

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 21st September, 1978

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

SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES TRIBUNAL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR O'NEIL (East Melville—Deputy Premier) [2.18 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

It is a simple measure with one objective and that is to raise the age at which a member of the tribunal must vacate his office, from 70 years to 72 years.

Members will appreciate that having regard for the status of the tribunal and the nature of its responsibilities, it is necessary for appointees to be senior and respected members of the community and to be well versed in Government activities.

Accordingly, there is a limited field from which appointments can be made and this limitation is exacerbated by the requirement that members of the tribunal must retire on attaining the age of 70 years.

The position would be improved if members could serve on the tribunal for a longer period if required, hence the proposed amendment which is comparable with the provisions of the Companies Act whereby a public company director can serve until the age of 72 years without having to come up for re-election each year.

This proposed amendment will not prevent the retirement of a member on the expiration of his term of appointment prior to attaining the age of 72 years, but it will allow the retention of a member's service up to that age where the person concerned is able and willing to continue in office and where it is considered that his knowledge and experience would be of advantage to the tribunal.

I commend the Bill to members.

MR DAVIES (Victoria Park—Leader of the Opposition) [2.20 p.m.]: Perhaps with your indulgence, Mr Speaker, and the indulgence of the House, we can proceed straightaway with this measure. As the Minister has said, this is a very simple Bill; one which I am sure will not require a great deal of debate.

Whilst there are some members who might think that the extension of the retiring age of a member of the tribunal to 72 years might be a bad thing, as far as I am concerned and as far as the Australian Labor Party is concerned there is nothing in our policy to prevent this happening. Indeed, our policy is quite specific about appointments to boards and there is no age limit where a person takes up a part-time appointment. After all, the appointment covered by the Bill now before us is only part-time.

The tribunal was established by way of legislation in 1975, and I think it is probably one of the best things that ever happened to the procedure for the fixing of salaries of members of Parliament. To say the least, there is always some criticism about the salaries paid to members of Parliament. Many people think we are overpaid, and a few people think we are underpaid. I believe there are a few members in this House who might feel we are underpaid. I do not know what amount should be considered to be a reasonable salary. I seem to spend all I get, no matter what it is!

The fact remains, we as members of Parliament are not directing or recommending the salaries we should receive. The tribunal is fairly limited in what it can do. There are matters such as travel concessions—and we feel we in this State are badly done by—that the tribunal apparently is not prepared to consider and make decisions on. At odd times it is prepared to make recommendations.

Perhaps whilst we are talking about the tribunal and what it is able to do, I could draw attention to the feelings of some members—particularly some back-benchers—from both sides of the House who believe they are rather restricted in getting around the State and doing the things they consider they ought to be able to do. For instance, members are allowed only one air fare to the north of the State in any one Parliament. This does limit, somewhat, the movement of members. Members would like the opportunity to have at least one trip to the north of this State each year because very often the Premier tells us that so much is happening in the north of the State and we ought to be aware of it.

In the past, Governments of both political colours have organised joint tours of members of Parliament to the north. Those tours have been extensive and I feel at times, expensive. I do not know that the tours have been of as much benefit as they might have been if the members had been able to move around at their own pace.

However, provided the Government pays for the tours they are not so expensive to individual members.

I remind the House that members are allowed 10 days' expenses in any three years. They do not have to use the 10 days in one tour, but they can use them in broken periods provided the 10 days are not exceeded.

Mr Nanovich: What about medical expenses?

Mr DAVIES: I am not quite certain about medical expenses, but I am sure that once members are in the north they find the hospital situation is so good that they do not experience any trouble in receiving medical treatment. I can see that the Minister agrees; he is learning very quickly. I do not know that there is a real need for medical attention during tours of the north, although there has been an odd occasion when some medical treatment has been sought and on that occasion medical treatment was available within the party but the injured person opted not to use it.

I might just say, while extending the retiring age of members of the tribunal to 72 years, that perhaps when the tribunal next considers the privileges of members of Parliament it might give some attention to extending travel concessions. Of course, we still retain our concessions for travel by rail, but our railway services are being whittled away. Indeed, where the rail concession is available I think most members generally find it quicker and more convenient to use their motorcars for a number of reasons.

When we want to get to the north of the State, in particular, I think we must give some attention to making it easier for members. There is nothing like a visit to the north to become fully conversant with it, and to appreciate the situation and the development, or just the way the people have to live. That is most important. After all, people in our north do live under some very difficult conditions and they would like to see some members of Parliament not just during the good season of the year but also during the wet period so that those members will appreciate how people in the north have to live all the year round.

So, we might be able to excite the tribunal into doing something or making a recommendation to the Government so that members are able to get out into the country. We realise there are some financial restrictions which apply to the Government at present. I have not had time to assess those restrictions but I think they are more imaginary than real in many respects. I believe the Government might be using the financial climate

as it relates to Canberra to be unusually harsh on the people of Western Australia. However, that is a subject we can save for another day when debating the Revenue Estimates.

As I said, the Opposition has no objection to the amendment. It will merely extend the time of retirement from 70 to 72 years. The members of the tribunal are covered by section 5 of the principal Act which sets out that there shall be three members appointed by the Governor.

The Act does not set out from what section of the community the members of the tribunal shall be chosen, neither does it say what experience they shall have. Naturally, the Government of the day looks for men with some experience generally in accountancy, industrial relations, or the legal field to be appointed to the tribunal because of the type of work which it undertakes.

The tribunal has to review the salaries and allowances of officers of Parliament, Cabinet Ministers, back-benchers, Opposition leaders, and Opposition and Government Whips. Also it has to review the salaries of judges and certain public servants. That places a great responsibility on the members of the tribunal because of the effect of any flow-on which could occur from applications for increases in wages which come from all classes of people in the community.

I suppose it could be said that in effect the tribunal sets the standard. There are those amongst us who are seeking higher wages and who would say that if something was good enough for members of Parliament, heads of departments and others, then it is also good enough for the ranks. That is very true and I cannot argue about that attitude. However, in fact lately that attitude has worked in reverse. Increases which have been applied generally have tended to flow back through the tribunal to members of Parliament. This has meant regular adjustments. Personally, I could not tell members what salary I receive, and perhaps most members of Parliament and you, Mr Speaker, are in the same position. I know the adjustments are in small amounts, but I have faith in the people who pay us and I leave it to them to see that the amounts are right.

The tribunal consists of Mr Townsing, who was previously the Under Treasurer and who is well versed in Government matters. He knows only too well the need to be careful with Government expenditure.

Mr Phil Adams, a lawyer of some distinction and repute, is a member of the tribunal. This gentleman has undertaken a great deal of work

on a number of inquiries for various Governments. I believe he is a member also of the Environmental Protection Authority and other Government and semi-Government organisations. The third member of the tribunal for the present time is Mr Frank Cross, who retired several years ago from the position of Director of the Employers Federation, now known as the Confederation of Western Australian Industry.

Members can see that those three men bring to the tribunal a great deal of experience; they come from different sections of the community. One member is from the Government, one from private industry, and one from the legal fraternity. This has proved to be a very reputable and responsible tribunal.

As I said earlier, there is nothing wrong with the proposal to increase the retiring age for members to 72 years. In his introductory speech the Deputy Premier drew attention to the fact that under the Companies Act the director of a private company can serve until he is 72 years of age without the necessity to come up for election annually. I remind the House that the members of the tribunal are appointed for three years only, and the appointments are reviewed at that time. We can then look at the way in which they have dealt with the applications to the tribunal, decide how they have been applying themselves to the job, and decide whether to reappoint them or to appoint someone else.

I imagine that the Government would have difficulty in finding properly experienced people to appoint to a tribunal such as this. As I said earlier, I believe this tribunal has applied itself very responsibly. Our salaries are still a little behind the salaries of members of Parliament in some other States, but I again repeat, it is up to the tribunal to fix these salaries; it is not up to me.

I hope if the members of the tribunal ever read the remarks I have made they will note my comment that I believe the travel conditions are applied a little stringently. If we are to inform ourselves properly, there must be greater opportunity for us to get out and about. I know some people believe that members of Parliament use their trips as holidays, and indeed, from the recent reports of what has happened in Queensland, we realise that although we should be entitled to greater travel concessions, there must be some stringent controls over them. If a member offends, as apparently some have offended in other States, then his privileges can be withdrawn. We must be responsible to the people, because we are using the taxpayers' money.

Although the tribunal has done a good job elsewhere, I am not very pleased with the conditions that apply in regard to travel. I am quite happy to support the Bill.

MR O'NEIL (East Melville—Deputy Premier) [2.34 p.m.]: I want to thank the Leader of the Opposition for his comments regarding the Bill, and more importantly because he has appreciated the need to have the Bill passed through this Chamber today as this will be the last sitting day for both Houses until after the Royal Show week.

I agree with him also when he said that the introduction of a salaries tribunal for determining the salaries of members of Parliament has been a great step forward. I can recall many times in the past during the dying hours of the last session of a Government's term, legislation has been pushed through to give members of Parliament an increase in salary. On each of these occasions the leaders of the three major political parties in the Parliament stood up to say they supported the legislation. Of course, the wrath of the Press fell upon all members of Parliament equally.

In those days I do not believe people realised that our salaries were determined only once every three years, whereas the salaries of the majority of the community are subject to regular adjustment. At least we now have a salaries tribunal committee to review the salaries of members of Parliament not less frequently than every year.

Following the first major reappraisal some little time ago, we have seen our salaries fairly well subjected to the indexation guidelines of a determination being brought down by the authority every three months or so.

Of course the tribunal has moved into other areas regarding emoluments, and I will ensure that the comments of the Leader of the Opposition concerning travel arrangements and allowances are brought to the attention of the tribunal. As a matter of fact, I am almost certain that the Premier has referred this matter already to the tribunal for its consideration, because quite recently some requests have been made to the Government to increase travel allowances and certain surveys have been undertaken. However, in view of the present economic situation, the Premier has, quite rightly I believe, deferred any further extension of travel allowances.

If we look back over the years, we see that these travel conditions have been extended little by little, but perhaps not to the extent that some members of Parliament would like. As the Leader

of the Opposition said, there is nothing like visiting various parts of the State, meeting the people, seeing the projects and recognising the problems, to give one a better appreciation of State affairs, and this helps when legislation is discussed in this place.

Mr DAVIES: I am not at all unhappy with my travel conditions.

Mr O'NEIL: Neither am I, but back-bench members feel they are subjected to tight restrictions on freedom of travel at the expense of the Government.

One would not need a crystal ball to realise that there must be a very pertinent reason for requiring the passage of this Bill through both Houses today. Members who have seen the notice paper of the Legislative Council will know that so much of their Standing Orders has been suspended in order to enable the Bill to pass through all stages in the one sitting. We did not need to move such a motion in this House, because after prior consultation with the Leader of the Opposition, he indicated his willingness to assist us, and he waived his normal privilege to adjourn the debate. The fact is that one member of the tribunal will reach that venerable age of 70 years on Sunday, and as the House is not sitting next week, it is fairly important that he is eligible to be invited to serve the State once again on the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Clarko) in the Chair; Mr O'Neil (Deputy Premier) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1 put and passed.

Clause 2: Section 5 amended—

Mr PEARCE: I would like to wish Mr Adams a happy birthday.

Clause put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr O'Neil (Deputy Premier), and transmitted to the Council.

ACTS AMENDMENT (CONSTITUTION) BILL

Message: Royal Assent

Message from the Governor received and read notifying that he had reserved the Bill for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure.

BILLS (5): ASSENT

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills—

1. Abattoirs Act Amendment Bill.
2. Suitors' Fund Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).
3. Death Duty Assessment Act Amendment Bill.
4. Death Duty Act Amendment Bill.
5. University of Western Australia Act Amendment Bill.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 3)

Second Reading

MRS CRAIG (Wellington—Minister for Local Government) [2.43 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time. I think it would be fairly accurate to say that no sitting of Parliament passes without consideration being given to proposals to amend the Local Government Act.

I believe that this reflects the dynamic nature of local government and the consequent need for the legislation that sets out its functions and procedures to keep abreast with the ever-changing problems and responsibilities of this form of government.

Mention frequently is made of the desirability of providing local government with greater autonomy and I must say that that is an objective to which this Government firmly subscribes.

However, the system of local government in Western Australia is established by an Act of this Parliament and the Parliament therefore carries the responsibility of ensuring, in the public interest, that this system contains reasonable controls. There must always be a proper balance between autonomy and control.

This Bill provides for measures that will enhance the autonomy of local government but also tempers this autonomy with what are no more than proper and reasonable controls.

The Bill makes provision for councils to charge a penalty against unpaid rates and for each individual council to decide for itself whether it wishes to impose such a penalty.

For a number of years the associations of local government have strongly advocated that councils be empowered to apply a penalty to outstanding rates. They believe that councils have suffered a commercial disadvantage where rates have remained unpaid for an unreasonable time.

However, the Bill provides that, where a council does decide to exercise this discretion, the rate at which the penalty is applied may not exceed the rate which is prescribed by regulation. Thus, each council will have complete discretion to decide from year to year whether there is to be a penalty but there will be an upper limit on the amount that may be so charged.

Where a council does apply the penalty it must do so uniformly against all ratepayers except those who are pensioners. In all cases, the ratepayer will have an absolute minimum of three months in which to make a penalty-free payment.

The Bill also provides for councils to acquire land for the express purpose of its subdivision and resale.

From time to time, councils, particularly the smaller country municipalities, have seen the need to take some positive action to meet a demand for subdivided lots in their urban centres. When owners of broad acres in these centres have not been willing to arrange subdivision to meet this demand, the councils have sought to acquire land, subdivide it and sell the subdivided lots.

Although the Local Government Act does not at present confer express power on councils to engage in land developments of this nature, it was previously thought that the provisions of the Act empowered the Governor to grant authority where it was intended to finance the work from loan funds or special overdraft accounts.

However, recent Crown Law advice has raised serious doubts as to whether the granting of this authority has been within the power of the Governor.

The Bill therefore makes it clear that authority may be granted for this purpose. At the same time, it sets down the principle that the authority should be exercised only to enable a council to deal with problems occasioned by demand for subdivided land that cannot be satisfied due to the absence of private subdivision. It does not provide an open ticket for councils to engage in the speculative business of land development.

Members will be aware of recent controversies associated with decisions by certain councils to meet the cost of members travelling outside the

State in connection with matters that were deemed to be of some interest to the councils concerned. This has involved both interstate and overseas travelling.

I believe that this is a discretion that should be largely retained by councils. The increasing number of functions being undertaken by local government and the growing complexity of local government administration points to the desirability of council members having reasonable opportunity to inform themselves by attending conferences and meetings that are concerned with local government matters and to make a first-hand examination of specific local government problems elsewhere.

At the same time, I believe that the public interest dictates that some reasonable restraint be built into the Act.

This Bill therefore proposes to amend the present provisions of the Act so that a high degree of—but not absolute—discretion is retained by councils.

It makes clear that a council may pay the reasonable expenses necessarily incurred by a member in carrying out a duty or performing an act under express authority of the council, as follows—

- (i) Within the State, by ordinary resolution of the Council;
- (ii) outside the State but within the Commonwealth, by absolute majority resolution of the council; and,
- (iii) outside the Commonwealth, by absolute majority resolution of the council and with the approval of the Minister.

To the present, I have referred to amendments covering three matters—firstly, the charging of penalties against outstanding rates; secondly, the acquisition of land for subdivision and resale; and, thirdly, the payment of members' expenses.

Those three amendments cover the important matters of principle in the Bill.

However, the Bill also provides for other amendments which are in the nature of an improvement in the machinery of local government rather than the introduction of new principles.

The Bill provides for some change in the formalities that a council is required to follow in raising a loan.

The existing provisions of the Act necessitate a loan proposal being dealt with by at least two meetings of the council. Under the proposed amendment, a council usually will be able to

finalise matters at a single meeting. I should emphasise that this change will in no way curtail the present right for ratepayers to demand that any particular loan be submitted to a ratepayers' poll.

The Bill also seeks to lessen the formality associated with a description by the Governor of the existing district or ward boundaries of a municipality.

As the Act stands at present, the Governor may do so only if a petition has been submitted by the council concerned. However, as this description is merely a convenient way of bringing right up to date, the description of present boundaries, the requirement for a petition serves no useful purpose. On the contrary, it adds an unnecessary step to the proceedings. The description of existing boundaries can in no way provide for an alteration to those boundaries.

Finally, the Bill proposes that the owner of a property that is used exclusively for charitable purposes relating to the provision of aged persons' accommodation may formally agree to the land being rated where it would otherwise be exempt from rating.

In a recent instance, an organisation that proposed to develop a property for aged persons' accommodation offered to enter into an agreement to pay rates to the council in whose district the land was located. However, legal advice held that such an agreement would not be binding if this use of the land was a charitable purpose and was therefore exempt under the provisions of the Local Government Act.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Carr.

TEACHER EDUCATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR RUSHTON (Dale—Minister for Transport) [2.52 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time. The Government intends to present to the Parliament later in this session a Bill to repeal the Teacher Education Act, 1972, and to establish the constituent colleges of the Teacher Education Authority as independent colleges under a new colleges Act. It is the Government's intention to implement this change early in the new year.

In accordance with the current Teacher Education Act, a number of elections must be held prior to the 31st December, 1978, to fill vacancies on college boards and on the council of the Teacher

Education Authority. Most of these vacancies will occur on the 1st January, 1979—a date by which it is expected the boards and the council will have been abolished.

Rather than implementing procedures for these unnecessary elections, it has been decided to amend the Teacher Education Act. The amendments will enable the Governor to take action to fill vacancies in membership of the Western Australian Teacher Education Authority Council, and the council to fill vacancies in the membership of college boards in lieu of depending on elections. Such actions will enable the bridging of the period between vacancies occurring on and after the 1st December, 1978, and until the Teacher Education Act is repealed. It is the intention of the Government to provide for elected members of college councils in the new legislation and such elections will be implemented as soon as possible once the new colleges Bill has been passed by the Parliament and proclaimed.

At the same time the opportunity is being taken to amend the provisions regarding meetings of the council and the boards to overcome any possible challenge which might be made to decisions of those bodies through questioning of the eligibility for membership in particular of elected persons.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Pearce.

BETTING CONTROL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 14th September.

MR HODGE (Melville) [2.54 p.m.]: The Opposition has no serious objection to this Bill. We do wish to take this opportunity to raise a few points, and to make a few observations.

I was surprised to notice in the Minister's second reading speech that he said this amendment had the support of the Betting Control Board and the Commissioner of Police. The Betting Control Board seems to have done a complete about-face, because it opposed both of these suggestions contained in the Bill in submissions before the Royal Commission on Gambling held in 1974.

Mr Davies: Do you think that they knew that they were going on then?

Mr HODGE: I do not know. They may have.

Mr Davies: I mean do you think they knew that these procedures were going on?

Mr HODGE: Yes, it knew they were going on in 1974.

I will quote from the report of that Royal Commission. At page 33 the following appears—

The final submission of the bookmakers was that settling and "calling the card" on set events at places other than on the course should be allowed by law.

The Board was opposed to any alteration of the existing law as to settling on the grounds that "settling" is "betting". The Board said that any weakening of the law relating to off course betting could encourage illegal betting and was therefore undesirable. We agree with the Board's attitude on this matter.

Mr O'Connor: Do you agree with that view?

Mr HODGE: Not particularly. I am just pointing out that the board did oppose that in 1974. Now, according to the Minister's speech, it is supporting it. I refer to the comments on page 34 of that report—

The Board was also opposed to "calling the card" on set events for the same reason, but it seems to us that this adds colour to major racing events of a national character and is a rather necessary means of establishing an initial market.

The Royal Commission did not agree with the board on the second matter—the calling of the card.

I spoke to the secretary of the Betting Control Board a couple of days ago to find out why there was this apparent about-face in its attitude. He said that the board still would have preferred these practices to be stopped, but its second choice, if they could not be stopped, was that they should be legalised, and properly supervised and scrutinised. That appears to be what the Government is trying to achieve at the moment.

It seems strange to me that the Government is moving to legalise this form of gambling on licensed premises, particularly in light of the fact that a Bill was recently defeated in the upper House which sought to legalise the playing of bingo on licensed premises and licensed club premises. The legalisation of bingo was apparently thought improper by the Government, but these matters are not.

The Tattersalls Club, to the best of my knowledge, is a licensed premises. This means that gambling will take place at that club even though it is licensed.

Several members of Parliament and other people who are interested in the Kalgoorlie area have expressed concern to me that the Tattersalls Club in Kalgoorlie has not been mentioned in this Bill; only the Tattersalls Club in Perth. I know that the Bill gives the Betting Control Board power to prescribe other areas, and I understand one of the other areas under consideration is Kalgoorlie. I would be interested to hear the Minister comment on that, and give us some assurance, if he can, that the Kalgoorlie Tattersalls Club will be included and will become a prescribed premises.

I saw a very dramatic re-enactment a couple of weeks ago on television of the big hold-up at the Victorian Tattersalls Club in Melbourne when settling day was being held there. It was alleged during that television programme that because of the poor security the hold-up men escaped with an amount estimated to be \$6 million. The official amount quoted is about \$1.5 million, but it was estimated unofficially there could have been anything up to \$6 million involved. I hope the security of the Perth Tattersalls Club is better than that at the club in Melbourne.

A further question that has been raised with me is the operation of sweeps and Calcuttas. There was a recommendation on those matters by the Royal Commission into gambling, but that recommendation has not been adopted. Those matters are not included in this Bill. Some people in the community believe that Calcuttas and sweeps should be legalised in licensed clubs. Apparently they are being run at the moment. It is strange that these matters were not included in the Bill, to tidy up the whole situation.

We on this side of the House are wondering why the Government has acted in this way at this time. As far as I can see, this is the only recommendation of the 1974 Royal Commission on which the Government has acted to date. It was one of the most minor recommendations made in the entire report. We are curious to know why suddenly, out of the blue, the Government has brought in this legislation. We are not aware of any great problems which have emerged with regard to settling bets at the Tattersalls Club and we would like to know why the Government has selected and acted upon this particular recommendation of the Royal Commission.

One of the justifications given by the Minister in his second reading speech was this proposal had the support of both the Betting Control Board and the Commissioner of Police. It is interesting to look at what the Commissioner of Police, or his representative, said to the Royal Commission on Gambling in 1947. On page 45 of the report

of the Royal Commission I shall quote what Superintendent T. G. Lee said on behalf of the commissioner. It reads as follows—

The Superintendent said that experience has shown that any form of private enterprise with respect to gaming or betting (legal or illegal) is unsatisfactory. Whereas, when legalised and under State control, as with the T.A.B., the system has been a success.

Further on in the report, Superintendent Lee went on to say—

One of the difficulties lies in the unsatisfactory state of the law relating to common gaming houses and the problem of proof of an offence.

It became quite clear from the evidence given to the Royal Commission that the police considered the gambling laws in this State were quite inadequate. On page 46 of the report Superintendent Lee said he—

... believed that it would be in the interests of the public to legalise illegal gaming, rather than accept the present situation. He said that the licensing of gaming and all legislation on the subject should operate uniformly State wide. Then, he said, illegal gaming should be rigidly suppressed.

It appears the Government has not accepted the recommendation of the Commissioner of Police and it has not accepted the point of view he put to the Royal Commission.

Mr O'Connor: Was it the commissioner's point of view or the point of view of an individual?

Mr HODGE: Superintendent Lee was speaking on behalf of the Commissioner of Police.

Mr O'Connor: He has been out of the force since 1974, has he not?

Mr HODGE: He was presenting the submission on behalf of the commissioner. The point I am trying to make is the Government used the point of view put forward by the Commissioner of Police as justification for taking this action. The Government on this occasion was very interested in the point of view expressed by the Commissioner of Police; but it has ignored the views of the Commissioner of Police since 1974 when he expressed his opinion about illegal gambling.

With those few comments I will conclude my remarks. As I have said, the Opposition has no great objection to the Bill in principle, but we would like the Minister to answer the questions I have raised.

MR O'NEIL (East Melville—Chief Secretary) [3.03 p.m.]: I thank the member for his general support of the Bill and I will be as precise as I can in answering his various questions. He referred to the Royal Commission set up in 1974 and the various opinions expressed before it by parties interested in gambling. I think the view of the police was that any kind of gambling should be under State control and they instanced the case of the Totalisator Agency Board. Of course, betting by bookmakers is also under State control and is supervised by the Betting Control Board; so that question has not been avoided.

The question of legalising the activities currently going on at the Tattersalls Club was a matter which was dealt with with the concurrence of the police and the Betting Control Board provided that the operations at the Tattersalls Club were under the control of both of those bodies. That is exactly the present situation. We have not gone outside the existing statutory control of betting in legalising what has been common practice for a considerable period of time.

The member wanted to know the reason the Government moved in this area. Apart from the fact that various newspapers had reported prices and bets laid at the Tattersalls Club, indicating quite clearly this activity was going on with public knowledge, I read also in a report of the Law Reform Commission an indication that this matter should be regularised. That is the reason for it. It is public knowledge and it is illegal. It was an embarrassment for a public announcement to be made that certain bets were laid at the Tattersalls Club; therefore, the correct action to take was either to stamp it out altogether or legalise it. In agreeing to regularise what was going on, the question was raised as to whether or not there could in fact be other places where settling of bets should occur. It is possible to settle them on any registered racecourse. The thought was expressed that perhaps in places such as Kalgoorlie where similar kinds of clubs exist, a warrant should be issued giving them the same kinds of privileges being extended to the Tattersalls Club in Perth.

The member recognised the fact that the Bill caters for such clubs and he asked me to give some kind of assurance that I would duly announce in the *Government Gazette* that the Tattersalls Club in Kalgoorlie was one such place. Of course, the Act does not give me that authority anyway. I believe it says something to the effect that the board, following consultations with the Commissioner of State Taxation

may proclaim by notice in the *Gazette*. The Betting Control Board will give such approval following discussions with the Commissioner of State Taxation for the appropriate recording and so on to be carried out.

The member referred to another matter which appeared in the report of the Royal Commission on Gambling concerning settling and betting. I had discussions with the Manager of the TAB who I think is also on the Betting Control Board, concerning this split definition. Some people had expressed the view that the word "settling" also meant "betting". I asked for an opinion and found, in the eyes of the Crown Law Department, they did not have the same meaning and where it had been thought the operations at the Tattersalls Club could be legalised by way of regulation under the Betting Control Act, it was found this was not possible and an amendment to the Act was required. That is a further reason for it.

The member mentioned a number of matters about betting generally contained in the report of Mr Adams. I was very interested to read the Lusher report which was commissioned by Premier Wran in New South Wales. At the request of the then Leader of the Opposition (Mr Jamieson), I obtained two copies of the Lusher report from New South Wales, and allowed him to have one. I assume that would still be in the office of the Leader of the Opposition, and I suggest it is very enjoyable reading.

When the Wran Government came to power in New South Wales an indication was given that there would be a moratorium on illegal casinos in Sydney for a period of six months until an inquiry had been held. That resulted in a sudden burst of activity in this field and following the reception of the Lusher report the Wran Government has probably changed its mind a little.

Mr Lusher makes a very pertinent comment and indicates that, in his view, the legalisation and regulation of casino-type gambling does not in any way reduce illegal gambling, but in fact makes it more attractive because legalised casinos are required to abide by certain rules, regulations, taxes, charges, and supervision to the extent that it is a lot more economically viable for illegal operators to get into the field.

I have made a few visits to the legal casino at Wrest Point in Tasmania and I am sure other members who have had an opportunity to go there have seen it. It is a most dull and uninteresting place. It is nothing like the sorts of casinos one sees on television. I have never seen so many people with long faces, including myself after the first couple of gambits. But I gather

that whilst the New South Wales Government is having some second thoughts about legalising casino-type gambling, in the meantime everybody is trying to get in on a grandfather clause and so have suddenly created far more problems than they have been able to handle; but that is just by the way.

It may be that in time to come attitudes will change, but it is not the view of this Government that we can see such a radical change at the moment. Every time there is the slightest whisper with regard to the legalisation of gambling, Governments—of all colours—are inundated with all kinds of airy-fairy propositions about sites and types of buildings for casinos. I am sure the Tonkin Government received as many approaches as this Government has received. Many of the proposals are exceptionally sketchy, and none appear to have been the subject of any major research with regard to what is entailed in the legalising and regularising of casinos and the type of gambling involved.

However, this Bill does not deal with that matter, as will be appreciated. I thank the Opposition for its support of the measure as it stands.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through Committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr O'Neil (Chief Secretary), and transmitted to the Council.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

Sitting suspended from 3.41 to 4.03 p.m.

BILLS (4): RETURNED

1. Salaries and Allowances Tribunal Act Amendment Bill.
2. Youth, Sport and Recreation Bill.
3. Acts Amendment (Qualifying Ages Alteration) Bill.
4. Small Claims Tribunals Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

APPROPRIATION BILL (GENERAL LOAN FUND)

Second Reading

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Treasurer) [4.05 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time. The main purpose of this Bill is to appropriate sums for the General Loan Fund to finance certain items of capital expenditure, the details of which are given in the Loan Estimates.

Funds available for expenditure from the General Loan Fund consist of new borrowings approved by the Australian Loan Council, grants from the Commonwealth for general capital purposes and repayments to the fund of various advances made in previous years. From time to time interest earnings from the short term investment of public moneys are also credited to the fund to finance specific projects.

Other funds available to finance the total works program include semi-governmental borrowings, certain Commonwealth specific purpose payments, the domestic funds of government instrumentalities and contributions from mining companies and property developers. These other sources are identified under each item of the Estimates in arriving at the proposed allocations from the General Loan Fund.

In addition, there are some funds of a capital nature received by the State which are paid directly to authorities such as the Main Roads Department and various tertiary institutions. Although the works financed by these funds should also be seen as forming part of the State's total capital works program they are not shown in the Estimates.

The borrowing allocation for this State in 1978/79 approved by Loan Council is \$88.4 million which is to be supplemented by the general purpose capital grant of \$44.2 million. This is the same allocation as in 1977/78 and represents a substantial reduction in real terms.

Despite strong representations from all States, the Commonwealth was not prepared to support any increase in the program.

Loan repayments to the General Loan Fund are estimated to amount to \$12.9 million this year which is less than receipts under this heading in 1977/78 because of some non-recurring receipts in that year.

To continue the arrangement announced last year to finance the Irwin Street District Court Building so far as practicable from earnings on

the short term investment of Treasury cash balances, an amount of \$10 million is to be paid into the General Loan Fund this year from that source. This sum equates to the expected expenditure on the building in 1978/79.

The total amount available for expenditure from the General Loan Fund this year is therefore \$156.3 million, a decrease of \$1.3 million on the amount actually spent from the Fund last year. Allowing for the effects of inflation in the intervening period, we are faced with a reduction of roundly 10% in the physical volume of work which can be undertaken from the General Loan Fund.

This has posed a serious problem for the Government at a time when the level of unemployment calls for a maximum effort to provide more construction and fabrication work for the private sector.

It is on this point—the curtailment of public sector capital expenditure—that I disagree with the Commonwealth Government's present financial management policy.

I do agree, as I have said often before, with the Commonwealth's determination to bring inflation under control and it is to be congratulated on the success that has been achieved. There must be no weakening of our resolve in this regard.

Nevertheless, I am firmly of the opinion that an increase in Government capital expenditure at this time would not jeopardize the goal of reducing inflation provided it was directed to the construction of income producing assets for the future and financed outside the Commonwealth budget. The expenditure would stimulate the private sector, create employment, and have the public sector well placed for the next phase of economic expansion.

Fortunately there is a substantial increase in semi-governmental borrowing allocations which offsets, though in different areas of expenditure, the reduction in general purpose capital funds.

Honourable Members will recall that when introducing the Loan Fund Estimates last year I mentioned that a fully documented case had been submitted to the Commonwealth Government for an increase in our semi-governmental borrowing allocation. The submission drew attention to the capital needs of the State Energy Commission for the Muja and Kwinana power projects and pointed out that our inability to finance this work was due to the fact that our capital allocations had not kept pace with our growth. There had been a growing imbalance between our aggregate per capita borrowings and those of other States.

The plain fact is that the allocations of Loan Council are made without regard to the growth of State populations. This must lead inevitably to a situation where developing States, such as Western Australia, will have insufficient capital to meet the needs of growth.

We had sought on numerous occasions to remedy this anomaly. I am pleased to say, therefore, that the Australian Loan Council, at its June meeting, agreed to a permanent addition of \$18 million to the State's semi-governmental program in recognition of our case. The decision is seen as a notable achievement. The additional sum will comprise part of our normal allocation for the purpose of calculating our share of the total program in future years.

Loan Council also approved a \$16 million temporary special addition to our program for 1978/79, 1979/80 and 1980/81. Last year a \$16 million addition was approved for the first instalment of the conversion of the power station at Kwinana to dual coal and oil firing. The continuation of the special addition for a further three years will enable this work to be completed and help finance the Muja power station project.

Loan Council has also allocated a \$14.5 million temporary addition in 1978/79 as the first element in a special six year borrowing program for the rehabilitation and upgrading of the railway between Kwinana and Koolyanobbing.

The temporary and permanent additions I have just described lift the total program approved under the "Gentlemen's Agreement" for larger State and Local Government Authorities to \$105.5 million this year. Of this sum, an amount of \$96.8 million will be raised by State Authorities to help finance their works programs which is 56.5% higher than in 1977/78.

Borrowings by State Government Instrumentalities under the smaller authorities program are expected to total \$14.8 million in the current year compared with \$14.5 million in 1977/78. Smaller authorities are defined as those borrowing up to \$1 million in the financial year and no overall limit is set by Loan Council on the total borrowings in this category.

Again I must express concern at unilateral decisions by the Commonwealth to either eliminate or substantially reduce a number of specific purpose payments for capital works. The Commonwealth has made further cuts in programs this year without any consultation with the States whose budgets have been adversely affected.

The cutbacks made by the Commonwealth Government this year will affect welfare housing, the School Dental Scheme and the Hospitals Development Program. Coming on top of a zero increase in general purpose capital funds, the Commonwealth measures relating to specific purpose capital payments have placed a severe strain on our capital budget.

In total the amount of Commonwealth specific purpose payments of a capital nature will be \$62.0 million, 7% below the level in 1977/78.

Works Program

With the funds available from the sources I have described, a total works program of \$453.6 million will be carried out this year, financed as follows:

Proceeds of Commonwealth	
Loans	\$88.4 million
Commonwealth General Purpose Capital Grant	\$44.2 million
Receipts from Loan Repayments	\$12.9 million
Balance in General Loan Fund at 30 June 1978 ..	\$0.7 million
Borrowings by State Authorities	\$111.6 million
Commonwealth specific purpose payments	\$62.0 million
Internal funds of Government Authorities	\$99.7 million
Amount transferred from short term investment earnings ..	\$10.0 million
Other funds	\$24.1 million

Last year a program of \$402.3 million was undertaken with finance from similar sources and so planned expenditure in 1978/79 is \$51.4 million or almost 13% above the outlay in 1977/78.

In shaping the capital works program the Government was mindful of the need to provide as much stimulus as possible to the economy. Against the background of Commonwealth budgetary measures the total program is a positive and responsible one and the work proposed should help boost the private sector and generate employment opportunities.

In augmenting the General Loan Fund along the lines I have already discussed the Government has given top priority to increasing the number of jobs for Western Australians. As Treasurer I intend to take every opportunity to reinforce this policy during 1978/79.

Infrastructure Financing

Before I turn to discussing some of the highlights of the capital works program, I would like to take the opportunity to briefly outline the encouraging recent developments relating to Loan Council Arrangements for infrastructure financing.

Honourable Members will recall that in 1976 I made a formal submission to Loan Council seeking endorsement of the principle that the borrowing program for larger State Authorities be increased by special temporary additions to enable those authorities to meet the infrastructure requirements of approved projects.

I also proposed that Clause XIII of the "Gentlemen's Agreement" be amended so that overseas borrowings could be utilised for this purpose in the event that the Australian market did not have the capacity to provide the funds at the time.

As most Members are aware Loan Council has agreed in principle to a new tier of borrowings for infrastructure financing and recently approved new guidelines and procedures which would be applied when considering proposals under the new arrangements.

There is not time today to comment in detail on these guidelines but I refer Honourable Members who are interested to the relevant press releases which were issued by the Chairman of Loan Council. Suffice to say that a working party of officials is in the final stages of reporting to Loan Council on proposals which have been submitted for consideration under the new arrangements. The work of the officials is designed to assist Loan Council members in deciding which projects should be selected for support.

The new arrangements are a sensible and logical development in Commonwealth/State financial arrangements. They will add a new dimension to State Government borrowings. They will give the States more freedom but with that freedom added responsibility. In large measure, the future success of the arrangements will depend on the degree of responsibility and maturity shown by the States in their approach to this new borrowing.

From Western Australia's point of view, the arrangements will give us much more flexibility in negotiating major projects in the next phase of resource development in the State. This is most important as the world situation has changed considerably since the major mineral agreements were negotiated in the 1960's.

I would now like to refer to some of the details of the capital works program. In most cases the specific works to be undertaken are set out in the

Estimates and it is therefore unnecessary for me to comment on all items. I will therefore confine my remarks to some of the highlights of the program.

State Energy Commission

The State Energy Commission plans to spend a total of \$108.1 million this financial year on its capital works program. The proposed outlays will enable the continued expansion and modification of generating capacity as well as strengthening the energy transmission and distribution system throughout the State.

As a result of our successful approach to the Loan Council the Commission will now be able to fund the two additional 200 megawatt units at Muja without recourse to a private power corporation. Expenditure on the extensions this year will amount to \$38.4 million. The work is expected to be completed in July 1981 and will lift total generating capacity at Muja to 640 megawatts.

A further \$11.5 million will be spent on generating plant for the interconnected system in order to meet growing power needs. Work will continue on dual oil/coal fired boilers at Kwinana and \$3.7 million is to be provided for the Bunbury Power Station.

Generating plant will be installed and distribution upgraded in systems owned by the Commission which supply more remote country towns. The major provision is \$4.0 million for a gas turbine at Karratha.

In country towns, where the electricity supply undertakings are owned by the Local Authority and operated by the Commission under the Country Towns' Assistance Scheme, additional plant will be allocated and distribution improved to meet the needs of individual communities.

These works will be undertaken by the State Energy Commission on behalf of the Local Authorities concerned and work is scheduled on thirty six town schemes this financial year.

The State Energy Commission also intends to expand the gas reticulation system in 1978/79 and \$4.2 million has been allocated for this purpose.

Education

This year, after a careful examination of the needs of all tiers of education, the Government has budgeted for expenditure of \$49.9 million on schools and technical colleges.

The challenge of providing an efficient education system which meets the changing needs of society is one of the most formidable facing the Government.

We are firmly committed to meeting this responsibility at a time when more than ever the system needs to be flexible in order to align the education of our young people with the career opportunities that are available. At the same time, given the competing demands for available funds, the Government has been most concerned to ensure that the maximum value in the dollar is obtained in our education spending.

Unlike other areas of Australia, the State has a growing school population at all levels and, to cope with increased enrolments, thirteen new schools will be opened in 1979.

Three new primary schools will be opened in the South Eastern corridor at North Maddington, Grovelands and Ferndale. The schools will ease the pressures on existing schools in areas of extensive residential development.

Five other metropolitan primary schools will be provided at Lesmurdie, Bull Creek, Beechboro, East Hamersley and Koondoola while another will be opened at Waggrakine to cater for the population increase in the northern suburbs of Geraldton.

Each of these primary schools will have a pre-primary facility on site, in keeping with the Government's policy of providing children with increased access to informal, free and voluntary pre-school experiences.

In the area of secondary education the \$1.8 million first stage of the Duncraig High School will cater initially for approximately 200 year 8 pupils, and will provide significant relief for the Carine Senior High School.

At Mandurah a full Years 8-10 high school will open with approximately 350 pupils. The school, which will cost \$3.2 million, will draw its students from areas which would otherwise have been served by the Pinjarra Senior High School.

The needs of children requiring special education facilities have not been overlooked and provision has been made for two new special schools for 1979. These are located at Koondoola and Mosman Park (Buckland Special School).

In addition to the substantial outlays on new schools which I have mentioned more than \$17 million has been allocated for additions and improvements to existing primary and secondary schools.

In the increasingly important field of technical education the Government plans to spend \$12.8 million on capital works, \$9.4 million more than in 1977/78.

Construction will continue on the Carine Technical College and \$4.4 million has been allocated for this purpose. The first stage of the College, which is expected to be completed in time for the

1980 academic year, will provide a wide range of courses relating to specific trades. Commercial study facilities will also be provided.

\$525 000 will be spent in commencing a new technical college at Rockingham.

A start is also to be made on the new Thornlie Technical College, construction will continue at the Perth Technical College and additions to the Bentley Technical College will provide a teaching block catering for horticultural studies, fashion design and animal husbandry. In addition \$679 000 has been allocated for a new teaching block and improved staff/student amenities at the Balga Technical College.

The Government is most anxious to make technical training facilities more readily accessible to residents outside the metropolitan area. Accordingly an amount of \$1 million has been set aside for work associated with the planned federation of the Eastern Goldfields Technical College and the School of Mines. The allocation will enable the continued upgrading of the C.B.C. Building for art studies and the commencement of a commercial studies building on the Agricola College site. A further \$224 000 will be spent on completing work on the Geraldton Technical College.

In addition, more than \$700 000 of the \$4 million special allocation for employment stimulation which I announced on Tuesday will be allocated for works associated with schools. A substantial proportion is to be used to 'upgrade school facilities in country areas.

The Government has continued to explore a number of alternative ways of providing new schools and facilities. In particular, attempts are being made to decrease construction times and to improve the efficiency of departmental budgeting.

To these ends, a new Project Plan system was announced last October for some building programs. The objective of this system is to obtain, in the shortest possible time consistent with acceptable standards, competitive designs and costs for new schools. The high school under construction in Mandurah is the first building to be designed and built using this Project Plan system.

It is encouraging to report that last year average school building costs in the metropolitan area remained virtually static and the Government will continue its determined efforts to achieve further economies wherever possible. In conjunction with this effort we are taking steps to encourage greater use of school facilities by communities. As part of this process the planning, cost and use of facilities such as some

high school halls/gymnasias are being shared with Local Government Authorities and the Community Recreation Council.

Hospitals and Health Services

In the current year we plan to spend \$38.8 million on hospitals—\$4.6 million or 13.5% more than in 1977/78.

Our commitment in this area has been achieved despite the recent discontinuation of specific purpose payments from the Commonwealth under the Hospitals Development Program.

The unilateral decision by the Commonwealth to abolish hospital construction grants this year follows a substantial reduction in Commonwealth payments under the program from \$12 million in 1976/77 to \$4.4 million last year. The cuts have come at a time when the Government is undertaking an extensive hospital building program which was commenced in anticipation of continued Commonwealth funding.

The reduction in Commonwealth grants and the increased expenditure needed to meet the cost of works in progress have meant that it has not been possible to provide funds for many desirable new projects.

Moreover the projected increase in expenditure on works in progress is a matter for concern and threatens to make the framing of next year's capital budget even more difficult than this year. Expenditure on hospital works in progress is expected to increase by approximately \$15 million to some \$53 million in 1979/80.

Approximately \$35 million has been provided in this year's program for the continuation of work on the podium and ward block at the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre, the King Edward Memorial Hospital, the Fremantle Hospital and the north block structure at the Royal Perth Hospital.

The \$400 000 contract for footing and site works for the new Wanneroo Public Hospital is nearing completion and an allocation has also been made to enable the final contract for this \$6.5 million project to proceed.

The Government is conscious of the need to make a start on the Leonora Hospital and \$100 000 has been allocated to enable the commencement of work later in the year. However, an earlier start will be made in the event that savings are realised elsewhere in the works program.

In the field of Public Health, out of a total allocation of \$2.2 million, \$810 000 is to be spent on the Teaching Health Centre at Claremont. The centre is designed to provide a health care service to the population in and

around Claremont as well as affording a facility for training of medical students in general practice.

Several other important projects are currently under construction and should be completed this year including the Community Health Centre at Kwinana and the addition of day care facilities to the existing Mandurah Community Health Care Centre.

\$473 000 has been allocated for the provision of 20 dental therapy clinics for primary schools.

An amount of almost \$2.4 million has been provided for expenditure on Mental Health facilities, almost double the outlay in 1977/78.

Expenditure of \$1.3 million is planned on the Irrabeena complex which is under construction in West Perth close to the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children. The building will provide both a new administrative headquarters for the Division of the Intellectually Handicapped and assessment, treatment and referral facilities.

\$276 000 is to be spent to complete a manual training centre at Swanbourne to cater for the needs of both the Swanbourne and Graylands Hospitals. The centre will provide a variety of re-training programs for inpatients and day attenders.

In addition, a start is to be made on the construction of an intensive therapy ward at Graylands Hospital and \$100 000 has been allocated for this purpose in 1978/79. The new ward will replace the old outmoded "Secure Ward" at Swanbourne Hospital. It will accommodate up to sixty severely disturbed psychiatric patients and will incorporate the most modern ideas for the care, treatment and training of such persons.

Water Supplies, Sewerage and Drainage

The Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board plans to undertake a capital works program of \$58.5 million. This represents an increase of just over \$5 million or almost 10% on capital expenditure in 1977/78.

Construction of the Wungong Dam will be largely completed this year and \$5.2 million has been set aside for related work. The dam will lift the total hills capacity by almost one eighth.

To ease the strain on facilities currently servicing the metropolitan area the Board intends to develop two additional groundwater sources.

At Jandakot \$2.7 million is to be spent on developing an aquifer which will produce 22.5 million cubic metres a year. The underground source is scheduled to be available for the summer of 1979/80.

\$663 000 will be spent at East Mirrabooka to develop an underground source planned to come progressively into full operation in 1980/81 and 1981/82. Annual production from this aquifer will be 40 million cubic metres.

Construction of an additional reservoir at Melville will also be commenced this year and \$650 000 has been allocated for this purpose. When completed the reservoir will improve service to residents in Melville and adjacent areas in periods of high draw.

Approximately \$21 million has been allocated by the Board for sewerage works this year.

Just over \$6 million has been provided for sewerage already developed housing areas, with the largest allocations being for Thornlie, Fremantle, Scarborough and Belmont. Expenditure of a further \$815 000 is proposed for a major gravity sewer from the Bibra Lake Pumping Station to the Munster Pumping Station to cater for increased development in suburbs south of the river.

The Metropolitan Water Board has also set aside an amount of \$2.7 million in 1978/79 for the establishment of Headquarters at Leederville. At the moment employees of the Board are spread throughout five buildings in the West Perth area and this is not conducive to administrative and operational efficiency.

A total capital works program of \$27.4 million is proposed for country water supplies, sewerage, irrigation and drainage. This represents a 45% lift on expenditure last year, a substantial increase in terms of the physical volume of work to be undertaken.

In total \$18.0 million has been allocated to provide or upgrade water supply services for country areas and towns. Some of the more important features of the program are as follows:

- An outlay of \$7.0 million will be made on the continuation of the DeGrey River scheme which will provide a new source of water for the expanding Port Hedland area. The scheme is estimated to cost in excess of \$17 million and is expected to be commissioned in 1979.
- \$1.7 million has been set aside for the Albany regional scheme. \$991 000 will be spent on extension of the South Coast borefield and \$695 000 has been allocated to construction of the main from Albany to Mt. Barker.
- Provision of \$898 000 has been made to enable continuation of major improvements to meet the growing demands at Geraldton.

- An amount of \$374 000 has been provided to finish the link between Ravenswood and the South Dandalup Dam and an allocation of \$135 000 will enable completion of the Dunsborough-Quindalup water supply scheme.

- Expenditure of \$308 000 is planned on new water supply schemes to be commenced at Hopetoun and Seabird and an allocation of \$452 000 will complete construction of the scheme at Frankland.

- Major improvements will be carried out on a number of existing water supply schemes including those at Northam, Derby, Halls Creek and Esperance.

In addition to this wide ranging program aimed at ensuring adequate water supplies to country areas, the Government is also making steady progress in the provision of country sewerage schemes.

Works costing over \$6.9 million are planned this year.

A new sewerage scheme will be commenced at Denmark, sewer reticulation will be extended at Collie and provision has been made to complete work at Narembeem.

An amount of \$1 million has been provided for major sewerage works at Bunbury and \$610 000 has been set aside for the completion of treatment works and for sewer reticulation at Esperance. More than \$400 000 will be spent at Albany for reticulation extensions and pump station improvements and similar amounts have been allocated for works at Geraldton and Manjimup.

The allocation this year for irrigation and drainage work is \$2.6 million of which \$1.1 million will be spent to replace the open irrigation channel system at Harvey and \$569 000 to improve the Gascoyne groundwater supply.

Port and Marine Works

The provision of port facilities capable of efficiently coping with the growth and increasing diversity of the State's overseas trade is important to our economy. Accordingly, \$15.4 million has been allocated in the Estimates for the capital works program of Port Authorities and for improvements and extensions to harbours and river works throughout Western Australia.

Of \$2.4 million to be spent by the Fremantle Port Authority in 1978/79, \$1 million will be applied to extending the No. 2 berth of the bulk cargo jetty.

In order to safeguard against the threat of pollution from oil spillages, \$150 000 has been allocated to acquire the most modern and effective type of anti-pollution barrier.

The Albany Port Authority intends to spend \$2.8 million out of a total capital works program of \$3.1 million to complete the dredging of the harbour approach channel and turning basin. The work will permit larger grain carrying vessels to use the port and when finished in early 1979 will have cost an estimated \$4.4 million.

The Bunbury Port Authority has budgeted for capital expenditure of \$2.7 million in the current financial year. \$2.2 million will be spent on the construction of the No. 2 inner harbour berth. This general purpose berth will assist the integration of the inner and outer harbour facilities and will have the capacity to handle the needs of roll-on roll-off shipping.

At Geraldton \$596 000 has been allocated to complete construction of the No. 5 berth and \$268 000 on strengthening the No. 3 berth.

An allocation of \$1.0 million will enable facilities to be provided at Wyndham for containerisation of beef exports and general cargo. The new handling arrangements are seen as a significant step in the development of the Kimberley region. They are expected to result in improved access to overseas markets particularly in respect of non-quota beef and will facilitate the marketing of meat in the United States of America.

In addition to expenditure on containerisation at Wyndham \$580 000 has been provided for extension of the existing jetty and improvements to the bulk loader.

\$1.7 million has been provided to upgrade marine facilities for the State's expanding fishing industries.

The Port Denison fishing boat harbour dredging and groynes construction will be completed this year and \$170 000 has been allocated to commence construction of new jetties at Fremantle, Greenhead and Port Gregory.

The Government is aware of the growing demands of boating enthusiasts for suitable launching facilities. Accordingly, to cater for these needs, \$1 million has been provided for the construction of a boat launching facility at North Mullaloo.

Other major proposed expenditures include an amount of \$540 000 for improvements to navigational aids at Albany, Bunbury and Geraldton and \$462 000 for coastal erosion investigations and remedial works. Included in this latter amount is an allocation of \$277 000 for purchase of equipment and \$109 000 for beach rehabilitation at Mandurah.

Transport

The program for railway capital works involves expenditure of \$21.7 million.

Last year sufficient funds were provided to make a start on the rehabilitation of the standard gauge line between Kwinana and Koolyanobbing which forms part of our rail link with the Eastern States. Due to the continuous heavy traffic it has been necessary to impose speed and axle load restrictions on this important link and rehabilitation using heavier rail is essential to maintain an efficient interstate rail service.

When introducing the Loan Fund Estimates last year I informed Honourable Members that a detailed submission had been made requesting Commonwealth financial assistance for the upgrading of this nationally important rail link.

As I have already indicated, while Commonwealth funds were not forthcoming, the Federal Government fully supported our application to Loan Council for a special temporary addition to our semi-government borrowing program for this purpose. At the June meeting of Loan Council a \$14.5 million special addition was approved for 1978/79 as the first element of a six year program estimated to cost about \$67 million costed on December 1977 prices. The final cost will of course be higher because of cost escalation over the construction period.

This year further materials, plant and equipment will be purchased and reconstruction work will commence on the line between Northam and Merredin.

The capacity of the State's railway system to handle the increased number of trains required for haulage of alumina and coal in the South West of the State is being improved by expenditure on the extension of the centralised traffic control system from Coolup to Picton and Brunswick Junction to Collie.

Further upgrading of the standard gauge railway between Kalgoorlie and Leonora will be undertaken to provide for haulage of nickel concentrates coming on stream from the deposits at Agnew.

Demands arising from the increasing volume of grain expected to be harvested within the State will require 30 new grain wagons. These will be constructed at the Midland Railway Workshops and \$966 000 is to be spent on them in 1978/79.

Provision of \$4.1 million has been made in the Estimates for the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust's capital program. An amount of \$2.1 million will be spent on completing 16 buses and financing the construction of a further 14.

\$900 000 is provided for the installation of ticket validating machines to be placed on buses and rail cars. These machines will allow a system of presold tickets to operate, leading to reduced journey times as a result of a decrease in the number of passengers purchasing fares from drivers.

In addition, a bus transfer station will be constructed at the developing Mirrabooka Centre at a cost of \$330 000. Passenger transport services to the station from the feeder area and express services to Perth will be provided.

In order to maximise the use of its financial resources, the Government agreed to the MTT leasing 26 new buses in 1977/78. It is proposed that an additional 45 buses will be acquired in this manner in 1978/79 and the reduced Loan Fund allocation to the Trust reflects this proposal.

The leasing arrangements will permit the use of our limited capital funds in other areas thus increasing the number of jobs generated by our capital works program.

I recently announced that the Government had given approval for the Coastal Shipping Commission to charter a new and sophisticated cargo vessel for the State Shipping Service. The vessel selected, which is a Hamlet Multiflex type of 12 800 tonnes, will be able to carry roll-on roll-off cargo, general cargo, dry and refrigerated containers and bulk cargo—either individually or in various combinations.

The Shipping Commission will spend \$580 000 in 1978/79 on works associated with the new vessel. Cargo handling equipment worth \$280 000 is to be purchased including a 25 tonne capacity fork lift truck, tow tractors and trailers.

An initial outlay of \$300 000 will be required to meet the cost of pre-delivery modifications to the vessel to comply with Australian standards.

Housing

In spite of the lower level of funds available to the General Loan Fund in 1978/79, the Government has decided to more than double the allocation of these funds to the State Housing Commission this year in an endeavour to provide maximum funds for housing.

The Commission will spend \$17 million on new houses in 1978/79, with a large proportion of the expenditure being incurred on the construction of 232 dwellings in the North West of this State to alleviate an urgent housing requirement.

Over \$6 million will be spent on upgrading 2 550 units as part of the Commission's continuing program of upgrading the older rental homes to modern standards. Upgrading will commence in

Maniana and Willagee this year and the Midland re-development program is scheduled for completion.

\$15.5 million will be spent by the Commission in acquiring and developing land for its own future use and in making serviced land available for sale throughout the State.

The Government Employees' Housing Authority works program involves expenditure of \$8.25 million on the completion of approximately 150 housing units, of which 32 will be in the North West.

The program this year includes the first stage of a three year plan to supply an additional air conditioning unit to all existing houses in the North West. In future, Government Employees' Housing Authority accommodation in the North West will have a zone ducted air conditioning system incorporated at the time of construction.

The Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing Authority has been allocated an amount of \$1.9 million, a substantial increase on the amount made available last year. The Authority proposes to finance the construction of 26 new houses this year, the bulk of which will be in the North West of the State.

Other Items

I do not propose to go into the detail of other votes. The Loan Estimates contain a considerable amount of information about specific votes and Honourable Members can also obtain further information from the responsible Minister when the Estimates are being dealt with in Committee. However, there are a few other items of general interest on which I would like to comment.

The Department of Corrections allocation includes \$782 000 for the commencement of the new metropolitan prison at Canning Vale.

The prison is to be constructed in stages and the first stage, which is estimated to cost \$4.6 million, will improve conditions under which unsentenced remand prisoners are held. A later stage of the construction of the prison will incorporate a 248 cell medium security unit. An amount of \$100 000 will also be spent by the Department of Corrections to provide improved security facilities at the Geraldton Regional Prison.

Expenditure of \$1.3 million will be incurred on the Fremantle Police Complex. The building is due for completion in October 1979 and will house the Criminal Investigation Branch, Road

Traffic Authority, Liquor and Gaming Branch, and general police including the District Superintendent and his staff. An amount of \$1.1 million has also been allocated in the Estimates for completion of the new combined Police and Road Traffic Authority building at Warwick. The total estimated cost of the complex, which will provide services for residents in the Northern corridor, is \$1.3 million.

- * Expenditure of \$6.3 million is proposed by the Fire Brigades Board, including \$5.3 million for the new city headquarters complex. The building will comprise a single basement and ground floor for fire engines, service vehicles and appliances, plus four floors for on-duty fire fighting staff as well as the Board's managerial and administrative staff, Operations Control Centre and Fire Prevention Department.
- * The State Engineering Works will spend \$1.7 million of which \$1 million has been allocated towards rebuilding the outdated foundry that was originally completed in 1913. A further \$696 000 will be spent on machinery, plant and equipment replacement primarily for the new foundry.

The proposed capital expenditure program will improve the working conditions and efficiency of the Works and provide it with the capacity to undertake many heavier engineering tasks that are currently not able to be undertaken in Western Australia.

- * Provision of \$486 000 has been made in the Estimates for a start to be made on major additions to the Agriculture Department's South Perth headquarters. Work on these additions, which should relieve current over-crowding, is expected to take approximately one year and be completed late in 1979.

To improve decentralised facilities \$208 000 has been allocated to enable the expansion of the Agriculture Department's laboratories and other facilities at Albany and \$83 000 is to be spent on additions to the Bunbury District Office.

- * Provision has been made in the Estimates for \$3.7 million for the continuing construction of the new Art Gallery. \$358 000 has also been provided

for works associated with the development of an entrance plaza for the new Gallery, to connect the Gallery with a car park and other areas within the proposed Cultural Centre. The new Art Gallery will be opened in 1979.

- * The upgrading and extension of hostels operated by the Country High School Hostels Authority will be undertaken at a cost of \$933 000. Additional boarding accommodation will be provided at the Northam Girls Hostel and the Moora Hostel.
- * An amount of \$158 000 has been made available to provide additional facilities at the Albany Court House.
- * Expenditure of \$250 000 will be incurred on the restoration and conversion of the Old Commissariat Stores in Cliff Street, Fremantle, to form a new maritime museum.

During the past 9 years the Western Australian Museum has carried out major excavations on historic Dutch shipwrecks and the new museum will feature some of the material recovered together with exhibits from wrecks of the early settlement period in Western Australia.

Outlays in 1978/79 will enable the first exhibition hall on the ground floor to be opened late next year and a commencement to be made on the facility to accommodate the restored wreck of the Batavia.

- * The Industrial Lands Development Authority plans to spend \$4.7 million on the purchase and development of land for industrial purposes. \$1 million of this total will be obtained from borrowings by the Authority with the balance from the proceeds of land sales. \$3.7 million of the total is for the servicing of additional land in the Canning Vale Industrial Estate.

The sale of lots in the first stage development of the Canning Vale Industrial Estate has proceeded at a satisfactory rate. Industries already established in the Estate or under contract to develop their sites have a total investment commitment in excess of \$100 million. The land being developed in the current phase is planned to meet the anticipated growth in the demand for industrial sites in this area over the next 2 to 3 years.

Conclusion

That concludes my survey of the Capital Works Budget for 1978/79. I believe that it is a carefully balanced program which provides for a wide range of community needs.

Expenditure from General Loan Fund

I now turn to the main purpose of the Bill which is to appropriate from General Loan Fund sums required to carry out works and services detailed in the Loan Estimates.

Of the total finance required for the planned works program, an amount of \$156 271 000 is to be supplied from the General Loan Fund for the purposes listed in the Estimates.

Full details of the program are set out in the Estimates together with the source of funds employed. The amount to be provided from the General Loan Fund and which is subject to appropriation in this Bill is clearly identified.

Supply of \$70 000 000 has already been granted under the Supply Act 1978 and the Bill now under consideration seeks further supply of \$86 271 000. The total of these two sums, namely \$156 271 000 is to be appropriated for the purposes and services expressed in Schedule B of the Bill.

As well as authorising the provision of funds for the current year, the measure seeks ratification of amounts spent during 1977/78 in excess of the Estimates for that year. Details of these excesses are given in Schedule C to the Bill.

Before commending the Bill to members, I wish to add one brief comment. The Treasury, in conjunction with Ministers in their respective portfolios, this year will be implementing a very strict system of control—more strict than in former years—in the hope that in the course of the year we can provide some funds which can be used for projects that we would have liked to start this year. I refer in particular to a number of country hospitals, both to their expansion and the commencement of new ones.

We will be endeavouring to get at least some of those projects commenced before the end of the year because we know that some are of an urgent nature. In the meantime, within the funds available to us, we have endeavoured to provide a fairly imaginative, sensible and balanced allocation of the funds. I think that after members study the Estimates, if they are fair they will come to that conclusion.

I commend the Bill to honourable members and in so doing request leave to table the General Loan Fund Estimates of Expenditure for the year ending 30th June 1979, and a copy of the Loan Estimates Speech.

The General Loan Fund Estimates of Expenditure for the year ending 30th June, 1979, were tabled (see paper No. 374).

The Loan Estimates Speech 1978-79 was tabled (see paper No. 375).

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

REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS AGENTS BILL

Council's Amendments

Amendments made by the Council now considered.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr Clarko) in the Chair; Mr O'Neil (Chief Secretary) in charge of the Bill.

The CHAIRMAN: The amendments made by the Council are as follows—

No. 1.

Clause 4, page 3, lines 14 and 15—Delete the passage “or in the interpretation “small business””.

No. 2.

Clause 4, page 3, lines 18 and 19—Delete the passage “and in the interpretation “small business””.

No. 3.

Clause 4, page 8, lines 24 to 30 inclusive—Delete the whole of the interpretation “small business”.

No. 4.

Clause 61, page 43, after line 5—Insert a new subclause to stand as subclause (4) as follows—

(4) The remuneration of an agent for services rendered by him in his capacity as agent in respect of a transaction he has negotiated is payable only on settlement of the transaction unless there is a failure to settle the transaction and that failure is due to the fault of the agent's principal.

No. 5.

Clause 62, page 43, after line 25—Insert a new subclause to stand as subclause (4) as follows—

(4) In a proceeding under this Act for a contravention of subsection (1) or (2) it is a defence if the defendant establishes that he is a person whose business is to publish or arrange for the publication of advertisements and

that he received the advertisement in the ordinary course of business and did not know and had no reason to suspect that its publication would amount to such a contravention.

No. 6.

Schedule, page 97, line 26—Delete the word "five" and insert in lieu thereof the word "three".

No. 7.

Schedule, page 97, line 30—Delete the words "two years" and insert in lieu thereof the words "one year".

No. 8.

Schedule, page 101, line 25—Insert after the word "but" the passage ", subject to paragraph (c) of this subclause,".

No. 9.

Schedule, page 101, line 32—Insert after the word "day" the passage "unless the holder establishes to the satisfaction of the Board that he has made significant progress towards qualifying himself for a licence, in which case a renewal may be effective until a date five years from and including the appointed day".

Mr O'NEIL: The first three amendments relate to tidying up provisions which were not done when we removed the reference to "small business". One amendment concerns the determination of the date on which an agent becomes eligible for remuneration, one is a proposal which came to me from the media providing for offences in the case of matters relating to advertisements and others relate to matters raised by various members during the debate on the Bill in this place on which I gave certain undertakings. I move—

That amendment No. 1 made by the Council be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Mr O'NEIL: I move—

That amendment No. 2 made by the Council be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Mr O'NEIL: I move—

That amendment No. 3 made by the Council be agreed to.

Mr GRILL: The Opposition supports all the amendments made by the Council. We are pleased to see the Minister has kept his undertaking to look at certain matters we raised during the debate on this Bill. We suggest the Minister moves the remaining amendments together.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Mr O'NEIL: I move—

That amendments Nos. 4 to 9 made by the Council be agreed to.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendments agreed to.

Report

Resolutions reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [5.01 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday, the 3rd October.

Question put and passed.

QUESTIONS

Closing Date

THE SPEAKER (Mr Thompson): I announce that questions on notice for Tuesday, the 3rd October, will be received until noon on Friday, the 29th September.

House adjourned at 5.02 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

POLICE AND CITIZENS YOUTH CLUB

Relocation

1696. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Can he say what stage has been reached in negotiations with the Fire Brigades Board to obtain land to enable the re-siting of the Claremont-Cottesloe-Nedlands police and citizens youth club?
- (2) When is it anticipated that these negotiations will be finalised?
- (3) Is any consideration being given to alternative sites for the relocation of this youth centre?
- (4) If "Yes" to (3) what sites are being considered?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1), to (4) The current position is as follows—

Inquiries have been made in the Nedlands, Claremont and Cottesloe local authority areas, and to date the only possible suitable site is Lots 156 and 350 facing Curtin Avenue and adjacent to Cottesloe police station. Lot 350 is vested with the Fire Brigades Board of Western Australia and an application has been made to them as to the possibility of them relinquishing same. The Fire Brigades Board has advised that they will be reviewing the matter later this year, and will advise of their decision.

1697. *This question was postponed.*

WATER SUPPLIES

Dams: Canning and North Dandalup Rivers

1698. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Metropolitan Water Board will be proceeding with the building of a new dam on the upper Canning River before constructing a dam on the North Dandalup River?
- (2) If this is so, why, as the small pipehead dam on the North Dandalup is in overflow state most winters and the Canning dam now only fills on occasions of very wet winters?
- (3) What is the order of programme for future dams as envisaged by the Metropolitan Water Board?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes, this is current planning (see the Metropolitan Water Board's Development plan 1978-1983, page 50). However, it should be noted that no firm commitment has yet been made for work to start in the 1979/80 financial year, as this will depend on the provision of funds and other priorities.
- (2) The cost of obtaining increased yield from North Dandalup is significantly higher than obtaining a similar increase in yield from the combined storages of the existing Canning dam and the proposed South Canning dam.
- (3) See reference document in (1) above.

TRAFFIC

Tow-truck Operators

1699. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

In his reported statement in the *Sunday Times* of the 17th September, 1978, that tow truck operators registered to work in particular areas were called to an accident on a rotational basis where the driver of a vehicle in an accident was unable to determine such a matter himself—

- (1) What is the difference between the licensed tow truck operator and one who is "registered to work in that area"?
- (2) Are all licensed tow truck operators included on the list of tow truck operators?
- (3) If all tow truck operators are on the "rotational" list, why is John Bells towing service of 267 Treasure Road, Welshpool, not included?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) The report is basically correct. All owners of tow trucks are not necessarily listed at Road Traffic Authority offices as available for towing crashed vehicles. Only those who have notified a particular office of their availability in a particular district are considered for call out.
- (3) John Bell's towing service is not on any list, presumably because he has not notified any office of his availability.

1700. *This question was postponed.*

MINING: MINES DEPARTMENT

"V.C.L.": Meaning

1701. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Mines:

What is the meaning of abbreviation of the letters "V.C.L." on Mines Department public plans (e.g., south-east corner of the 1:50 000 scale Mt George sheet)?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

VCL stands for vacant Crown land which on the plan referred to means the land is free of any Lands Act title or reserve.

HOSPITAL*Royal Perth*

1702. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Did the Health Department issue a circular No. A4202 that set out the details that were to apply to Medibank patients at the Royal Perth Hospital?
- (2) If "Yes" would he table same?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) and (2) No. Medical Department circular No. A4202 was addressed to all hospitals except teaching hospitals.

LAND*National Parks: Classification*

1703. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Are there any national parks in Western Australia which are not class-A reserves?
- (2) If "Yes" would he enumerate such national parks?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

Reserves set aside as National Park purposes but not classified as of "A" class

(1) and (2)

Reserve No.	Area	Location	Plan	Vesting
	ha			
2065	172·086 3	Swan 8439, 8982	Swan 10·000 6·3	National Parks Authority
2096	80·596 1	Tenterden A.A. 41	444/80 F1	
5225	55·227 4	Plantagenet 468	A94-4	National Parks Authority
19857	122·000 0	Nelson 13018, 7360	442C/40	National Parks Authority
21271	519·762 1	Murray 1014	381C/40	National Parks Authority
22768	8·169 6	Kalamunda 133	Tste.	
23077	6·821 5	Nelson—unsurveyed	442B/40	
23260	20·234 3	Nelson 12135	439A/40	
23261	1·011 7	Nelson 12136	439A/40	
23537	11·278 1	Greenmount 12, 446	1C/20 NW	
23740	246·369 5	Nelson 12343-62 and Northcliffe 151, 152	Tste.	Manjimup Shire
26890	91·054 3	Tunnel Creek	Lennard River 4m.	National Parks Authority
27023	49 843·000 0	Frank Hann N.P.	390/80	National Parks Authority
28462	17 542·594 4	Moore River N.P.	30 and 31/80	National Parks Authority
29149	1 625·622 2	Nambung N.P.	62/80	National Parks Authority
34771	8 500·000 0	Edel	Ajana 1:250,	
35104	555 914·000 0	Teano	Collier 1:250,	National Parks Authority

HEALTH*Tailings Dam at Baldvis*

1704. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

Further to question 1653 of 1978 would he please list the number of samples taken from bores closer and inside Baldvis tailings dam and alongside each indicate:

- (a) the upper limit of total gamma radiation pCi/litre; and
- (b) the level of concentration of radium expressed in pCi/litre?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (a) The samples collected inside the Baldvis tailings dam enclosure were not tested for total gamma radiation emitters. The measurement of

radium 226 content is more accurate and meaningful but takes longer than measurement of total gamma emitters.

- (b) The radium level found for each of the 10 bores surrounding the tailings dam were:—

Bore Number	Radium 226 content —pCi/litre
1	0.120
2	0.054
3	0.046
4	0.203
5	0.092
6	0.114
7	0.127
8	0.089
9	0.154
10	0.130

These levels are well below the World Health Organisation level for continuous population usage for drinking water of 3 pCi/litre and the International Commission on Radiological Protection level of 10 pCi/litre.

SECURITY INDUSTRY: ASSISTANCE AND SECURITY CORPORATION

Flour Millers' Dispute

1705. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) How many trucks from the Assistance and Security Corporation were used to shift flour from the mill at Leighton?
- (2) How much flour was shifted by each truck?
- (3) What was the length of each journey taken by each truck?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) None.
- (2) and (3) Not applicable.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE

Flour Millers' Dispute

1706. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Did his department prepare a report on last November's flour strike within weeks of the end of the strike?
- (2) If so, will he table a copy of the report?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.

HOUSING

Balga

1707. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it correct that some State Housing Commission homes in Balga have had their electric stoves removed and replaced with gas stoves?
- (2) If so, how many?
- (3) How many will be removed in the future?
- (4) Is this practice occurring in other suburbs or areas of the State?
- (5) If "No" to (4), will it occur in the future?
- (6) Why is the commission adopting this practice?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Actual number not readily available without considerable research which is not considered necessary.
- (3) Because of factors in answers to (5) and (6) the actual numbers cannot be ascertained.
- (4) It has been, where gas is readily available.
- (5) Dependent on availability of maintenance funds.
- (6) The State Housing commission has, in the past, promoted gas because of
 - (a) Government policy;
 - (b) more economical maintenance life;
 - (c) less operating cost to tenant.

An electric stove was only replaced with a gas stove where—

- (a) stove is considered to be un-serviceable or requiring extensive repairs;
- (b) acceptable to tenant;
- (c) gas readily available.

Currently and while maintenance funds are restricted, the State Housing commission will replace electric with electric to save the gas service installation costs.

HOSPITALS: AMBULANCES

St. John Ambulance Association: South Hedland and Bunbury

1708. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it a fact that the State Government's contribution to the St. John Ambulance Service contained in the Consolidated Revenue Fund Estimates introduced on Tuesday, 19th September, will prevent the need for the St. John Ambulance Service to reduce the number of professional officers at the South Hedland St. John Ambulance sub-centre, from three personnel to two people, and also whether the St. John Ambulance centre at Bunbury will have to reduce their professional staff from seven men to four?
- (2) If "No" will he ascertain this information from the St. John Ambulance Association and pass it on to me as quickly as practicable?

Mr O'Neil (for Sir CHARLES COURT) replied:

- (1) and (2) The deployment of facilities and personnel is an association matter in the final analysis. However, it was understood in making the allocation that the Budget provision will enable the association to increase the total number of permanent staff at country centres from 18 to 20.

As part of its policy for better utilisation of its available resources, the association plans to re-distribute country permanent staff on the basis of needs according to population, work volume and co-operation with volunteer drivers.

This will result in reduction of permanent staff at Port Hedland from 3 to 2, and at Bunbury from 7 to 4.

On the other hand, staff will be increased at the following centres—

Geraldton	from 1 to 4.
Kalgoorlie	from 2 to 3.
Collie	from 1 to 2.
Norseman	from 1 to 2.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: PERTH CITY COUNCIL

Padbury Buildings

1709. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) When does the Commonwealth Government intend handing over the Padbury Buildings to the Perth City Council?
- (2) Can she explain the reasons for the delay?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) and (2) The Commonwealth Crown Solicitor and the WA Crown Law Department are currently preparing transfer documents so that the Padbury Buildings land can be transferred to the State.

WORKER PARTICIPATION

Government Policy

1710. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

Adverting to his answer to my question 1626 of 1978, can he indicate when the Government intends to make a decision on whether it will support the Department of Productivity in implementing Commonwealth Government policy of employee participation, in view of the request by the Regional Director of that Department for the Government's support?

Mr O'Neil (for Sir CHARLES COURT) replied:

When the regional director wrote on this matter he was obviously unaware of the extent of liaison which was operating at different levels between the Commonwealth and State on employee participation.

A reply will be given to him explaining the co-operation which has been extended for some time.

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

Numbers Game; Protest by Lotteries Commission

1711. Mr DAVIES, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Has he received representations from the Lotteries Commission protesting at the introduction of the Totalisator Agency Board numbers game?
- (2) If so, what was the Government's attitude towards these representations?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) I have had discussions with representatives of the Lotteries Commission where concern was expressed at the introduction by the Totalisator Agency Board of "favourite numbers" betting.
- (2) The Government believes there is room for both "favourite numbers" and the Lotteries Commission operated "lotto" without there being undue competition.

ELECTORAL

Rolls; Removal of Names

1712. Mr DAVIES, to the Chief Secretary:

How many people have been removed from electoral rolls throughout the State for failing to reply to notices regarding non-voting (section 156) since 17th December, 1977?

Mr O'NEIL replied:
397.

ELECTORAL

Rolls; North-west

1713. Mr DAVIES, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Of the 311 electors deleted from the Kimberley roll since 17th December, 1977, under section 48 of the Electoral Act, how many were deleted due to objections by—

- (a) other electors enrolled on the same roll;
- (b) the registrar?
- (2) How many were deleted under section 48 since 17th December, 1977, due to objections by—
 - (a) other electors enrolled on the same roll;
 - (b) the registrar,
 for the electorates of Gascoyne, Pilbara, Murchison-Eyre and Nedlands?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) (a) Nil.
- (b) 311.
- (2) (a) Nil.
- (b) Pilbara 829
- Murchison-Eyre 89
- Gascoyne 178
- Nedlands 558.

HOUSING

Mosman Park and North Fremantle

1714. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Will he please advise progress with the construction of residential accommodation for the State Housing Commission in Mosman Park and North Fremantle?
- (2) What is the expected completion date in each case?
- (3) What is the number of units and types of accommodation to be available?
- (4) Have applications been received?
- (5) When will allocations be made?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Mosman Park—40 per cent complete.
North Fremantle—25 per cent complete.
- (2) Mosman Park—20th February, 1979.
North Fremantle—7th February, 1979.
- (3) Mosman Park—Five bed-sitting room units.
Mosman Park—Two one-bedroom units.
Mosman Park—Twenty eight town houses.
North Fremantle—Fourteen bed-sitting room units.
North Fremantle—Twelve one-bedroom units.
North Fremantle—Twelve town houses.

- (4) and (5) Applications received from eligible applicants are registered for housing assistance in the area they desire (that is; Fremantle) and not for specific dwellings in an area.

On completion of the new dwellings in Mosman Park and North Fremantle, allocations to these units will be made from those applicants on the waiting list for these areas in accordance with their priority.

STATE FINANCE

Borrowings: Overseas

1715. Mr DAVIES, to the Treasurer:

Will he outline those aspects of the guidelines adopted by Loan Council on overseas borrowings which he said were unnecessarily restrictive when he gave his Budget speech on Tuesday, 19th September?

Mr O'Neil (for Sir CHARLES COURT) replied:

The guidelines for overseas borrowings by semi-Government and local authorities adopted by Loan Council provided that borrowings must be made without the issue of negotiable bonds, notes or other negotiable securities. I contended that this limitation to private placements could be unnecessarily restrictive and Loan Council will give further consideration to this aspect of the guidelines. I am confident that, in the light of experience, this limitation will be changed to something more acceptable.

NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF

Cost-sharing Arrangement

1716. Mr DAVIES, to the Treasurer:

Will he inform the House of the results of his representations to the Prime Minister over the cost-sharing arrangements for disaster relief, when they are received?

Mr O'Neil (for Sir CHARLES COURT) replied:

Yes.

HOSPITALS*Revenue Shortfall*

1717. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Health:
What will be the shortfall on revenue estimated in the budget for hospital facilities and services if the Federal Government refuses to meet 50% of the additional net operating costs for the extension of hospital facilities and services?

Mr YOUNG replied:

The Commonwealth Government's 50 per cent share of the estimated additional net operating costs for the extension of hospital facilities and services in 1978-79 is \$324 000.

IMMIGRATION*Ethnic Groups: Number and Grants*

1718. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Immigration:

Adverting to his reply to question 1646 of 19th September, 1978 will he list the—

- (a) 48 known ethnic groups in Western Australia;
- (b) 215 organisations supporting these groups?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The information desired is being prepared and will be forwarded to the member on completion.

1719. *This question was postponed.*

STATE ENGINEERING WORKS*Transfer*

1720. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Works:

- (1) Has any tentative timetable been considered for the transfer of the State Engineering Works from North Fremantle to Cockburn?
- (2) What site or sites are being considered for the future establishment of the works?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

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

SEWERAGE*Murray District*

1721. Mr SHALDERS, to the Minister representing the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) In view of the fact that the increased sewerage costs to persons in the Murray District occasioned by the recent revaluation of properties there, is to be phased in over a three year period, would the Minister also give consideration to a similar phasing-in period for water rate charges on commercial properties likewise affected by revaluation, and which in common with sewerage rates have no fixed maximum?
- (2) Will the Minister give consideration to fixing a maximum amount for both sewerage and commercial water rates in country areas as both an incentive to decentralisation and a means of preventing possible hardship to both commercial and private sectors in rural communities?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) In the 1977-78 financial year the loss incurred in supplying water to country areas was \$24 438 000, whilst sewerage schemes in country towns lost \$1 600 000.

In the current financial year the anticipated losses have been estimated at:

water—\$25.5 million

sewerage—\$1.4 million.

In view of this existing support given to country residents, and the current shortage of funds available to the State for allocation towards the operation and maintenance of these essential services, no further concessions can be considered at this time.

LAND*Cockburn Sound*

1722. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

With respect to that area on the foreshore of Cockburn Sound between Cockburn Road and Jervois Bay, presently used for or available for ship construction and/or repair facilities:

- (1) How many lots have been created?
- (2) What is the approximate area of each and the total area?
- (3) What is the approximate length of the foreshore frontage of the total area?

- (4) (a) To whom has each of the lots been allocated; and
- (b) of these which are occupied and in operation?
- (5) Who holds title to any part of the land in question?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Seven lots have been created for shipbuilding sites.
- (2) Dealing from north to south—
 Lot 17, 5.382 3 ha—Dillingham Constructions Pty. Ltd.
 Lot 5, 1.351 6 ha; Lot 6, 1.134 2 ha—EMS Holdings Pty. Ltd.
 Lot 16, 2.820 6 ha; Lot 10, 2.132 7 ha—Australian Shipbuilding Industries (W.A.) Pty. Ltd.
 Lot 11, 1.825 7 ha—James McLarty and Son.
 Lot 15, 2.243 1 ha—M. G. Kailis Gulf Fisheries Pty. Ltd.
- (3) About 900 metres.
- (4) (a) See (2).
 (b) Lots 16, 10, and 15 are developed and occupied for continuous operation.
 Lots 5, 6, and 11 are partially developed, have no factory buildings and are occupied intermittently for operations.
 Lots 17 and 5 are subject to development commitments within specified times.
 Full development of the lots is unlikely to take place until protected water is available.
- (5) The Industrial Lands Development Authority.

EDUCATION

Technical College: Francis Street

1723. Mr STEPHENS, to the Minister for Education:

With respect to the technical college under construction in Francis Street:

- (1) How many students is it designed to accommodate?
- (2) How many full and part-time staff will be employed?
- (3) How many parking bays will be provided?

- (4) How does the planned provision for parking bays compare with the number provided at the Western Australian Institute of Technology?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) When completed a maximum of 10 000 of whom up to 2 000 could be present at any one time.
- (2) About 200 full-time staff and varying numbers of part-time staff.
- (3) About 45 for senior staff.
- (4) The two situations are entirely different because ample parking will be available throughout the cultural centre precinct.

EDUCATION

Schools and High Schools: Asbestos Ceilings

1724. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Education:

Further to answers to question 1303 of Wednesday, 23rd August, 1978:

- (1) Have tenders closed for the removal of asbestos compound lining of the Calista primary school?
- (2) If "Yes" what is the tender price and when is it anticipated that the work will be undertaken?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) \$10 824. Work was completed during the August holidays.

CROWN LAW DEPARTMENT AND LEGAL AID COMMISSION

Articled Clerks

1725. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) How many articled law clerks are currently employed by—
 (a) Crown Law Department;
 (b) the Legal Aid Commission?
- (2) What is the maximum number of articled law clerks which can be employed at the one time by—
 (a) the Crown Law Department;
 (b) the Legal Aid Commission?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

(1) (a) Six.

The seventh articulated clerk was admitted to practise as a legal practitioner in August, 1978.

(b) Four.

(2) (a) Seven.

(b) Four.

LEGAL AID COMMISSION

Funding and Applications for Assistance

1726. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

(1) What sums of money have so far been received from the Commonwealth Government and on what dates to fund the Legal Aid Commission?

(2) (a) What classes of people and cases currently qualify for assistance by the Legal Aid Commission; and

(b) how many applications for assistance and extended assistance are currently being refused each day?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

(1) (a) \$300 000—19th April, 1978.

(b) \$354 000—21st August, 1978.

(c) \$400 000—20th September, 1978.

(2) (a) No distinction is drawn between classes of people and cases in the determination of those which qualify for assistance. Qualification is determined by the application of the various criteria set out in section 37 of the Legal Aid Commission Act.

(b) The commission does not maintain its statistics on a daily basis.

STATE FUNDS: CAPITAL WORKS

Nedlands Electorate

1727. Mr BERTRAM, to the Treasurer:

Further to his answer to question 1644 of 14th September, 1978:

(1) Is it a fact that since the 1974 General Election money has been paid out for capital purposes within the electorate of Nedlands?

(2) If "Yes" is it also a fact that all of this money has been paid from loan funds, or has some of it come from other sources?

(3) (a) If some of the money has come from other sources than loan funds, will he of his own knowledge and without relying upon Treasury officers, list the capital works in the Nedlands electorate which were paid wholly or in part from other than loan funds; and

(b) identify the sources of such funds?

Mr O'Neil (for Sir CHARLES COURT) replied:

(1) to (3) The import of the member's questions is not fully understood. As with any other electorate, capital works are undertaken when the need arises and within the constraints of funds available.

The Loan Estimates for each year list the major projects undertaken by the various departments and authorities, and the member may wish to examine these for the information he is seeking.

If, however, the member has specific items—either in the information referred to, or in some other source—which he feels need further explanation, it is requested that he make details available, when answers will be provided.

WATER SUPPLIES

Waterways Commission

1728. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

(1) Did the Waterways Commission meet on or about 11th May, 1978?

(2) If "Yes" on what date?

(3) (a) Has the Waterways Commission dealt with the recommendations put to it by the Swan River Management Authority which were scheduled for consideration by a meeting to be held on or about the 11th May, 1978;

(b) if "Yes" with what result?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) 11th May, 1978.

(3) (a) Yes.

(b) The recommendations of the Swan River Management Authority were referred to the EPA by the Waterways Commission. The EPA has subsequently considered the recommendations.

LEGAL AID COMMISSION

Funding

1729. Mr BERTRAM, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Fraser Government has substantially reduced the amount of its financial contribution towards the operations of the Legal Aid Commission?
- (2) (a) If "Yes" was he consulted by the Fraser Government before it changed its policy in this regard; and
(b) what action (if any) and when has he taken to have this decision put right?

Mr O'Neil (for Sir CHARLES COURT) replied:

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

CROWN LAW DEPARTMENT AND LEGAL AID COMMISSION

Articled Clerks

1730. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

Is it his intention to sack all or any of the articled law clerks employed by the—

- (a) Crown Law Department;
 - (b) Legal Aid Commission,
- before they are qualified to practice as legal practitioners without supervision?

Mr O'Neil (for Sir CHARLES COURT) replied:

I have no authority to "sack" any articled law clerks, as the member should be aware.

ABATTOIRS

Private

1731. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

Further to my question 1519 of 1978 wherein I asked the Department of Labour to provide me with any variations to wages paid to workers working in private abattoirs, would he now advise—

- (1) Have any wage adjustments been made to wages of employees of the Midland or Robb Jetty abattoirs that

have been outside the guidelines as laid down by the State Industrial Commission for wage indexation?

- (2) If so, what were those wage adjustments?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) Guidelines for wage indexation were introduced by the State Industrial Commission with effect from the 1st July, 1975. Since that date, all adjustments to wages of employees of Midland or Robb Jetty abattoirs have been within those guidelines.

EDUCATION

School: Maida Vale

1732. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Did he receive correspondence from the Maida Vale Parents and Citizens Association in which they advised the department that their association would be prepared to finance and build a new library so that the existing library could be converted into a canteen?
- (2) If "Yes" can he now advise as to whether or not approval for such a development will be given, and also as to any finance that would be or could be made available to the association to enable the development to be carried out?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) The Secretary of the Parents and Citizens' Association has advised the Education Department recently that a suggestion was made at a recent meeting that the association help in financing a new library.
- (2) Subsidy for building projects is available on a dollar-for-dollar basis to a maximum of \$10 000.

1733. *This question was postponed.*

LAND: RESERVES

Nature: Jarrah Dieback

1734. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Are nature reserves in the State known by the Western Australian Wildlife Authority to be infected by jarrah dieback?

- (2) If so, approximately how many are involved?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
(2) One—Thompson's Lake.

LAND

National Parks: Jarrah Dieback

1735. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Which national parks are known to be infected by jarrah dieback?
(2) What is the National Parks Authority's policy in regard to infected areas of national parks?
(3) Under what circumstances are licensed four-wheel drive vehicles prohibited from being driven within parts of national parks?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yanchep, John Forrest, Avon Valley, Serpentine Falls, Kalamunda, Leeuwin-Naturaliste, D'Entrecasteaux, Scott, Pemberton (Beedelup), Sir James Mitchell, Walpole-Nornalup, Stirling Range, Hassell, Cape le Grande, and Stokes.
(2) To use hygiene procedures as recommended by the Forests Department for all earth-moving equipment used for road and fire break construction and maintenance, and restriction on the use of unfilled gravel pits.
(3) No vehicles are permitted to be driven other than on approved roads and approved tracks in National Parks.

1736 to 1738. *These questions were postponed.*

LAND

National Park: Mt. Augustus

1739. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) What is the current status of the land shown hatched at figure 8-11 of the Environmental Protection Authority's report to Cabinet for a proposed national park at Mt. Augustus?
(2) Are any dedicated roads or road reserves presently included within this hatched area?
(3) (a) What right of access has the public to Crown land under pastoral lease; and

- (b) what permission, if any, is required to enter such land?

- (4) If there is no general right of access to Crown land under pastoral lease, what objections does the Government have, if any, to taking action to provide this right?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Pastoral lease.
(2) Yes.
(3) (a) Public has access only along dedicated public roads.
(b) Permission from the pastoral lessee should entry be required other than by way of public road.
(4) The provision of public roads is one to be primarily considered by the local governing authority. Action to provide and dedicate such roads would be dependent on the local governing authority's being agreeable and passing the necessary resolution.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Conservation Reserves

1740. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Has he examined the second red book recommendations on "Conservation Reserves for Western Australia" dated 9th July, 1976?
(2) Has the Environmental Protection Authority clarified or elaborated on the statement on the first page of the report's preamble, viz:

"Therefore we must consider that the rights of holders of mining and petroleum tenements as of the date of Cabinet approval of these recommendations, must be respected and that these areas be excised from the areas being subject of our recommendations which follow?"

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
(2) Negotiations on a departmental level are currently in progress in order to clarify this issue.

LAND

Reserve 27164

1741. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) What is the purpose and area of reserve No. 27164?
- (2) In whom is the reserve vested?
- (3) On what date was the reserve set aside?
- (4) What is the rationale for the reserve being classed as 'C' rather than 'B' or 'A'?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Conservation of flora and fauna.
- (2) Western Australian Wildlife Authority.
- (3) Gazetted 10th April, 1964.
- (4) Reserves are "C" class unless reasons exist for a higher classification. In this instance no request for "A" or "B" classification was made.

LAND

Reserve 25856

1742. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Have requests been received proposing that reserve 25856 and/or adjoining Crown land be added to the Scott National Park?
- (2) If so, from whom and on what dates have such requests been received?
- (3) (a) On what dates has the Department of Lands and Surveys written to the Department of Mines concerning the above proposals;
- (b) what response has been received on each occasion and on what dates has that response been received?
- (4) (a) What was the date on which reserve 25856 was created;
- (b) what was the rationale for setting the reserve aside for the purpose of mining?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Yes. Cabinet had accepted EPA recommendation 2.1 of system 2 that transfer of reserve 25856 be made when "no longer required for mining purposes".
- (2) National Parks Authority—21st February, 1977; and Department of Conservation and the Environment—28th April, 1977.

(3) (a) 4th August, 1977, 5th October, 1977, 13th February, 1978, 21st March, 1978.

(b) Objection received on 29th December, 1977.

14th March, 1978, no objection to portion of reserve 25856 being included in reserve 25373.

19th April, 1978, no objection to whole of reserve 25856 being included in reserve 25373.

(4) (a) 14th April, 1961.

(b) The land was required for a "works site" in accordance with the provisions of the Iron Ore (Scott River) Agreement Act, 1961. See Reserves Act 58 of 1962.

FISHERIES

Aquatic Reserves

1743. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) Have aquatic reserves yet been set aside under the provisions of the Fisheries Act?
- (2) If so, would he please provide details?
- (3) (a) Is the creation of any aquatic reserve presently under consideration; and
- (b) if so, would he please provide details?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) No.
- (3) (a) Yes.
- (b) Notice was given in the press on 5th August and 6th August, 1978, that it was proposed to establish aquatic reserves at—
 - (i) South Perth beach;
 - (ii) Point Whalen-Alfred Cove;
 - (iii) Houtman Abrolhos.

VEGETABLES

Potatoes: Sprays

1744. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Health:

Adverting to question 1612 of 1978 would he explain what he meant when he replied: "It is not intended to register any preparation containing DDT for this purpose"?

Mr YOUNG replied:

No new uses for DDT will be allowed. The use of DDT on potatoes will be stopped in 1979.

State policy is that the use of DDT be terminated as satisfactory alternatives become available.

FISHERIES

Rock Lobsters: Conference

1745. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

Adverting to question 945 of 1978 in reference to a conference to discuss the lobster catching season, would he now be able to advise as to where the conference will be held?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

McLarty Hall, Safety Bay.

SECURITY INDUSTRY: ASSISTANCE AND SECURITY CORPORATION

Flour Millers' Dispute

1746. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Premier:

Adverting to question 1662 of 1978 would he now advise:

- (1) What was the total cost of the flour purchased?
- (2) What was the total sum received for flour sold?
- (3) (a) Was any flour left unsold; and
(b) if so, how many tonnes; and
(c) what was its ultimate fate?

Mr O'Neil (for Sir CHARLES COURT) replied:

- (1) \$5 751.87.
- (2) \$5 867.10.
- (3) (a) to (c) No.

SECURITY INDUSTRY

Assistance and Security Pty. Ltd.

1747. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Is it a fact that a search of the WA Corporate Affairs Commission at 3.30 p.m. on Friday, 8th September, 1978, disclosed that no memorandum of articles of association had been filed with the commission at that time on behalf of a group called Assistance and Security Pty. Ltd.?

- (2) Is it a fact that in an article published on page 3 of the *Daily News* on Friday, 8th September, 1978, under the headline "Security Group Row Looms", a Mr Don Thomas and a Mr John Evans were named as directors of a new company called Assistance and Security Pty. Ltd.?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) There is no record kept by the Corporate Affairs Office of unsuccessful searches, because no fee is charged in such cases.

The documents (including the memorandum and articles of association) required to be lodged for incorporation of Assistance and Security Pty. Limited were presented for registration at the Corporate Affairs Office on 6th September, 1978, and the appropriate fees paid.

Notwithstanding that the certificate of incorporation of that company was subsequently dated 6th September, 1978, it would take approximately three working days for the documents to be processed by the Corporate Affairs Office and become available for public search.

- (2) Yes, it is a fact that such an article containing the information referred to appeared in the *Daily News*.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Packaging and Labelling Laws

1748. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) What initiatives have the Government taken to develop—
(a) improved; and
(b) uniform, packaging and labelling laws?
- (2) Will any or all of the recommendations contained in the Trade Practices Commission report on that subject be implemented by the State Government?
- (3) Will he provide a copy of the report for the study of Members?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) Because the main thrust of the Trade Practices Commission report on packaging and labelling is directed toward the vital need for uniformity, it would be counter-productive, and indeed illogical, for any State Govern-

ment to now act unilaterally. The Federal Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs has been asked to arrange high priority discussions between Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments in order to make a co-ordinated effort to improve uniformity in this field throughout Australia.

It should also be remembered that a great deal of progress has already been made through the work of the Standing Committee on Packaging and the National Health and Medical Research Council.

- (3) A copy is available from the library of this Parliament.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

Large and Heavy Vehicles: Control

1749. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Local Government:

Further to question 1665 of 1978, on what date was the Local Government Association and the Country Shire Councils' Association invited to make further submissions to the Government?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

1st June, 1978.

ABORIGINES

Funds and Population

1750. Mr CRANE, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) What was the financial contribution to Aboriginal welfare in this State by—
 - (a) Commonwealth;
 - (b) State,
 in each of the years—
 - (i) 1975-76;
 - (ii) 1976-77;
 - (iii) 1977-78?
- (2) What was the estimated Aboriginal population in this State in each of the past three years?

Mr YOUNG replied:

- (1) (a) 1975-76—\$20 621 658;
1976-77—\$18 428 202;
1977-78—\$21 176 687.
- (b) 1975-76, 1976-77, 1977-78—State welfare services are available to the Aboriginal people on the same basis as to the non-Aboriginal population. No separate records of expenditure are maintained.

- (2) 30th June, 1976, 34 331;
30th June, 1977, 35 997;
30th June, 1978, 36 325.

EDUCATION

Boarding Allowances

1751. Mr CRANE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What are the present levels of financial assistance Commonwealth and/or State given to—
 - (a) Aboriginal children;
 - (b) other children,
 in the outlying parts of this State when they must board away to receive the appropriate education?
- (2) Has the individual assistance so given increased or decreased over the last three years?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Commonwealth Allowances:
 - (a) Aboriginal children (secondary students only)—
 - (i) Books and clothing—upper secondary students, \$300 per annum; lower secondary students, \$250 per annum.
 - (ii) Non-Government boarding school—\$1 600 per annum plus school fees;
hostels—\$30 per week plus school fees;
private board—\$22 per week plus school fees.
 - (iii) personal allowance—upper secondary students, \$3.00 per week; lower secondary students, \$1.50 per week.
 (Note: Items (i) and (iii) above available to all Aboriginal secondary students.)
 - (b) Other children (primary and secondary)—
 - (i) A basic allowance, free of means test—\$500 per annum;
 - (ii) additional allowance, subject to means test and to boarding costs actually incurred—up to \$500 per annum;

the teachers of which have been asked to strike on the 3rd and 5th October, 1978?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

In reply to the member for Whitford—and I acknowledge the lack of notice of the question—it would seem from the list that has been published, and which was made available to me yesterday, that so far as the schools that are involved on the 3rd October are concerned, they are from the upper great southern area, and in the city from the north-west metropolitan region and the south-east metropolitan region. So far as Assembly electorates are concerned, I leave it to the member to define those exactly.

If he is asking me to say, or suggesting to me, that they are predominantly the electorates of Government members, he would be correct. There are two matters of great—

Several members interjected.

Mr Pearce: Nonsense! Don't be so stupid!

The SPEAKER: Order! The Minister will resume his seat. Orders of the day—

Mr O'Neil: May I suggest you take the business now?

The SPEAKER: I shall leave the Chair until after the afternoon tea suspension.

