Jinker Services have not yet been moved?

(2) Is he aware that the Kondinin Shire Council has expressed a need for the houses to remain in that town as they themselves now have a housing shortage?

(3) Has the SHC made a decision as to whether these houses are to be left in Kondinin or transported to Hyden, and if so, what is that decision?

18. MENTAL HEALTH

Tresillian Hostel: Resiting

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

(1) When was it decided that Tresillian hostel would be used on a temporary basis for its present purpose?

(2) When was Tresillian first occupied by the type of patient at present accommodated?

(3) Has the Member of Parliament for Nedlands requested the relocation of residents of Tresillian?

Mr RIDGE replied:

(1) The department's attitude has been frequently stated that when an adequate number of beds to care for the profoundly intellectually handicapped are available in more suitable accommodation, the residents of Tresillian would be moved.

(2) 28th February, 1974.

(3) The Member is referred to the answer to question 29 of 25th March, 1975.

19. TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTRE

Kwinana

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

(1) Is it still the intention of the Government to proceed with the construction of a technical education centre at Kwinana?

(2) If "Yes"—

(a) is the above centre still afforded a third priority behind those at Geraldton and Kalgoorlie/Boulder;

(b) what is the estimated month for commencement of construction?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

(1) The need for technical education is recognised.

(2) (a) Geraldton and Kalgoorlie each have higher priority.

(b) No decision has been reached.

- (4) If the decision is to leave the houses in Kondinin, is the commission prepared to build a further four new houses in Hyden to compensate for the loss of the transportables?
- (5) What is the estimated date of completion of three SHC homes to be built in Hyden by Pemberton Joinery Ltd.?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.
- (3) In view of the changed demand for housing in Kondinin, the contract for removing the four dwellings has been cancelled, and the dwellings are to be offered to eligible commission applicants.
- (4) The provision of further dwellings in Hyden will be considered during the formulation of the 1975-76 building programme.
- (5) The estimated date for completion of the three dwellings at Hyden is September 1975.

23.

ROADS

Brentwood Tunnel

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) At what angle will the sand along the proposed tunnel route in Brentwood stand when—
 - (a) saturated;
 - (b) damp;
 - (c) dry?
- (2) Did the Main Roads Department envisage making the cutting for the tunnel before or after dewatering?
- (3) Did the Main Roads Department envisage dewatering using shallow well-points or deep bores?
- (4) Does he know what method was used for dewatering in the approach roads to the Elbe, the Limfjord and the Mobile River tunnels?
- (5) Are the sands down to 6 metres depth in the Canning estuary coarse medium or fine-grained, and what is their permeability?
- (6) What is the pressure on the base of the structure of the proposed tunnel, relative to that at the base of a bridge pile?
- (7) What experience has the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation, which acted as consultants for the Main Roads Department, on large scale dewatering and on tunnel construction, below the water table, in alluvium?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) (a) to (c) Not known.

- (2) Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation envisaged making the cutting after dewatering—see attachment to appendix III of MRPA report.
- (3) Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation considered deep bores.
- (4) No.
- (5) Generally medium to fine grained.
- (6) Probably between 1-2%.
- (7) Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation has had very wide experience in major civil engineering works both in Australia and overseas and no doubt would either have expert knowledge or seek advice in this field when required.

24. WESTRALIAN PLYWOODS LTD.

Timber Production

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

- (1) What is the expected production of softwoods timber from Forests Department controlled plantings in each of the next ten years?
- (2) What quantity of the above production will be available to Westralian Plywoods Ltd. in each of those years?
- (3) What quantity of indigenous hardwood timber will Westralian Plywoods Ltd. use in each of the next ten years?
- (4) Will Westralian Plywoods Ltd. be involved in the sawmilling of pine logs, and if so, what quantity of sawlogs will be made available to the firm in each of the next 10 years?
- (5) What is the current quantity of sawn pine being produced by the Forests Department?
- (6) What is the expected quantity of sawn pine which the Forests Department will produce in each of the next ten years?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Anticipated availability of all classes of softwood timber from State plantations is as follows:—

		cubic metres log volume
1974-75*	.....	505 300
1975-76	.....	79 500
1976-77	.....	86 700
1977-78	.....	47 400
1978-79	.....	104 500
1979-80	.....	244 500
1980-81	.....	210 600
1981-82	.....	216 300
1982-83	.....	202 100
1983-84	.....	200 000

*1974-75 figures include a substantial backlog in sizes not suitable for sawmilling.

- (2) Detail required is not available as it would be a single unit estimate.
- (3) Not known. The quantity used in 1974 was 6 464 cubic metres.
- (4) Not known. The company is currently not involved in sawmilling.
- (5) Approximately 20 000 cubic metres (green off saw).
- (6) Not known. This will depend on the availability of material suitable for sawing, the public demand for sawn wood and the extent of participation by private sawmillers.

25. and 26. *These questions were postponed.*

27. **MUNDARING SCHOOL**
Improvements

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

- (1) Is it proposed to carry out improvements at the Mundaring Primary School?
- (2) If "Yes" when, and what amount of finance has been allocated for the improvements?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The work has been provisionally listed on the general loan fund, 1975-76, for \$100 000.

28. **GLEN FORREST SCHOOL**
Improvements

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

- (1) What was the total cost of the improvements carried out at Glen Forrest Primary School over the past two years?
- (2) What percentage of the costs were provided out of the Schools Commission funds?
- (3) What was the cost for the provision and erection of the plaque acknowledging the official opening of the improvements?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) \$57 000.
- (2) Nil.
- (3) \$75 plus installation.

29. **EASTERN GOLDFIELDS HIGH SCHOOL AND KALGOORLIE TECHNICAL SCHOOL**
Building Programmes

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

- (1) Would he please outline the programme in terms of time and remaining stages to complete the Eastern Goldfields Senior High School?

- (2) What is the intended user of the present site and the few viable buildings thereon constituting the old senior high school?
- (3) Would the Minister also please outline the expected programme in terms of time and stages (if any) for the development of a new technical school in Kalgoorlie?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) It is proposed to continue the building programme as funds become available. To this end, documentation of stage 4 is now proceeding.
- (2) No decision has yet been reached on this matter.
- (3) Planning and documentation for the building of a new technical school has commenced. The timing and staging of construction will be dependent upon funding for capital works expected to be available through the Australian Committee on Tertiary and Further Education (ACOTAFE).

30. **PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION**

Minister's Statement, and Fees

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

- (1) Apropos his reply to part (1) of my question 13 of 25th March last, how does he justify the continued financial burden on parents whose children attend a pre-school centre, where such parents are still required to pay a levy, as against parents whose children are able to attend a pre-primary centre, where by statute no charge is payable?
- (2) How does the Minister reconcile his answer to part (2) of question 1 of 25th March, 1975, wherein he stated "The full implications of the Children's Commission programme are not yet available" with the statement he made in the Legislative Council on 18th March, 1975 to the effect that the Minister had been given a detailed explanation of the Australian Government's philosophy regarding the Children's Commission?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) It is the State Government's hope to eventually abolish the levy although no precise date can yet be fixed. It should be pointed out, however, that while the levy has remained unchanged over the past 15 months, the costs of administering pre-schools have increased

substantially. These increases have been absorbed by the State Government.

32.

AGED PERSONS*Leisure Needs*

Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

What action has been taken to "have a separate sympathetic study of the leisure needs of elderly people" as promised in the Liberal Party's policy speech?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

A number of surveys have been made by the Community Recreation Council which have included data on the leisure needs and provision for the elderly.

A pilot scheme based on a survey conducted by Dr Lefroy of the Public Health Extended Care Department is presently being organised by a Community Recreation Council officer working in the Claremont area.

This will provide leisure services for the elderly and will supplement existing Extended Care Services.

The scheme, which will involve community groups, Government departments, and local government, will be launched in June this year.

A house-by-house survey will also be conducted as part of the pilot scheme.

A survey to assess the need for a library book delivery service for the elderly has been initiated by a Community Recreation Council officer in the Nedlands/Claremont area.

31.

EDUCATION*Handicapped Children*

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

- (1) When was the council for special education to co-ordinate and improve the education of handicapped children formed?
- (2) How many times has it met?
- (3) What were the dates of the meetings?
- (4) Have any recommendations been made to the Government?
- (5) If so, how many?
- (6) Which recommendations have been adopted?
- (7) When was an executive officer to the council appointed?
- (8) Is the position full- or part-time?
- (9) Who comprise the advisory board formed to help the council?
- (10) Does the advisory board meet with the council or independently?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) October, 1974.
- (2) Four.
- (3) 31st October, 21st November, 5th December, 1974, 27th March, 1975.
- (4) to (6) No. The council has given major consideration to the structure and function to assure the most appropriate advice to the Minister.
- (7) October, 1974.
- (8) Part time.
- (9) and (10) An advisory board as such has not been formed. The council has established communication with all organisations engaged in special education for the purpose, among other things, of identifying persons who can advise in each field of special education. The council will call meetings of such persons, or of any others, as it considers necessary, rather than appoint a standing advisory board with a regular membership. A large number of submissions have been received from organisations and these will form a basis for the work of the council in 1975.

33.

ROADS*Rural: Commonwealth Allocation*

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

What was the Commonwealth allocation for rural local roads and rural arterial roads for 1974-75 including national highways?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The Commonwealth allocations to Western Australia for 1974-75 for rural roads and national highways are as follows:—

	Federal road grant Acts \$	Special grant \$	Total allocation \$
Rural arterial roads	9 900 000	2 140 000	12 040 000
Rural local roads	9 200 000	715 000	9 915 000
National highways	9 400 000	380 000	9 780 000
Total for rural roads and national highways	28 500 000	3 235 000	31 735 000

34. RAILWAYS

Track Maintenance: Private Contractors

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

- (1) How many private contractors are carrying out track maintenance for the Western Australian Government Railways?
- (2) What are the periods of the individual contracts involved?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Five.
- (2) Contractor No. 1.
Contract (a) 165 weeks.
Contract (b) 26 weeks.
Contract (c) 24 weeks.
Contract (d) 14 weeks.
Contract (e) 20 weeks.
- Contractor No. 2.
Contract (a) 21 weeks.
- Contractor No. 3.
Contract (a) 63 weeks.
Contract (b) 70 weeks.
- Contractor No. 4.
Contract (a) 14 weeks.
Contract (b) 8 weeks.
Contract (c) 8 weeks.
- Contractor No. 5.
Contract (a) 14 weeks.

35. ROAD TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Commencement of Operations

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

- (1) What are the reasons for the delay in having the Road Traffic Act proclaimed in its entirety?
- (2) Will he advise when it is anticipated the new authority will commence operations?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) There are several reasons, including the need to prepare amendments to Traffic Regulations, have discussions with local authorities as to conditions for acting as agents, finding suitable staff and accommodation.

All necessary before the Authority can fulfil its function as required by the Act.

- (2) On the 1st of June, 1975.

36. HOUSING

Collie

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

- (1) Are any additional State houses to be erected in Collie?
- (2) If so, will he please advise—
(a) the number involved;
(b) date of completion?

- (3) Will the houses be asbestos, brick or brick veneer?
- (4) If the houses to be constructed are to be wooden and asbestos will he please advise why brick or brick veneer homes cannot be constructed?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) The commission has a programme for the erection of 3 single detached dwellings and 6 pensioner units of accommodation. Tenders have been accepted for 3 single detached dwellings and the estimated date of completion is September 1975.

Architectural designs for the 6 pensioner units are being prepared for submission to, and approval by, the local authority. When this approval is received, tenders will be called for a six months completion period.

- (3) Timber-framed and asbestos construction.
- (4) Tenders were called for alternative methods of construction. Only one contractor tendered and this was on the basis of timber-frame and asbestos, and, in the interests of providing further dwellings for Collie, the tender was accepted.

37.

RAILWAYS

Collie: Examiners and Wagon Shop

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

- (1) Is it still the intention to transfer the Collie examiners and wagon shop to the disused round-house locomotive shed, Collie?
- (2) If so, will he please advise when the transfer will take place?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) Consideration was given to using a portion of the Round House for wagon repairs but this proposal was not progressed.

Currently no plans exist to utilise the building to accommodate wagon maintenance.

38.

TRAFFIC

Towing Permits: Complaints

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

- (1) Where police traffic control take-overs have occurred has he received any complaints regarding the permission-to-tow provisions especially in relation to the supplying of the necessary data?
- (2) If so, will he advise the general nature of the complaints?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

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

ports would be necessary before certain types of vessels could be worked successfully.

39. TRANSPORT *Neilsen Plan*

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

- (1) Has the Government yet reviewed the recommendations of the Neilsen transport plan, as promised by the Premier in his election speech?
- (2) If "No" when is it proposed to review the recommendations?
- (3) If "Yes" to (1), is any action to be taken on its recommendations?
- (4) Is the Government prepared to undertake a further investigation if changing circumstances are seen to have made this desirable?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The data in the Neilsen report were partially updated by the Wilbur Smith Study which the Perth Regional Transport Co-ordinating Committee have under review now. They have not yet reported to the Government.
- (2) and (3) Answered by (1).
- (4) The Government will make a decision about any further necessary work after it has studied the recommendations of the Co-ordinating Committee.

40. COASTAL SHIPPING COMMISSION *Modernisation*

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

What steps have been taken to continue the modernisation of the W.A. Coastal Shipping Commission?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The four unit load type ships acquired in 1971 (2) and 1973 (2) were allowed into the country under import licenses expiring in 1976 (2) and 1978 (2). These vessels have sufficient capacity to cope with demand for the next few years.

The policy of the commission is to keep under review, changing technology in shipping construction with a view to replacing these vessels at the appropriate time.

Management examines the suitability of various types of vessels on a continuing basis. However, upgrading of some north-west

41. ROAD TRANSPORT

Licenses: Government Policy

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Premier:

Will the Government make public the details involved in the carefully designed licensing policy for road service, promised by the Premier in his election speech?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

Not until it has come before and been approved by Cabinet.

42. TRANSPORT

Country: Survey

Mr T. H. JONES, to the Premier:

- (1) Has a comprehensive survey of country transport yet been held?
- (2) If so, who conducted the survey and what were its recommendations?
- (3) If "No" to (1), when is it proposed to conduct the survey?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (3) Preliminary studies have been done by the Director-General of Transport, who has conferred with others including the Commissioner of Railways and has proposed a joint study. It will be some time before this is complete.

43. PRE-PRIMARY CENTRES

Substitution for Pre-School Centres

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

- (1) Will the Minister confirm that it is the Government's intention to provide ultimately for all five-year-old children (whose parents are agreeable) to be accommodated at pre-primary centres and not at pre-school centres?
- (2) If the Minister does so confirm what role does he see for pre-school centres and indeed for the Pre-School Education Board?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) This matter was the basis of the discussions between the Minister and the board. These discussions have not been finalised.

44. PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

Health Centres

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

Would he please explain the concept of a "pre-primary health centre" and also answer the following questions—

(a) Will a pre-primary health centre accommodate the needs of primary children attending the school which acts as the host for the pre-primary health centre;

(b) if "Yes" why the use of the name "pre-primary" health centre;

(c) if not, why not?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

"Pre-primary Health Centres" are designed to integrate pre-primary education services, child health screening, assessment services, and educational guidance services.

(a) and (b) The official title of "Pre-Primary Health Centre" is under review. It should be pointed out, however, that whilst such centres will have an emphasis upon the early detection of disabilities in children and as such are best associated with pre-primary centres, services will be available to other children.

(c) Not applicable.

45. HIGH SCHOOLS

Manual Arts Materials: Shortage

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

(1) Is he aware of the extreme shortage of materials in the manual arts section of many high schools and in particular newly constructed high schools?

(2) If so, what are the reasons for these shortages and when can it be expected that supplies will be more readily available?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

(1) and (2) Certain delays and shortages have occurred due to factors outside the control of the Education Department. Timber has been short because merchants cannot obtain island timbers and good local timbers are not always available. The type of steel needed for school use is not used extensively in industry and, in consequence, is subject to irregular supply. Other items, of which an excellent example is salamoniac,

which is used in soldering, have not been available in Western Australia for twelve months.

If specific information regarding any particular high school is made available the matter will be investigated.

46. SOUTH-WESTERN HIGHWAY

Deviation

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

(1) Has the route of the deviation of the South-Western Highway to permit Greenbushes Tin Ltd. to mine the road reserve at the southern end of the townsite of Greenbushes been determined at this time?

(2) If "Yes" will he table a map showing the route of the deviation referred to?

(3) If "No" to (1), when is a decision expected to be finalised?

(4) (a) Has the effect of the operations of the Vultan Minerals by the proposed deviation of the South-Western Highway been considered, and if so, will provision for trucks of this company which convey material from mining leases it is operating to the treatment plant without having to traverse public roads which would entail expense in additional distance and road maintenance tax to the company be made;

(b) will employees of Vultan Minerals be required to travel additional distances from Greenbushes to the mine site when the South-Western Highway is deviated around Greenbushes, or will a more direct access be provided across existing mineral leases?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

(1) No.

(2) Answered by (1).

(3) The location of the proposed route will be finalised when all investigations are complete. This could take several months.

(4) (a) Vultan Minerals have been requested to submit details of their operation so that the effect of the proposed road deviation can be determined.

(b) This is not yet resolved.

47. WOOD CHIPPING INDUSTRY

Service Roads: Intersections

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

- (1) Has the type of crossings required for the crossing of public roads and highways by private roads serving the woodchip plant at Diamond Tree been determined by the Main Roads Department?
- (2) If so, will he give the specific details of the crossing types required at the various levels of intersection, and if "No" to (1) will he indicate when a decision on this matter will be given?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes, for the sites requested to date.
- (2) The company has been advised that grade separation is required on the Vasse Highway and that subject to certain conditions being met, crossings at grade will be permitted at Channybearup Road, Seveday Road and Eastbourne Road.

48. VERMIN AND NOXIOUS WEED TAX

Legislation

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

Is it proposed to introduce legislation this session to introduce a vermin and noxious weed tax or rating system?

Sir Charles Court (for Mr McPHARLIN) replied:

This matter is under consideration.

49. NURSERIES

Registration

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

- (1) Has he received any representations from the W.A. Nurserymen's Association seeking that registration of nurseries and various controls be introduced?
- (2) Is it proposed to introduce legislation to give effect to the measures indicated in (1) or to effect any other changes in the existing position regarding nurserymen?

Sir Charles Court (for Mr McPHARLIN) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The proposals from the W.A. Nurserymen's Association are currently being examined by the department, and other interested organisations.

50. ROCKINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Driver Instruction

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

- (1) What efforts have been made to provide for student driver education in the Rockingham Senior High School?
- (2) When can students of this school expect a driver education course to be available to them?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) The initial approach should be made by the school. If it is the wish of the community that driver education be available in Rockingham, an application should be submitted and every endeavour will then be made to supply a vehicle and appoint an instructor.

51. ROCKINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Classrooms

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

- (1) How many classrooms will be provided in the proposed stage 4 extensions to Rockingham High School?
- (2) What facilities other than classrooms is it intended to provide?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) 9 classrooms.
- (2) 1 seminar room.
3 staff work areas.
4 store areas.
Staff and students' toilets.

52. SEWERAGE

Rockingham Electorate

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What proportion of the \$12.4 million provided by the Australian Government for sewerage works has been allocated to towns in the Rockingham electorate?
- (2) What works are to be carried out in the Rockingham electorate from these funds?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Of the funds advanced, 70% by way of loans, \$312 000 will be spent.
- (2) Completion of stage 1 of the Pt. Peron Treatment Works and commencement of the first stage of Rockingham reticulation area No. 10.

53. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

Alternative Proposals: Investigation

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Relative to the Kwinana Freeway extensions, what tests have been carried out on dewatering methods proposed by the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation and on the methods designed by private citizens for alternative proposals?
- (2) Have quotations been obtained for tests on dewatering methods for tunnel construction?
- (3) What fraction of the total cost of major projects is normally spent on preliminary investigations for major projects?
- (4) Is the amount on preliminary studies increased where the matters are of special social concern?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) None.
- (2) No.
- (3) The amount of preliminary study is not governed by a percentage of project cost. Sufficient work is done to find answers to likely problems.
- (4) Yes.

54. ROADS

Tunnel Designs

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Transport:

What are the specifications for tunnel design approved by the Main Roads Department for the various classes of roadway, and what are the appropriate design speeds and capacities for these tunnels?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Tunnels have to be considered in relation to specific projects and therefore no overall specifications are available. A possible tunnel for this route is outlined in appendix III of the MRPA Report.

55. NARROWS BRIDGE

Mud Displacement

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What time factor was involved in the displacement of the deep mud at the Narrows Bridge?
- (2) What was the weight and number of blows required to drive the piles at the Narrows Bridge through—
(a) the first metre of 'mud'; and

(b) a metre of mud at a depth of ten metres?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Several weeks.
- (2) To my knowledge this information is not available in Government records.

56. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

Objections: Recording

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

- (1) Relative to the facilities for hearing objections to the freeway plan, how many microphones were visible to the objectors when they were being interviewed?
- (2) Were the interviews recorded and, if so, were the objectors given transcripts of these records?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Nine microphones on the table plus a roaming microphone used when referring to wall plans. The latter may not have been visible in all cases.
- (2) Transcripts have been tabled. Copies have not been given to objectors.

57. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

Alternative Proposals: MRPA Report

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

- (1) Were those who provided detailed submission on alternative proposals to the Main Roads Department preferred plan given copies of official reports on their proposals submitted to the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority?
- (2) Were such reports provided in time to enable the proposers to comment to the MRPA before it reported to Parliament?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) No.

58. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

Tunnel: Weight

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Transport:

Relative to the Kwinana Freeway extensions, is the weight of the proposed Main Roads Department tunnel more or less than that of the material moved to make way for the tunnel?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

More than the submerged weight of the soil but less than the actual dry weight.

59. ROADS

Britain: Vehicle Flow

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Transport:

Does he know what is the capacity in vehicles per lane per hour of a medium grade single carriageway two-lane road in Britain?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Yes.

60. ROADS

Radial Extension and Ring Road Patterns

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Are any cities comparable in size with Perth constructing or extending radial freeways?
- (2) Are any other cities known to have changed from a grid or ring road pattern to a predominantly radial road plan?
- (3) Have any other cities changed from a radial road plan to a grid or ring road pattern in recent years?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) There are many cities in the U.S.A. and elsewhere of comparable size to Perth which have far more extensive freeway systems.
- (2) and (3) Not known.

Mr J. T. Tonkin: The answer does not relate to the question asked. That was not what the questioner wanted.

Mr O'CONNOR: The member who asked the question is not even interested enough to be in the Chamber. I have answered 31 questions on this matter.

61. KWINANA FREEWAY AND NARROWS BRIDGE

Mean Speed: 1982 and 1989

Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Transport:

What is the expected mean speed for traffic on the Kwinana Freeway and at the Narrows Bridge in 1982 and 1989?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Under free flow conditions the expected speed will be around 80 km/h (i.e. the speed limit).

62. ABORIGINES

Royal Commission Recommendations

Mr BRYCE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Pursuant to question 28 of Tuesday, 18th March, will the Minister indicate which particular recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Affairs have been implemented?
- (2) Which recommendations are in the course of implementation?
- (3) On the basis of which recommendations have representations been made to the Australian Government Minister for Aboriginal Affairs?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) and (2) See answer to question 1 Legislative Council, page 156 *Hansard*, Wednesday, 19th March, 1975.
- (3) On the basis of, and subject to requests from Aboriginal Communities and submissions of various departmental requirements on on-going programmes and resolutions of the Aboriginal Advisory Council.

63. PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

Funds, and Takeover of Pre-School Centres

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

- (1) From the statement by the Minister for Education to the Legislative Council on pre-primary and pre-school centres, will he indicate what form and extent of assistance has been offered to the State Government's pre-primary programme by the Interim Committee of the Children's Commission?
- (2) What criteria are employed to assess the areas "... where they can do the most good and where there is an urgent need for the facilities ..."?
- (3) If the current pre-primary centre programme was dropped, why could none of the funds allocated to it be spent on other education projects?
- (4) Will the Minister confirm that the State Government has no intention of taking over control of existing pre-school education centres—many of which are currently owned by Shire Councils and private committees?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) The Commonwealth Government has approved the sum of \$871 000 for extension of the pre-primary programme.

- (2) The broad criteria are that there be large numbers of children not receiving a pre-school education and that the community has not been able to afford the provision of these educational services.
- (3) The moneys have been specifically designated for expenditure on education programmes for children not of school age.
- (4) It is the State Government's intention to ensure that the interests of shire councils and private committees are fully protected in its policy to extend the pre-primary programme.

64. HIGH SCHOOLS

Students over 18 Years of Age

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

What is the Government's policy in respect of the admission of students over the age of 18 years to Government secondary schools?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

The policy is to offer every opportunity for re-entry into education. It is preferable to consider individual cases on their merits because it is only in this way that the nature of the course desired can be assessed. For students over eighteen years of age there is every possibility that the needs will be met to the greatest advantage through the technical division. In this way students will be working within their age groupings.

65. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Kwinana Beach Properties: Acquisition

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

With respect to the purchase of properties in the Kwinana Beach area by the Industrial Lands Development Authority, can he advise the present state of his investigations into the suggestions contained in my letter to him of the 31st December, 1974, and which was briefly acknowledged by him on the 10th January, 1975?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

A proposal is being examined with a view to re-accommodating some of the people living in the area, using bridging finance from the State Housing Commission. Any cases would have to meet the eligibility criteria of the State Housing Commission. Such a programme would not be possible until the next financial year.

66.

SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMMES

Uncompleted Accommodation

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

- (1) Does the Minister agree that it is general practice in the building industry that a building is not deemed to be completed and ready for occupation until final inspections have been carried out and keys formally handed over?
- (2) Why does this practice not apply with regard to school building construction, where buildings are frequently occupied well before completion of the work, causing considerable inconvenience for all concerned?
- (3) Will the Minister clearly state his Department's policy towards occupation of uncompleted accommodation?
- (4) Who would be considered responsible should an injury occur within the school environs which can be attributed to the presence of materials, tools or vehicles related to the building construction?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) No. The practice varies from project to project. The example quoted may be the "ideal" situation but this occurs infrequently. Practical completion is the more usual form used in the building industry. This can be the date of occupation or the date of acceptance after inspection. In larger projects, such as many school buildings, where it is possible to gain progressive occupation, practical completion may be staged. In some agreements provision is made for certain sections of the school, e.g., classrooms to be completed prior to other areas.
- (2) and (3) Answered in (1).
- (4) The builder is required to carry public liability insurance as a part of the contract arrangements. Any claim would be determined by the particular circumstances.

67.

JOHN WILLCOCK HIGH SCHOOL

Subdivisional Plan, and Services

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

With reference to John Willcock High School—

- (1) Has the subdivisional plan been completed, and if not, when is it expected to be completed?

- (2) What is the present position regarding power, water and access roads for the school?
- (3) When is it anticipated that provision of these services on a permanent basis will be provided?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) No. The site of the high school has been established and road access has been provided. The Housing Commission advises that it will be two months before a complete plan of the area is ready for local consultation or submission to the Town Planning Board. The Shire of Greenough has been involved in discussions.
- (2) (i) An adequate power supply is being provided by a mobile generator.
- (ii) Water is connected to the school.
- (iii) Temporary limestone road for vehicular traffic and slab footpath for pedestrian use.
- (3) (i) Permanent power supply will be connected when Stage 1 buildings are completed.
- (ii) Answered in (2) (ii).
- (iii) Permanent roads will be provided in the area when the sub-divisional plan has been finalised.

68. GERALDTON HIGH SCHOOL

Hall-gymnasium

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

- (1) Have tenders been called for construction of the proposed hall-gymnasium at Geraldton Senior High School?

- (2) If "No" when is it expected they will be called?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Within the next few weeks.

69. ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

Enrolments and Quotas

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

- (1) What is the present enrolment for each of the 51 Legislative Assembly electorates?
- (2) What is the quota for each category of seats?
- (3) Which seats are out of quota by more than is allowed for under the Electoral Districts Act?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

I ask that the answer be tabled.
The answer was tabled (see paper No. 114).

70. HOUSING

Geraldton

Mr CARR, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many persons are registered for accommodation in each category of State Housing Commission accommodation in Geraldton?
- (2) What is the length of time registered for the longest waiting person in each category, presently waiting in Geraldton?
- (3) How many homes are presently vacant in each category in Geraldton?
- (4) What construction of new accommodation is presently under way or proposed for 1975 in Geraldton?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

Type	Single Unit Pensioner	1 Br. Pensioner	1 Br.	2 Br.	3 Br.	4 Br.	5 Br.
(1) —							
Domestic	29	12	10	51	157*	11	—
Aboriginal	2	—	3	18	45	6	2
* Includes 76 Purchase applications							
(2) —							
Domestic	21 mths.	21 mths.	24 mths.	20 mths.	9 mths.	13 mths.	—
Aboriginal	38 mths.	—	23 mths.	17 mths.	35 mths.	10 mths.	29 mths.
(3) —							
Domestic	—	1	—	1	9	—	—
Aboriginal	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

- (4) 10 three-bedroom dwellings and six single units of pensioner accommodation are under construction. Tenders have been called for 24 single units of pensioner accommodation and subject to local authority approvals construction can be arranged for 12 single detached dwellings for Aboriginal families.

The provision of further dwellings will be considered during the preparation of the 1975-1976 building programme.

71. ALLENDALE SCHOOL

Classrooms

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

- (1) Is it a fact that funds provided by the Australian Government for replacement of old buildings were used by the Education Department to replace the prefabs at Allendale School with three new classrooms?
- (2) Is it a fact that the three prefabs which were replaced have been relocated in the school grounds and are being used again as classrooms to cater for the increased enrolment at the school?
- (3) Is it so that Australian Government funds allocated specifically for replacement have in fact been used to fulfil the State Government's responsibility of providing new classrooms where necessary?
- (4) Will he explain how this situation occurred?
- (5) Does he now intend to seek further Federal funds to replace the same prefabs which have already been replaced once?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.
- (3) No.
- (4) It was necessary to dispose of 3 bristol rooms to complete the cluster. This is a logical and legitimate use of Schools Commission funds.

The headmaster wrote to the Education Department commenting on the future of the bristol buildings and referring to the comparative advantages and disadvantages of their being removed from the site. The Education Department advised in November 1974 that the buildings would be removed from the site if it were the wish of the school. After consultation no option for

removal was exercised. In the meantime, however, the Bristols had to be moved to another location on the school site because it was necessary to accommodate the children during completion of the cluster. Subsequently, through a local arrangement, it was decided to move a special class from Geraldton to Allendale and house them in the vacant Bristols.

- (5) No. The buildings in question could be dispensed with and replaced with one room to accommodate the special class which was moved from Geraldton this year.

72. ELECTORAL DISTRICTS AND PROVINCES

Enrolments and Quotas

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

- (1) What are the latest enrolment figures for each State electoral district and for each electoral province?
- (2) What are the current quotas for each area specified under the Electoral Districts Act?
- (3) Which electoral districts deviate by more than one-fifth from the current quota?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

I request that this answer be tabled.

The answer was tabled (see paper No. 114).

73. TEACHERS

Promotion without Transfer

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

- (1) Was the Minister correctly reported in *The Sunday Times* of 26th January, where it was stated that the Government is examining the promotional system so that teachers who want to advance in their profession yet desire to remain in country schools will be able to do so?
- (2) How far has the investigation proceeded and what decisions have been made?
- (3) Will the Minister extend his inquiries to the whole State system, so that it applies to teachers serving in metropolitan schools as well?

- (4) How can the Minister's positive statement referred to in (1) be reconciled with his negative answer to my question on notice of 18th September, 1974, in which I suggested the tackling of this problem in exactly the same way, so that our education system would be enhanced by the increased stability of school staff?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
 (2) Considerable thought has been given to this matter by officers of the department to identify the implications on the promotional system. These implications can be of considerable consequence and would necessarily need to be the subject of negotiation with the Teachers' Union.
 (3) The implications are that any changes will inevitably affect the total system.
 (4) The indications are that a solution to the problem is not as simple as might be indicated.

74. HOUSING

Building Societies Act: Amendment

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

Has the Government decided to amend the Building Societies Act in accordance with statements made by him in 1974?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

If the Member would identify the statement I am alleged to have made I might be able to answer the question.

75. CONSERVATION

Conservation Through Reserves Committee: Report

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

When is it expected that the Conservation Through Reserves Committee will present its report on the Darling and Kimberley regions?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

With respect to the Kimberley region (system 7) a report is expected in the third quarter of this calendar year. With respect to the Darling region (system 6) discussions are presently taking place about methods of expediting this report. The Environmental Protection Authority hopes to have at least a partial report within a year.

76. WATER CATCHMENT AREAS

Use: Report

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

- (1) Has the Purity of Water Committee presented its report on the recommended use of water catchment areas?
 (2) If the answer to (1) is in the affirmative, will the Minister table the report?
 (3) If the answer to (1) is in the negative, when will the report be completed?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) No. A report has not been called for.
 (2) Not applicable.
 (3) See (1).

77.

LAND

Surveys into Salinity

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

When have there been surveys of land affected by salt on a state-wide basis by the Bureau of Census and Statistics since 1945?

Sir Charles Court (for Mr McPHARLIN) replied:

There have been no surveys covering the whole of the State, but surveys of the agricultural areas were carried out by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1955, 1962 and 1974.

78. *This question was postponed.*

79. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AUTHORITY

New Initiatives

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

- (1) Has the Environmental Protection Authority been given a new role involving 'greater initiation' of developments as stated by the Premier in a *Daily News* article of 9th April, 1974?
 (2) If (1) is "Yes" what have been these initiatives?
 (3) If (1) is "No" when will the new initiatives start and what form will they take?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) to (3) Yes—there are very successful programmes, initiated by the Environmental Protection Authority, going forward. These include the Hardy Inlet-Augusta estuarine study and the Conservation Through Reserves Committee's studies. Furthermore, using the expertise and experience

gained in the multi-disciplinary Coogee Air Pollution Study, a comparable study is now being carried out at Pinjarra by the Public Health Department and Alcoa.

Additionally discussions are still proceeding to obtain funding for Demographic and Environmental Resources Committee which I have previously discussed in the House. It is intended by the Environmental Protection Authority that this committee should use its expertise to examine and report in detail on the many effects on Western Australia which occurred through the establishment of the Kwinana industrial complex. With this knowledge the Demographic and Environmental Resources Committee could predict the demographic and environmental consequences of future projects.

80. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Freon: Use

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

- (1) Is he aware of concern being shown in the United States of America that freon acts to break down ozone?
- (2) What initiative has he taken to protect our environment from such degradation?
- (3) Is he aware of action in the United States to suspend the manufacture and use of freon until more definitive studies have been made?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Yes—However the Member will be aware that no definitive evidence has been obtained that any hazard exists in the immediate future. Legislation presently before the U.S. Federal Government proposes the authorisation of a nine month detailed study by the American National Academy of Sciences on the effects of fluorocarbons on stratospheric ozone.
- (2) The Western Australian Environmental and Public Health Authorities are keeping a close watch on the developments and work that are being carried out in the United States and elsewhere. Indeed, if there is a long term problem, and this has yet to be determined, it will be an international one, especially as most freons are released in the northern hemisphere.
- (3) Yes—I would refer the Member to the following journal articles for further reading on this complex question.

Chemistry and Engineering News, 2nd December, 1974, page 14.

Chemistry and Engineering News, 23rd December, 1974, page 12.

Science 27th September 1974, Vol. 185, No. 4157, page 1165.

81. OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS

Trial by Jury

Mr A. R. TONKIN, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Has he received submissions from newsagents and booksellers requesting trial by jury in obscenity cases?
- (2) If so, what form did the submissions take, and what action is the Government pursuing?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No formal submission has been made. This subject has been raised in discussions held with newsagents and booksellers and considered but rejected.

82. BOLD PARK DEVELOPMENT

Report

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

When is it expected that the joint Government and Perth City Council committee will present its report on the future of Bold Park?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

The committee has not yet formulated a programme for its report.

83. WHITFORDS NODES

Government Decision

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

What decision has the Government made with respect to the Whitfords nodes?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

The Government is waiting for alternative proposals to be presented by the Wanneroo Shire Council.

84. NOMENCLATURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Members and Functions

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

- (1) Who are the members of the Nomenclature Advisory Committee and what "interests" do they represent?

- (2) What authorities are responsible for the naming of streets?
- (3) What nomenclature does the committee advise upon?
- (4) To whom does the committee report, and what is the precise nature of the final decision-making process?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) The members of the Nomenclature Advisory Committee are:—

Mr J. F. Morgan—Chairman

Miss M. L. Medcalf

Mr T. A. Harrop

Mr D. Mathews

Mr R. Kaesehagen

Mr H. Stickland

Mr A. A. Hall

Mr L. A. Jones

The members represent the State Archivist, the Local Government Association and various Government Departments. The composition of the committee is currently under review and I hope to be in a position to make an announcement on this matter within the next few weeks.

- (2) The Governor, as provided in section 10 of the Land Act and the Minister for Lands as provided in section 295 of the Local Government Act.
- (3) Towns, localities, topographic features, streets and roads.
- (4) Recommendations are submitted to the Minister for Lands.

85. AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL

Fund, and District Officers

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

- (1) Has an Australian Environment Council Fund been established?
- (2) If so, what are the details of its fundings?
- (3) What projects are being financed by the Fund?
- (4) What are "district environment officers"? (They are referred to in Question 32 of the 6th August, 1974.)
- (5) Has the Australian Environment Council recommended their appointment?
- (6) How many are there in Western Australia?
- (7) Which States have these officers and can the Minister inform the House as to how many are employed in other States of the Commonwealth?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The fund has been established as a Trust account under section 62A of the Commonwealth Audit Act 1901-1969. Contributions were made as follows:

Commonwealth

Government ..	\$150 000
New South Wales ..	\$ 55 100
Victoria	\$ 41 800
Queensland	\$ 21 900
South Australia ..	\$ 14 100
Western Australia	\$ 12 500
Tasmania	\$ 4 600

At the 6th meeting of the Australian Environment Council, however, it was resolved:

'That following the expenditure of the existing moneys in the AEC fund, the financing of all future AEC projects be considered and, if agreed to by all States and the Australian Government, that they be funded as required by contributions from all the States, in the agreed ratio, and the Australian Government, to the fund account on an individual project basis on the basis of the Australian Government matching the total State contribution. Projects should be vetted by the Standing Committee and be put before Council for approval in principle. Council reserves the right to veto a particular project.'

- (3) Projects financed are:

	\$
Waste disposal study (Brisbane area)	35 000
Consultants to the Emission Standards Sub-Committee	40 000
Consultants to the Environmental Research Sub-Committee	50 000
Consultants to the marine Pollution Sub-Committee ..	50 000
Consultants to the Monitoring Sub-Committee	50 000
Consultants to the Packaging, Waste and Recycling Sub-Committee ..	25 000
Consultants to the Public Awareness Sub-Committee ..	25 000

(4) District environment officers were first mentioned by Dr Cass at a symposium at Sydney in May, 1973. A copy of the Press clipping triggering off discussions of this item at the 4th meeting of the AEC will be tabled.

(5) No.

(6) and (7) Answered by (5).

86.

TRAFFIC

Drivers' Licenses: Demerit Points

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

Referring to *Government Gazette* dated 3rd October, 1974—

- (a) Did the Minister publicly advise motorists of his intention to amend the demerit points schedule;
- (b) if so, will he please advise where he made the alterations known;
- (c) if "No" to (a) does he not consider that the public should have been notified of the Government's intention to amend the regulations as contained in the *Government Gazette* dated 14th March, 1975 which could result in a motorist losing his license for less traffic involvements than prior to the alterations?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (a) No.
- (b) Answered by (a).
- (c) Yes, but consideration is being given to a further amendment, thus no publicity has been effected to date, but will be in due course.

87.

LAND

Old Maylands Aerodrome: Classification as Reserve

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Lands:

Will the Minister arrange for the site known as the 'old Maylands aerodrome' to be classified as an "A"-class reserve as soon as possible?

Mr RIDGE replied:

A meeting was held this morning 27/3/75 between the interested parties to determine the usage of this land. When this is resolved satisfactorily "A"-class status will be arranged.

88. *This question was postponed.*

89.

APPRENTICES

Employment under Government Contracts

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is he aware that Government contracts are being approved for firms that, as a matter of policy, do not employ apprentices?
- (2) If so, does he propose to take any action?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) The Government has adopted the recommendations contained in the Howard Smith Q.C. report following his Inquiry into the Building Industry regarding firms employing apprentices being granted a degree of preference for Government contracts. A meeting with representatives of industry and others who may be affected has been held, and details of a plan to implement the Government's decision are now being finalised.

90.

BUILDING TRADES

Apprentices and Tradesmen

Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Including all Government departments, instrumentalities, authorities, etc., what was the apprenticeship intake into the building trades for the calendar years 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974 and so far this year, including probationers?
- (2) What was the total number of building tradesmen employed by the Government in the same areas above as at January 1st, 1970 or 31st December, 1970 or any other date on which such statistics are available for that year and 1971 to 1975 respectively?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) The building trades apprenticeship intake was:—
For the year ended 30/6/70 656;
30/6/71 500; 30/6/72 416; 30/6/73 449; 30/6/74 402.
The probationary intake from 1/7/74 to 27/3/75 was 455.
- (2) The precise information required is not available. However, statistics taken from Public Service Board annual reports and the 1974 Statistical Summary of Government Employment provide the following information:—

For the year ended 31/3/72—
Adult male employees in the building trades (excluding builders' labourers); 1 228.

For the year ended 31/3/73—
Adult male employees in
the building trades (ex-
cluding builders' lab-
ourers); 1486.

For the year ended 31/3/74—
All adult male workers in
the building trade (in-
cluding builders' labour-
ers); 1434.

91. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Cockburn Sound: Gypsum Discharge

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for
Conservation and Environment:

With respect to the offshore bank
of gypsum near the CSBP works
at Kwinana, will he advise—

- (a) the amount of gypsum dredged
and removed;
- (b) the estimated quantity of
gypsum still present;
- (c) the present extent of the gyp-
sum bank;
- (d) the average quantity of gyp-
sum at present being de-
posited in the immediate
vicinity of the bank?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

The following numbers are esti-
mates only:

- (a) 12 000 cubic metres.
- (b) 60 000 cubic metres.
- (c) approximately 240 metres to
300 metres square.
- (d) approximately 350 tons per
day as the industrial agree-
ment allows.

92. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Kwinana Beach Properties: Acquisition

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for In-
dustrial Development:

- (1) Is it the intention of the In-
dustrial Lands Development Authori-
ty to continue its programme of
purchases of properties in the
Kwinana Beach area?
- (2) If so, are present expectations
that a similar or a larger amount
of money may be available in the
1975-76 financial year than in
previous years?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) At least a similar amount will be
provided in 1975/1976. A final
decision to increase the allocation
could not be made until the full
General Loan Fund programme
for that year is considered.

93. DRS SILVESTER AND ANDREW

Recommendations to Government

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

- (1) What has been the result of the
visit to Copenhagen last June by
Drs Silvester and Andrew?
- (2) Have they made recommenda-
tions to the Government?
- (3) If so, what are the details?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) The biennial conference on coastal
engineering was held in Copen-
hagen to enable participants to
discuss mutual problems and their
possible solution.
- (2) and (3)—
 - (a) Dr Silvester's attendance was
not initiated by the Govern-
ment and he has therefore
not been called on to make
any recommendations as a
result of the conference.
 - (b) Dr Andrew has reported to
the Public Works Department
on the conduct and features
of the Conference.

94. ROAD TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Traffic Inspectors: Absorption

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

Having regard to the recruitment
of shire traffic inspectors into
the Road Traffic Authority—

- (a) have discussions been held
between the Police Depart-
ment, the Municipal Officers'
Association and the Police
Union;
- (b) if so, on what dates did dis-
cussions take place;
- (c) has agreement been reached
on the status and seniority of
shire traffic inspectors who
transfer to the Road Traffic
Authority;
- (d) is it correct that shire traf-
fic inspectors will be enrolled
as first year constables?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (a) It is understood discussions
have taken place between the
Municipal Officers' Associa-
tion and the Police Union, and
further discussion between
the authority and the two
unions has been arranged for
next week.
- (b) Not known.
- (c) and (d) This will be decided
following recommendations
from unions and the auth-
ority.

95. MEDIBANK HEALTH SCHEME

Hospital Coverage

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

- (1) Which of the hospitals located in the south-west of this State are Government hospitals?
- (2) As the Medibank scheme cannot now commence in Western Australia on 1st July, 1975 because of the Government's failure to accept the scheme, is it a fact that members of the public, other than pensioners or those eligible for free treatment, will have to continue to provide their own insurance cover as they will be liable for total costs of hospitalisation after that date?
- (3) Is it a fact that if the Western Australian Government does not accept the Medibank scheme by 1st July, 1975, patients who seek hospital insurance coverage will be compelled to make their own private arrangements until at least 1st October, 1975?
- (4) What are the estimated hospital benefits insurance premiums which would be contributed in the course of the three months between 1st July and 1st October, 1975 by residents of Western Australia?
- (5) Of the amount indicated in answer to (4) what proportion would have been saved by residents of Western Australia had the Medibank scheme operated?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) All public hospitals in operation as at 30th June, 1974, are listed in the Medical Department's annual report for 1973-74, which was tabled in Parliament at the end of the 1974 session. Only the Kalamunda and Mount Hospitals have become public hospitals since that date, whilst the Kwinana Hospital has ceased as a leased hospital and is now operated as a public hospital.
- (2) The State has not been advised that the Medibank scheme cannot commence in Western Australia on 1st July, 1975.
- (3) This is a hypothetical question having regard to my answer to question (2). However, it is clear that under the Hayden proposals as well as the State's counter proposals, patients who seek hospital insurance cover must make their own arrangements with the fund of their choice.
- (4) and (5) These are also hypothetical questions, in respect of which the information is not available.

96. COUNTRY AREAS WATER SUPPLY

Rates: General Purpose Category

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

What is the charge scale for water consumed under the "general purposes" category pursuant to the Country Areas Water Supply Act?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

As advised in my reply to question 24 of March 26, 1975.

QUESTIONS (5): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. MEDIBANK HEALTH SCHEME

Points of Disagreement

Mr J. T. TONKIN, to the Premier:

My question refers to a follow-up question I previously asked about an article in *The Australian* dealing with Medibank. To refresh the Premier's memory I will indicate that I pointed out that the contents of the article were very different from the replies he gave me and I asked him whether he would look at the article and then subsequently inform the House of his opinion. I now ask: Has he had an opportunity to look at the article, and what is his explanation?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I have studied the article which appeared in *The Australian* of the 21st March. I also requested the Minister for Health to study the article because apparently he had not seen it. We found some of the comments in the Press report hard to follow as they did not seem to be reconcilable with our understanding of the position. It could be that some of the original ideas of Victoria and New South Wales have been modified. We would not know necessarily.

The Minister for Health will seek further information by way of clarification from his counterparts in New South Wales and Victoria, but at this juncture he cannot see any reason to advise me that the answers I gave yesterday were not correct.

2. KWINANA FREEWAY EXTENSION

Comment and Debate

Mr COYNE, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) What opportunity has the public had to comment on the proposed alignment of the Kwinana Freeway extension?

- (2) What opportunity will members of Parliament have to debate the proposed amendment to the metropolitan region town planning scheme to provide for the Kwinana Freeway extension?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) The proposed alignment was advertised for a three-month objection period and those who objected were given an opportunity to be heard by the MRPA. During the objection period, a public meeting was held in the Perth Town Hall on the 7th August, 1974. In addition, nearly a dozen meetings with the public, ratepayers, conservation groups and the local authorities directly involved took place, at which the project was exposed to considerable discussion and questioning.
- (2) The proposed amendment will lie on the Tables of both Houses of Parliament for 12 sitting days. During this period, debate will proceed on the proposed amendment and the concurrent legislation provided for the necessary reclamation and amendment to the "A"-class reserve affected by the proposed extension.

At a meeting in Parliament House to be held at 2.00 p.m. on the 9th April, an opportunity will be given to all members of Parliament to comment on and ask questions about the proposed extension to the Kwinana Freeway. This meeting will be attended by the Chairman of the MRPA (Mr Neil Hawkins), the Town Planning Commissioner (Dr David Carr), the Commissioner of Main Roads (Mr Don Atken), and the Director-General of Transport (Mr John Knox).

3. PRISONS

Use of Tear Gas

Mr BRYCE, to the Chief Secretary:
I gave notice of my question which is as follows—

Pursuant to my question of Wednesday, the 26th March, concerning the purchase of an extremely potent brand of tear gas by the Department of Corrections, will the Chief Secretary indicate—

- (a) (i) What quantity of the gas has been purchased and at what cost?
- (ii) Whether it is a fact that the Police Department of Western Australia recommended the purchase of CP tear gas.

- (iii) Which other correctional institutions in Australia actually stock or have used CP tear gas?
- (iv) When the decision was made to stock tear gas by the Department of Corrections in WA?
- (v) When directions were actually issued prohibiting the use of CP tear gas?
- (vi) Why appropriate inquiries concerning the use of CP tear gas were not made before the gas was purchased?
- (b) Is the Minister aware that CP tear gas is not used by the British Army because of its potency?

Mr STEPHENS replied:

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

- (a) (i) I am not prepared to answer the first part of this question since it is an obvious breach of security that maximum security prisoners be made aware of the number of canisters held.
- The member may be assured that the amount is adequate for the protection of staff in the event of a major disturbance.
- (ii) Yes—together with other correctional authorities.
- (iii) NSW Department of Corrective Services
Victorian Prisons Department
Queensland Prisons Department
Tasmanian Prisons Department
SA Department of Correctional Services have SA Police facilities for the use of this gas made available to them.
- (iv) First discussed in 1968 after a major disturbance at Fremantle Prison and subsequently the decision was made in 1972 after a further disturbance.
- (v) Approximately the 12th February.
- (vi) Appropriate inquiries were made in 1968, 1972, and 1974.
- (b) No.

The SPEAKER: I propose to take two more questions, unless the Leader of the Opposition desires to ask a question.

4. POLICE

Laverton Incident: Joint Royal Commission

Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it true that a joint Federal-State Royal Commission into the events involving police and Aborigines at Laverton and Kalgoorlie in January now appears certain?
- (2) If "Yes", will he give all of the reasons causing him to change his attitude on this question from one of implacable resistance to the appointment of a Royal Commission, notwithstanding sustained and overwhelming public pressure for a nonsecret inquiry designed, amongst other things, to clear all those people from blame who are, in fact, blameless?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) In answer to the first part of the question asked by the honourable member I ask permission to table a copy of a Press release which is being issued simultaneously in Canberra and Perth by arrangement with the Commonwealth Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. It was strictly embargoed until 3.00 p.m. Perth time and 5.00 p.m. Canberra time.
- (2) The honourable member makes a false statement in framing the second part of his question; in other words, the statement is not correct.

Firstly, there has been no "implacable resistance to the appointment of a Royal Commission".

Secondly, there is no "overwhelming public pressure for a non-secret inquiry".

I remind the honourable member that following the meeting which my colleague, the Minister for Community Welfare, and I had with the Commonwealth Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (Senator Cavanagh), it was announced that we—that is, the State Ministers—did not believe a Royal Commission would achieve any practical result. That is still the State Government's view. However, it was announced at the time that—

- (a) A senior police inquiry would be initiated to determine whether disciplinary action within the Police Force was called for.
- (b) The Laverton study group under Magistrate Syddall and comprising a representative group would be established to make recommendations as

quickly as possible to improve communication between Aborigines, police, and the local community.

- (c) Based on the work of the police inquiry and the study group, discussions about a wider inquiry would take place with the Commonwealth if deemed necessary.

We still believe the practical results that will come from the study group's work will be more important and effective than a Royal Commission.

The honourable member will find that Senator Cavanagh agrees with this. However, we are not uncompromising in our attitude to a Royal Commission, but we do not want to lose the benefits of the study group's work. Such a group will give us its advice in a few weeks whereas a Royal Commission will take months, or could take over a year.

We have managed to reach finality with the Commonwealth in respect of the main details and I think if the honourable member discusses the matter with Senator Cavanagh he will find that the Senator will admit we have been very co-operative and realistic in our approach to the matter.

There is one point I want to make clear: we have refused to allow any inquiry of this kind to be tied up with the Alice Springs inquiry. The Commonwealth wanted to combine the two inquiries.

There will be a separate inquiry into the incidents at Skull Creek out from Laverton, and surrounding districts. It will be purely a State inquiry convened by the State Government with Commonwealth participation.

The Press release was tabled (see paper No. 115).

Mr BRYCE: Mr Speaker—

The SPEAKER: Order! I said there would be only one more question. Two members have risen. I call on the member for Toodyay.

5. LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Ministerial Visits

Mr NANOVICH, to the Minister for Local Government:

Could the Minister advise this House the number of local authorities he has visited during the time he has been Minister for Local Government?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

I have now finalised my programme of visiting the 138 local authorities as proposed. In the company of the member for Avon (Mr Ken McIver) and the member for the Central Province (Mr H. W. Gayfer), I completed the programme last night by visiting the Northam Shire Council.

Mr BRYCE: Mr Speaker—

The SPEAKER: Order! Will the member resume his seat?

Mr Bryce: Secrecy does not stop with the Government.

Sir Charles Court: That is a nice thing to say about the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: May I ask the member for Ascot to repeat his statement?

Mr BRYCE: I said it appears secrecy does not stop with the Government.

Sir Charles Court: That is a nice one.

The SPEAKER: Of course, the implication is very plain to me, and the public at large. I deplore the remark from the honourable member and I must ask him to apologise.

Mr BRYCE: Mr Speaker, if you understand, from what I said, any implication towards you, I withdraw.

Mr O'Neill: That is qualified.

Mr Jamieson: That is reasonable enough, too.

The SPEAKER: Order! I will accept the apology as it is tendered.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [3.36 p.m.]: I move—

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

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 3.37 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 8th April, 1975

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. A. F. Griffith) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (6): ON NOTICE

1. EDUCATION

Carawatha and Kardinya Schools

The Hon. R. THOMPSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the accommodation problem at the Carawatha primary school?

- (2) When will the primary school be built at Kardinya, which will relieve the Carawatha problem?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) The construction of a new school at Kardinya has been listed for consideration. Priority must be given to other schools with more temporary accommodation or greater growth potential. A final decision, therefore, must be dependent on the degree to which costs of buildings continue to escalate.

2.

INDUSTRIAL GASES

Storage Hazards

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Labour and Industry:

With reference to my question on the 19th March, 1975, relating to the storage of bottled gases, and as there are no mining regulations for the control of such, is there any regulation under any other Minister's portfolio which will control the storage and sale of steel bottled gases?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied: Provision is made under the Explosives and Dangerous Goods Act for the packaging, storing and sale of steel bottled gases.

3.

TRAFFIC

Trail-bikes and Recreation Vehicles

The Hon. D. K. Dans for the Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Recreation:

Will the Minister advise when it is proposed to introduce legislation to control trail-bikes and similar recreational vehicles?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied: This year.

4. TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

Greyhound Racing: Investments

The Hon. R. H. C. STUBBS, to the Minister for Education representing the Chief Secretary:

Referring to my question on the 20th March, 1975, relating to Totalisator Agency Board investment on greyhound racing—

- (1) With regard to the amount allocated to race course development, \$8 122.95—
 - (a) does this mean its use is for greyhound race course developments only;
 - (b) if not, what clubs are likely to participate?