

pipes to be laid in rock in nearly every locality. In South Australia a considerable number of clay beds are encountered. Therefore one cannot compare one State with another because the cost of installation of services and the capital outlay varies considerably and must be recouped. This is a bad comparison and I did not set out to make it.

The Premier should have another thought about his statement that the Whitlam Government did not initiate the finance for local governments. If he ponders a while he will realise that the Whitlam Government did not initiate it in its present form. However, Mr Whitlam gave local authorities access to the Grants Commission and many received amounts in previous years. Therefore they certainly were not receiving the money from the Fraser Government.

The Premier will also recall that much time was taken up at the Constitution Convention he attended—and, for his information, at the one he did not attend—in dealing with the granting of financial assistance from the Federal source to local authorities. Therefore it was certainly very much a programme initiated by the Whitlam Government. Certainly I would not like to see the present policy continued and in our policy for the next election it certainly will not be the same as the scheme proposed by the present State Government. The money will be applied where it is necessary and will not be wasted, particularly while we have a system of a limited franchise and all the people are being taxed, while the money obtained is applied to an area of limited franchise. Those on this side of the House will not support such a proposal.

In case the message did not get through to the Minister for Labour and Industry, at no time did I mention seasonal adjustments in the figures I quoted. They were the real figures taken from the statistician's submission. I did not intend to imply that they were any other figures. When we tried to check them we ran into the problem he encountered and also we found they were much higher in many cases and thus only exaggerated our case if we wanted to put more emphasis on it.

A number of speakers on this side have ably replied to the points made as the debate ensued. I do not believe I should labour the situation. I am somewhat surprised that no-one from the NCP has indicated his opinion on the motion one way or the other. One would really not know how members of the NCP would vote if we did not have knowledge of their previous actions in this House when the vote was taken.

Of course one cannot say that the lack of a speech by the NCP is a criticism of it, because we have been referring to the Liberal Party's policy, not its performance. We are arguing against the policy

of the Liberal Party rather than that proposed by the National Alliance or whatever it was at the time. Therefore I suppose it is fair to say that they would not enter the debate to defend the policy of the Liberal Party when it had no due regard for the thoughts of the NCP.

That is all I desire to say and I conclude by recommending to the House that it supports the motion and gets rid of the present Government.

Mr Laurance: It is a fizzog.

Mr Jamieson: Talking about yourself again?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Question put and a division taken with the following result—

Ayes—16

Mr Bateman	Mr Harman
Mr Bertram	Mr Hartrey
Mr Bryce	Mr Jamieson
Mr B. T. Burke	Mr T. H. Jones
Mr T. J. Burke	Mr McIver
Mr Carr	Mr Skidmore
Mr Davies	Mr Taylor
Mr T. D. Evans	Mr A. R. Tonkin
Mr Fletcher	Mr Moiler

(Teller)

Noes—27

Mr Blaikie	Mr O'Connor
Sir Charles Court	Mr Old
Mr Cowan	Mr Ridge
Mr Coyne	Mr Rushton
Mrs Craig	Mr Shalders
Mr Crane	Mr Sibson
Dr Dadour	Mr Soderman
Mr Grayden	Mr Stephens
Mr Grewar	Mr Thompson
Mr P. V. Jones	Mr Tubby
Mr Laurance	Mr Watt
Mr McPharlin	Mr Young
Mr Mensaros	Mr Clarks
Mr Nanovich	

(Teller)

Aye	Pair	No
Mr Barnett		Mr O'Neill

Question thus negatived.

Motion defeated.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE: SPECIAL

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [3.33 a.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 11.00 a.m. today (Thursday).

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 3.34 a.m. (Thursday).

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 5th August, 1976

The SPEAKER (Mr Hutchinson) took the Chair at 11.00 a.m., and read prayers.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Luncheon Suspension: Announcement

THE SPEAKER (Mr Hutchinson): I wish to advise members that, after consultation with the Premier and the Leader

of the Opposition, and with the concurrence of the House, I have resolved to adjourn for lunch at 12.30 p.m. Questions will be taken at a convenient time after lunch, probably after the afternoon tea suspension.

BILLS (3): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Firearms Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr O'Connor (Minister for Police), and read a first time.

2. Stock Diseases (Regulations) Act Amendment Bill.

3. Cattle Industry Compensation Act Amendment Bill.

Bills introduced, on motions by Mr Old (Minister for Agriculture), and read a first time.

SUPPLY BILL

Message: Appropriations

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the Bill.

Second Reading

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Treasurer) [11.07 a.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This measure seeks the grant of supply to Her Majesty of \$565 million for the works and services of the year ending the 30th June, 1977, pending the passage of Appropriation Bills later in the current session of Parliament.

Before I turn to the actual provisions of the Bill I would like to take a few moments to comment briefly on the results of last financial year.

Members will be aware already that the Consolidated Revenue Budget resulted in a surplus of \$594 000. This was a most satisfying outcome, particularly as it was achieved in a year which was notable for its financial uncertainty.

It is the first time since 1967-68 that transactions on the Consolidated Revenue Fund have resulted in a surplus.

When the Budget was introduced last year I pointed out that the State was in no position to set aside capital funds to cover a deficit on the Consolidated Revenue Fund as we had been forced to do in the previous year. The Government therefore aimed for a balanced Budget with revenue and expenditure equalling \$980.673 million.

In the outturn, actual expenditure amounted to \$950.267 million and revenue receipts totalled \$950.861 million.

As I have mentioned, it was a year of financial uncertainty and this is reflected in some marked variations in the Estimates of both revenue and expenditure.

At the time the Budget was framed, it was estimated that there could be a 21 per cent increase in average wages during the year ended the 31st March, 1976. This was the figure on which Estimates for the Federal Government's Budget and the financial assistance grant payable to the State were prepared and prudent financial management required us to base our Estimates of revenue and expenditure on the same figure.

As it turned out, the actual increase was 16.87 per cent and this improvement had an effect on several aggregates in the Estimates of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

In the first place the lower percentage meant a drop in receipts from the Commonwealth under the financial assistance grants formula. Members will recall that the State's entitlement was determined by a formula which made allowance for the increase in national average wages from March to March, population increase and a betterment factor.

Our financial assistance grants were \$12.6 million less than the Budget estimate because of the variation in the wages factor.

The lower than expected increase in average wages also resulted in savings in the Budget provision for wage increases. These savings were higher than the reduction in receipts from the Commonwealth. This is because our total wages bill is much greater than the total amount of general revenue assistance which we receive from the Commonwealth Government.

The resulting reduction in expected wage payments last year provided the opportunity for the Government to introduce an accrual system of accounting for salary payments.

Previously provision was made in the Budget to meet the wage costs relating to the pay days actually falling in the financial year. On a fortnightly pay basis there are usually 26 pay days in the year but, periodically, there are 27 pays. When this happens the problem arises of having to find the extra funds in the Budget for the additional pay.

The impact on the Budget and the resulting problem it creates can be substantial. As an example, in the financial year 1976-77 we faced the prospect of having to meet 27 fortnightly pays for teachers. That single extra pay would have added \$5.9 million to expenditure in this year without any offsetting increase in revenue.

The procedure followed by most private firms and by some other States is to charge to the accounts for the year the wages bill appropriate to the number of working days in the year irrespective of the fall of pay days. Clearly this requires that payments in respect of the incomplete pay period at the end of the year be made

to a suspense account to be drawn against in the next year when the actual payout has to be made.

Although the accrual approach is desirable as a means of equalising the impact on the Budget of the wages bill from year to year, the problem is when to make the change as the initial impact on the Budget in the first year can be substantial.

As I mentioned earlier, the opportunity was provided this year when wage payments fell short of the estimate and accordingly a calculated sum of \$8 million was paid to a suspense account to cover salary payments for which there was an accrued liability to the 30th June, 1976, but which were not due to be made until this year.

The Budget for 1976-77 and subsequent years will provide for wage and salary payments actually accruing in the financial year.

The lower than anticipated wages bill last year also resulted in pay-roll tax collections falling below estimate. Collections from this source were \$1.8 million less than the Budget forecast.

Another major variation between the Estimates and the outturn was caused by changes in the Commonwealth-State hospital cost sharing arrangements.

The Budget made allowance for the Commonwealth contributions for daily bed payments for public hospitals to be paid to the Consolidated Revenue Fund and subsequently transferred to the hospitals via the Hospital Fund. However, after the Budget was presented the Commonwealth Government adopted a different procedure and made these payments direct to the hospitals. This administrative action made no difference to the amounts actually received but had the effect of reducing both the revenue and expenditure sides of the Consolidated Revenue Estimates by approximately \$20 million.

The overall savings in payments to public hospitals was \$25.5 million. In addition to the amount of \$20 million which I have mentioned, delays in opening new major facilities at three hospitals resulted in savings of \$800 000 in operating expenses. A change in the system of payment for pathology services at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital accounted for savings of \$750 000 but this was offset by increased expenditure by the State Health Laboratories. The cost of medical services and other items of hospital expenditure were also below estimate by about \$4 million.

However, only one-half of these savings were of direct benefit to the State as they were offset in part by reductions in the Commonwealth contribution under the Medibank agreement.

I pointed out in the Budget speech last year that it had been difficult to estimate what the cost of hospital and medical

services would be for the year following the introduction of Medibank. It was hard to know what effect the new system would have on the demand for these services and I was apprehensive that the estimates may have been wide of the mark. I am pleased therefore to find that after making allowance for the administrative changes to the system, the results have been so close to estimate.

State revenue from stamp duties, mainly on real estate transactions, was \$10.2 million above estimate. This highlights the good year experienced by the home building industry.

Revenue from probate duty exceeded the estimate by \$1.6 million, liquor taxes by \$1 million and other State taxes by \$1.8 million.

Revenue for Commonwealth funded specific purpose programmes was above the estimate by \$1.6 million but this was offset by a corresponding increase in expenditure.

The Country Water Supplies Department lifted its revenue by \$1.5 million above estimate, mainly because of increased sales of water due to the long dry summer.

Railway revenue was down \$2 million on estimate because of a higher level of outstanding revenue at the close of the financial year.

Mining royalties were \$3.9 million less than expected mainly as a result of loss in production due to industrial stoppages.

Revenue collected by the Road Traffic Authority exceeded the estimate by \$1.1 million mainly because a greater number of people than forecast opted to renew their driving licences for a three-year period rather than for the former maximum period of a year. However, the Road Traffic Authority and Police Department's expenditure exceeded Budget as a result of an unexpected award increase for police officers and because of heavy overtime costs.

Higher stevedoring costs and reduced patronage for the service were the principal reasons for a deterioration in the results of the State Shipping Service. The loss for the year was \$7.3 million which was \$900 000 above the estimate despite a freight increase in February.

The Education Department exceeded its salary vote by \$4.8 million. There were two reasons for this. Firstly an allowance was made in the Budget for a contribution from the Commonwealth Government towards the cost of certain new teaching, clerical and support staff. However, the contribution did not eventuate and the Commonwealth made payments for existing staff only. The department, therefore, had to fund the total cost of new staff in 1975-76. In addition, an error occurred in the department's estimates of salary

costs for the year. A recently formed budgeting section in the department will exercise closer control over the preparation of estimates in the future.

The State's sesquicentenary anniversary occurs in 1979. A committee has been appointed to co-ordinate appropriate celebrations for that year and it was felt that it would be prudent to budget in advance for the expenditure that is likely to be incurred for that purpose and so spread the cost over more than one year. An amount of \$1 million was therefore transferred to an appropriate trust account in the Treasury during the year. A similar provision will be made in the Estimates for 1976-77.

To achieve a balanced Budget in 1975-76 it was expected that it would be necessary to bring into Consolidated Revenue an amount of \$6.479 million from moneys earned by the investment of the State's cash resources on the short-term money market during 1974-75. However, by exercising tight control on expenditure throughout the year, it was found possible to avoid having to draw on this reserve in 1975-76. It is intended to draw on this balance to support the State's capital works programme in the coming year.

This matter will be explained in more detail when I introduce the Loan Fund Estimates, but suffice to say that amount of money has been earmarked for the purpose.

As I previously mentioned, the 1975-76 financial year finished with a small surplus and we now face the task of framing the Budget for 1976-77. This will be no less difficult than in the year just passed but we have a sound base from which to start.

The new tax sharing arrangements between the Commonwealth and States came into operation from the 1st July this year.

Under this new scheme, Western Australia will receive \$444 million in 1976-77, an increase of \$6.9 million compared with the amount we would have received had the former financial assistance grants formula applied.

I will have more to say on this development when speaking to the Consolidated Revenue Fund Estimates later in this sitting.

The State will receive \$126.3 million under the 1976-77 loan programme which is a 5 per cent increase on the programme of \$120.3 million approved for 1975-76. Of this amount \$42.1 million will be received by way of a capital grant compared with \$40.1 million received in 1975-76.

I now turn to the provisions of the Supply Bill presently before the House.

An issue of \$500 million is sought from the Consolidated Revenue Fund and \$50 million from moneys to the credit of the General Loan Fund. Provision is also

made in the Bill for an issue of \$15 million to enable the Treasurer to make such temporary advances as may be necessary.

The amounts have been based on needs for the existing level of services and no provision has been made for new policy decisions which must await the introduction of the Budget.

I am sure members are aware of the reasons that a Supply Bill is introduced at about this time each year. Of course, it is purely a means to enable the Government of the day to have a supply of funds until such time as the Consolidated Revenue Estimates and the Loan Estimates are presented to, considered by, and hopefully passed by the State Parliament.

I commend the Bill to members.

MR JAMIESON (Welshpool—Leader of the Opposition) [11.21 a.m.]: It is the normal procedure at this juncture for the Government to introduce a Supply Bill to tide the Government over until we debate the Estimates and are provided with more refined knowledge of the financial requirements of the State. That will happen when we debate the Estimates later on in the year.

However, there are a few points I want to make relating to some things that occurred in recent times. Of course, the Treasurer has made great play of the fact that the State would have a surplus at the end of the year. It is always delightful to have such a surplus, but when we examine the surplus in the cold hard light of dawn and see the number of people who are being penalised, I am quite sure the Treasurer would not be happy with the surplus. According to the Treasurer the surplus amounted to \$594 000.

I do not know whether we should be happy about having that surplus. A little earlier the Treasurer made an announcement about the fact that pensioners were being asked to pay fares on public transport which were equal to the increased fares applying to adults. He gave examples of increases of 5c, 10c, and 15c, depending on the distances travelled. Ever since then the Treasurer has been defending his action by saying that the pensioners are not being called on to pay more than they paid previously. I do not know how good an accountant he is. Previously the pensioners paid nothing, but now they have to pay something; therefore they are paying more than they had to pay before. In putting forward his view the Treasurer might convince himself and some of his fellow accountants, but he will certainly not convince me that the pensioners are not paying more. I am sure that when the next State election takes place these people will form their own views to assess the position when they are called upon to pass judgment on the performance of the Government.

Mr Coyne: The pensioners are not paying anything more than they paid before.

Mr JAMIESON: In his Press release the Treasurer pointed out that some of these people indicated they would like to pay something for the use of public transport. Whether or not they have to pay something, they still have to produce their pension cards. This is a touchy matter with some pensioners.

Members of Parliament are provided with free transport on the MTT services, and for this the Government pays the MTT \$80 per member each year. As far as I am concerned the Government is being robbed, because like most other members I would not use this concession once a year.

Mr Sibson: Do you not use the buses?

Mr JAMIESON: I thought it was a pity that this concession was taken away from members for a time. Previously many members used public transport quite a lot.

The pensioners were granted free transport. Indeed, the committee inquiring into pensioner concessions and benefits indicated very clearly that this free travel concession should be continued and extended to the other people.

The Treasurer also indicated that he would introduce some of the concessions recommended by the committee, but he did not know when, and he was not specific. Then he got away from the idea of implementing any of the recommendations, because he said he wanted to have consultations with the Eastern States. The report contains a section of recommendations which relate to the State specifically, and they have nothing to do with what applies in the Eastern States. If we examine the appendices that are attached to the report, relating to the position in the Eastern States, we find that the Treasurer could have done a lot for the pensioners in Western Australia without causing embarrassment to the State. For instance, he could have granted concessions in respect of fishing and shooting licences, because essentially this is a State matter.

I should imagine that members opposite with pensioners in their electorates who go marroning would not like them to meet the impost of having to obtain an inland fisherman's licence, merely to catch a few marron or trout. Similarly, if pensioners go to Bunbury to catch a few crabs occasionally they should not have to obtain a licence for this purpose.

These concessions could have been granted at the stroke of the pen by the Government, without any heartburning and without creating problems to the finances of the State. I am quite sure the people of Western Australia would be prepared to abolish these licences and bear the impost themselves, as they were prepared to carry the impost in granting free travel concessions to pensioners.

Returning to the subject of the production of free passes on public transport, even some members of Parliament are not inclined to produce their passes. They feel

they should not have to do this, because people less financial than themselves are paying fares. Members of Parliament like police officers and others have the right of free travel on public transport, and some take advantage of the concession.

In the case of members of Parliament who travel to the east by train and have to produce their passes, their conscience is not disturbed in the way that it is when they use MTT services. I do not know at what point their conscience varies. I have not been able to understand that point of view. If a person is granted a concession as a right he should use it without his conscience being pricked. In the past when the free travel concession was available I made use of it, and my conscience was not disturbed.

I want to make the point again to the Treasurer that the MTT is robbing the Government blind in requiring it to pay \$80 per member per year to cover free fare concessions. So, the MTT is making a profit out of the Government.

I see no reason for withdrawing concessions from pensioners. Among the recommendations made by the committee inquiring into pensioner concessions and benefits is the following—

The present system of allowing eligible pensioners to defer water and local government rates continue and that those pensioners at present eligible be offered the choice of a 25 per cent concession if they pay their rates as they fall due each year.

This concession would be of great benefit to pensioners who are buying their homes. Because of the application of mortgage payments on properties, pensioners are not eligible for this concession at present. However, they would be eligible for the 25 per cent concession if they paid the full rates.

I think it would be fair and equitable to adopt this recommendation quickly, because a number of people whom I know have entered into arrangements to buy houses from the State Housing Commission and through private sources. At their stage of life when they, as bread-winners, retire they are faced with a big impost in trying to meet their costs. In contrast the person who starts earlier in life to purchase his home is able to claim exemption from certain costs related to the property and does not have to outlay the cash to pay the various rates.

A while ago I mentioned travel concessions. The recommendation was that these be extended to dependent children of eligible pensioners provided they are accompanied by a parent. I think the Government could have given attention to that one. There are a number of others, but I will not go through them all. The Treasurer must be aware of them. However, I do not think he has given very much attention to the report which is fairly

comprehensive and sets out the conditions in all States. Certainly if some of them had been effected life could have been made that little bit happier for the pensioners in this State. However, that was not to be the case because the Treasurer chose to go the other way.

I wish to mention several other items. Under our legislation we still have the right to fix the price of bread. I understand that the Minister for Labour and Industry has that under his portfolio and must submit the matter to Cabinet from time to time when a request is made for an increase in the price. I raise strong objection to the kind of advertising now being indulged in by the bigger bakeries.

I have in my hand a wrapper for Corlett Bros. white sliced milk loaf. On the wrapper, quite clearly, is a reference to Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc. 1966 as being the owners of the copyright of the Fred Flintstone cartoon displayed on the wrapper as a gimmick. Obviously Corlett Bros. must pay plenty to obtain permission to use the cartoon. I want to know from the Minister whether he is ensuring that the payment for this sort of thing is being deducted before a request is made for an increase in the price of bread to the public.

I do not think it is fair that these firms should be permitted to engage in this gimmickry if as a consequence the public must pay more for the bread. I do not see how the procedure would sell one more loaf of bread. I want the Minister to give an assurance that he will make it his business to see these items are discounted before any decision is made on a price increase.

Sir Charles Court: Can you tell me the type of bread?

Mr JAMIESON: It is a sliced milk loaf.

Sir Charles Court: Some of them are not under the committee.

Mr JAMIESON: No, but I think it would have been one of the ordinary types of loaf.

One of my first jobs as Leader of the Opposition was to board the USS *Oklahoma City* when it came here in connection with the 200th anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence.

Mr Clarko: They are not radioactive now.

Mr JAMIESON: I do not think it was, anyway, that is not the point I am discussing at present.

W. W. Mitchell and others prepare all kinds of documents for the Government and I believe that a little of the money spent on them could well be spent on publications to be provided for visiting personnel of ships in order to give them a better impression of the type of people we are. In the officers' wardroom I happened to pick up a publication entitled "Inside Australia . . . A guide for the casual visitor".

Members must bear in mind that a considerable number of men are on board and this is the only time most of them will ever have the opportunity to visit Australia. Therefore we should ensure that they are provided with a guide from our side of the picture—and not some distorted guide—to read before they arrive here.

The Premier spent such a lot of time defending "God Save the Queen" when at the Premiers' Conference. According to the minutes the Premier was upset when it was stated that more time had been spent on that item than on the rest of the agenda. I am sure the Premier would be very upset if he read in this guide the item about Perth at present being a "pleasant small city". I will not read all the pamphlet, but after listing the various cities, the pamphlet contains a list of the first words said to a visitor in each capital city and they are as follows—

Brisbane: "'Ave a drink, mate!"

Sydney: "What's your bank balance?"

Melbourne: "Where did you go to school?"

Adelaide: "Of what religious persuasion were your parents?"

Perth: "'Ave a drink, mate!"

The pamphlet then states, referring to Perth—

The city has eight golf courses, three race tracks, and four legitimate theatres. The audiences do not rise for "God Save the Queen" after performances, as they do elsewhere in Australia.

I can imagine the Premier would have blown his top if he had picked up one of these pamphlets.

Sir Charles Court: You will be relieved to know that we have our own arrangements with the ship for the dissemination of literature and other details.

Mr JAMIESON: After it arrives.

Sir Charles Court: No. We have an interception system.

Mr JAMIESON: Obviously the Government's information was not freely available. The guide on board the ship was quite misleading. It went on to give a dissertation of the Australian language and I think you, Mr Speaker, would jump through the roof if we used some of the terms in your presence. The pamphlet states—

"Bloody" is the Great Australian Adjective—English too, of course. "Kangabloodyroo" they say.

I think if that was said to me it could be said that the person was not a full dollar. The pamphlet also refers to the words "bloke", "winge", "yabber", "bludge", "blue", "tucker", "jackeroo", "Goodonyer", and so on.

It then goes on to give sailors advice in respect of intercourse and girls. I am sure the advice is good and what sailors would require, but we could put it in terms which are much more acceptable.

I am glad to hear that we have an interception service, but I think this publication should have been intercepted before it got too far.

Sir Charles Court: I do not know how it got there, but a very effective tourist information section has always been installed on the ships, and in the case of the aircraft carrier I know the appropriate people boarded it before it got here so they were well briefed before they reached Fremantle.

Mr JAMIESON: This is one of the occasions when those people did not get to them. I am sure the sailors would prefer a publication which gives a better indication of the situation in the metropolis than the one supplied.

I have not much more to say on the legislation before us. Quite a large amount is involved as the Treasurer indicated, but when the Budget is introduced later in the year we will be able to deal with various items on the specific Estimates. In the meantime we need general supply to carry us through and the Opposition realises the responsibilities of Governments to obtain that supply because we are now beyond supply and are relying on warrants by the Governor.

When the motion was moved to suspend Standing Orders for the purpose of dealing with this Bill I mentioned that perhaps at some later stage we would need to think about providing some sort of temporary coverage so that the Governor is not placed in the position where he virtually has to approve of something on behalf of the Parliament. As a result of actions taken elsewhere by Governors, I think we should put them in the situation of being representatives of the Crown, and nothing more nor less. I believe we should be able to come up with a solution to this matter without having to rush measures such as the Supply Bill before Parliament when it resumes for the spring session.

Subject to those few comments, I support the Bill.

MR T. H. JONES (Collie) [11.41 a.m.]: I will take this opportunity to refer to a number of matters which have exercised my mind, and firstly I will deal with the Road Traffic Authority in Western Australia. It is true to say there is still some division between the Police Force and the Road Traffic Authority. Recently I toured the south-west and the great southern areas of the State and throughout my tour I noticed a distinct division between the Police Force and the RTA. I am sorry the Minister for Police is not present.

At one centre, after some discussion with a group of people, it was alleged that the RTA was set up as a money-making organisation. It was reported to me on one occasion that the Road Traffic Authority patrolmen had been directed that unless they increased the income from fines they would be transferred from the area. I do not know whether that report was correct, but I would like the Minister to check it out. If the statement is true it gives cause for some concern.

I am glad the Minister for Police has returned to the Chamber and for his information I will repeat the statement made to me during my recent tour. I was told that a number of road traffic patrolmen were informed by their senior officer that unless they were able to increase the income from fines they would be transferred to another area. That is a very sorry state of affairs.

Mr Blaikie: What area was that?

Mr T. H. JONES: It was not the area represented by the member who has interjected.

Mr Blaikie: Was it Busselton?

Mr O'Connor: No instruction was given from the top.

Mr T. H. JONES: I received this information at a centre in the great southern area of the State. If the information is correct it should be checked out because it should not be the function of the Road Traffic Authority in Western Australia to increase revenue.

Mr O'Connor: Will the member for Collie advise me of the area concerned, privately?

Mr T. H. JONES: I will supply the information to the Minister on a confidential basis. For obvious reasons, I do not want the area recorded. However, I will supply the information to the Minister because if this type of action has been taken it is completely wrong.

Mr Blaikie: You indicated that the information has not come from the Busselton area?

Mr T. H. JONES: Yes, the member for Vasse can relax. It is the first time I knew that Busselton was in the great southern area; it is time the member did some homework. However, he can relax.

The Road Traffic Authority is not operating in the manner expected by the people of the State. It was reported in a recent issue of *The West Australian* that a number of shires in Western Australia were not happy with the operations of the Road Traffic Authority. The functions of the authority were discussed at a recent conference of country shires.

Mr O'Connor: The matter was resolved.

Mr T. H. JONES: There was some dissension, as the Minister would be well aware. The cleavage between the RTA and the Police Force generally throughout Western Australia is well illustrated

in the area of housing. Housing is a problem, as both the Minister for Police and the member for Vasse would know. The problem does not exist only in Busselton but applies to most country areas throughout Western Australia.

While I was touring I received complaints regarding accommodation at nearly every police station. I was told that officers of the Road Traffic Authority had little trouble in obtaining accommodation. However, similar housing opportunities were not available for police officers. I believe the Minister would be aware that that is a factual statement. It is time something was done to alleviate the housing problem because it is causing further dissension between police officers and officers of the RTA.

I am concerned with the excessive overtime which is worked by officers of the Road Traffic Authority and the Police Force in Western Australia. Figures supplied to me yesterday indicate that during the last seven months of 1975 and the first seven months of 1976—a period of 14 months—members of the Police Force have been paid \$843 538 in overtime. It is high time the intake into the Police Force was stepped up. Considerable concern has been expressed by the Premier, and by members of the Government generally, regarding the increase in the crime rate in Western Australia. More men should be taken into the Police Force on a permanent basis. A policeman working on overtime cannot give the same service which is expected of him while working regular hours.

Mr Bertram: He certainly cannot.

Mr T. H. JONES: The figures for the RTA tell the same story. Patrolmen have been paid \$820 971 in overtime. That is a total in excess of \$1.6 million which has been paid in overtime to officers of the Police Force and the RTA during the last 14 months of operations, and it is time the Government took some action. We know that the increase in crime has caused some concern. There has been an increase in the number of bank hold-ups, robberies at chemist shops, and an increase in rape. Is it any wonder that crime is increasing when it is necessary to pay such excessive sums in overtime? A sum in excess of \$60 000 has been paid during each of the last 14 months, by way of overtime, to men employed in the Police Force and the Road Traffic Authority. An additional sum of \$13 235 has been paid in overtime to the Public Service within the RTA during the last 14 months. I suggest there is no need for me to say any more on that question.

The SPEAKER: I ask members to keep down their level of conversation, please.

Mr T. H. JONES: Another matter which has caused me some concern is the use of private pilots by the Road Traffic Authority. I have received a letter from a pilot

and although I have not had time to investigate the matter personally, I will draw it to the attention of the Minister for Police. The letter is brief and I would like to have it recorded in *Hansard*. The complaint from a freelance commercial pilot, reads as follows—

I wish to bring to your notice that the Road Traffic Authority is using private pilots in its flying operations. This is contrary to air navigation orders as laid down by the Department of Transport. These state that a private pilot shall pilot an aircraft only for his private transport and not for hire or reward, or reward in favour of the organisation on behalf of which the aircraft is being operated.

Mr O'Connor: There is no hire or reward in connection with the Road Traffic Authority. They work on a wage structure.

Mr T. H. JONES: Where are the aircraft hired from?

Mr O'Connor: The RTA hires them.

Mr T. H. JONES: They are on hire.

Mr O'Connor: Not by the individual pilot.

Mr T. H. JONES: I am quoting what the pilot has written to me.

Mr O'Connor: The point is that the pilots concerned are not flying for reward. They are receiving wages.

Mr T. H. JONES: They are hired for reward, by the RTA.

Mr O'Connor: But not by the pilots.

Mr T. H. JONES: I have received the letter which I have been quoting from a pilot and I would like the Minister to inquire into the matter.

Sir Charles Court: He has to be a licensed pilot before he can fly.

Mr T. H. JONES: It does not matter. It is a question of the Air Navigation Regulations, according to this pilot. I have not had time to check it out but I take the opportunity to raise the matter on his behalf. He says—

This regulation is normally strictly enforced by the Department of Transport. However in the case of the Road Traffic Authority it seems that laws pertaining to air safety do not apply.

Mr O'Connor: I will reply later on.

Mr T. H. JONES: I ask the Minister what plan he has in operation to alleviate the urgent need for housing for members of the Road Traffic Authority and the Police Force in Western Australia. The existing situation is disgraceful. I have had complaints from the Police Union in nearly every centre I have visited and this matter is causing friction between the RTA and the Police Force generally.

On my visit to the CIB in Bunbury I had a complaint that only three officers are employed there to cover the whole of the south-west area. They complain they are overworked and that due to the lack of staff it is impossible for them to deal with the number of cases coming forward from day to day. Worse still, they complain that when an officer of the CIB in Bunbury goes on leave he is not replaced for that period. This matter is causing concern not only to the CIB but also to the people in Bunbury.

Mr O'Connor: Do they complain to you that they have too much to do?

Mr T. H. JONES: They complain to me that they are overworked and when they go on leave they are not replaced. There are three officers who I take it have five weeks' leave a year. So for 15 weeks a year there are only two officers on duty, and they complain that the situation has not been rectified.

I inspected the cells at the Bunbury Police Station and I consider they are not up to standard, in this day and age, when we are pressing for improvement of the accommodation. Anyone can be arrested—any one of us here could be arrested—and, after spending a night in the police station, be charged the next day and found not guilty. In the Bunbury Police Station all I found were mattresses and a few blankets thrown on the floor. In Busselton I found a completely different set of circumstances which pertains in most new police stations, where the beds are up off the floor and the blankets and sheets are of a much higher standard than those in Bunbury. As Bunbury is a big centre in the south-west I think there is an urgent need for the Government to upgrade the substandard facilities which exist at the present time at the Bunbury Police Station.

Mr Coyne: Busselton must have a good member.

Mr T. H. JONES: The situation in Collie is similar to that in Busselton. I will not argue about that.

Mr May: On that basis, Bunbury must have a bad member.

Mr T. H. JONES: Surely we are able to provide concrete beds such as those at Busselton and Collie. It is not good enough that a man who may be arrested one night and on the next day be found not guilty in court should be put into a cell where there is just a mattress thrown on the floor in a corner.

Mr Coyne: He might be so drunk he would not notice.

Mr T. H. JONES: I mentioned briefly last night the matter of Aboriginal housing. As the Minister for Housing and Community Welfare would know, I was promised something would be done to alleviate the problem in Collie. What has

happened in Collie has probably happened right throughout Western Australia. The Government closed the native reserves, which was about the worst thing that could have happened. I do not think the reserves should necessarily have been retained but that communal centres should have been opened in their place.

There are a number of unfortunate Aborigines in Western Australia for whose accommodation neither the State Housing Commission nor the Department for Community Welfare will accept responsibility. We ask: Who looks after them? When I had a conference in Collie with the Minister for Housing, at which the Minister for Community Welfare was in attendance, I asked who was going to accept responsibility for these people. I have never previously seen so much shuffling take place at a meeting.

Someone must accept this responsibility. The situation in Collie is shocking. Twelve months ago I was promised that the camps which were removed by the Department for Community Welfare from the Wilson Park area and resited in another area would be only temporary. They have now been there for 12 months. Aged people and invalid pensioners are living in tents east of Collie and they have not had a shower or a drop of hot water for 12 months. This is disgraceful in this day and age. The people have two toilets at their disposal and there is no hot water or electricity. Twelve months ago the Government promised me it would build a new community centre to overcome this problem.

I say if we close native reserves we should accept responsibility to look after the people who lived on them. It is time some action was taken. We should not have closed the reserves. We should have upgraded them and sent homemakers and others to the reserves to teach the Aborigines our way of life, and when we were satisfied that the Aboriginal families could cope we could have put them into State Housing Commission homes. The Government went about it backwards. It closed all the reserves, put the Aboriginal people into homes, and then tried to teach them our way of life.

We heard a great deal last night about the new federalism. It is time something was done to alleviate the stress in Northam, Collie, and other places and look after the people in their late 60s who are living in tents and have not had a shower for 12 months because no hot water is available to them. Can members realise how these people feel, living under damp conditions where they cannot enjoy any warmth except around a fire in the open?

Mr Coyne: They are classified as transit camps only, anyway.

Mr T. H. JONES: Can that be said when they have been in existence for 12 months?

Mr Coyne: That was the purpose of them.

Mr T. H. JONES: The honourable member can say what he likes.

Mr Coyne: I am giving you a reasonable explanation. You do not understand.

Mr T. H. JONES: I am glad to hear everything is rosy for Aborigines in Murchison-Eyre.

The next matter I want to deal with in relation to Aborigines is the programme I proposed early this year to three Ministers of the Government, following discussions with Aboriginal people in the south-west. I suggested that Government instrumentalities, such as the Public Works Department, the Railways Department, the Forests Department, and the State Electricity Commission make jobs available for certain young Aborigines. It is unfortunate that in today's society many Aboriginal people do not have a chance to obtain work when white people apply for the same positions.

In many areas, after close examination we could select a limited number of young Aborigines for employment in the Main Roads Department, the Forests Department, the Railways Department, and other instrumentalities under the jurisdiction of the Government. In this way we will give those young people a chance which unfortunately they are not enjoying under the present rules of society, and I think the scheme has a lot to commend it.

Mr Coyne: That is already happening.

Mr T. H. JONES: If it is happening in the north, good luck to them, but it is certainly not happening in the southern parts of Western Australia.

Mr Coyne: You would not recognise a decent Aboriginal if you saw one!

Mr T. H. JONES: The next matter I would like to refer to is the pine mill at Greenwade. I have written repeatedly to the Minister for Forests on this matter, but no action has been taken. Here we have, in an area some 18 miles from Balingup, a very efficient pine mill operating on a contract basis. It has long been recognised that Greenwade is one of the best centres in Western Australia for pine plantations.

The mill has been closed for some months, and of course we must put a question mark against the answer we are given that this is a temporary closure. Will the mill ever open again? As my leader mentioned, during his tour of the south-west last week concern was expressed regarding the future of sawmills generally in the south-west section of the State.

I am glad to see that the Minister has returned to the Chamber—no doubt he had important business somewhere else. Through you, Sir, I would like to tell the Minister that I raised the question of the future of the Greenwade pine mill. I said that this is one of the best areas in Western Australia for this type of operation

and that it is a very efficient mill. The men there work on a contract basis with the Forests Department. The mill has been closed for months, the employees are concerned about it, and they have expressed their concern to me. I made representations to the Minister and I hope some investigation will be carried out to get the mill operating again because so many people in the area rely on the mill for their existence.

Mr Ridge: How long ago did you refer this matter to me?

Mr T. H. JONES: It was about three months ago.

Mr Ridge: And you have not had a reply to it?

Mr T. H. JONES: I have not received a reply to my last letter. Before that I had referred the matter to the Conservator of Forests and he supplied me with a reply with which I was not happy. I know the Minister has visited the area and that he is aware of the important role the Greenwade mill plays in this area. It is a major centre of pine plantations in Western Australia. With the extension of the pine plantations in the Balingup area, the mill will play a very important role in the future and, as I mentioned, it employs a number of workers from Balingup, Donnybrook, and other towns of the region. So I trust the Minister will look into this matter now that I have raised it.

I wish to refer to something else that concerns the Minister for Forests. I wrote to the Minister about this matter only a week ago and I have not had a reply to my correspondence. Concern has been expressed by the shires about the tree planting operations in their areas, and the Donnybrook-Balingup shire in particular asked me to raise this matter in Parliament. Already we have seen the town of Balingup virtually cease to exist. There is now one shop only operating in what was once a thriving township. I understand it is the intention of the Forests Department to purchase another 5 000 acres of land in the area and because of the loss of revenue to the shires—the Nannup Shire, the Bridgetown Shire, and the Donnybrook-Balingup Shire—great difficulty is being experienced in meeting planned programmes. I do not have the actual figures with me, but I do not think it is necessary to give these as the Minister is well aware of the complications involved. The shires are experiencing difficulty in meeting the programmes due to the reduction in rates because of the takeover of large areas of land by the Forests Department. The Hon. T. O. Perry and I attended a meeting in this area last week and so much concern was expressed that I have asked the Minister to go to Donnybrook to discuss the issue with the affected shires. I hope that at the first available opportunity the Minister will see fit to visit these people to discuss with them these very serious problems.

I wish now to talk about housing and sewerage extensions for the town of Collie. As I mentioned last night when the Minister for Housing was in the Chamber, for the next 12 months Collie has been allocated six houses only. I do not know whether this decision has been reversed, but I must point out that the town is in urgent need of more accommodation. We have seen a return to coal rather than oil for power generation and the Muja power station in the town is being extended to cope with this demand. I hope that the Government will alter its programme in an endeavour to alleviate the housing problems in the town of Collie.

This brings me to my next point which is the necessity for an extension of the sewerage facility in the Collie district. Limited extensions have occurred in the last 12 months. However, in a number of areas where development is taking place the blocks are not serviced and I hope the Government will see fit to extend the sewerage so that other areas of land may be opened up. I think the member for Mt. Hawthorn must have taken some of my notes.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: Shame!

Mr Skidmore: The word is "misappropriated".

Mr Crane: He put them in the drawer!

Mr T. H. JONES: It seems that the reference I wanted in regard to power generation has disappeared so I will have to leave that matter for another time.

Mr May: Quite an extension of power generation at the present time.

Mr T. H. JONES: I want to take the opportunity to support my leader again in his remarks about the concern for pensioners generally in Western Australia.

Mr Moller: Hear, hear!

Mr T. H. JONES: When I handled the Bill which provided for an increase in licence fees, I asked the Government to give some consideration to a concession for pensioners. Unfortunately my pleas fell on deaf ears. Might I, through you, Sir, ask the Treasurer when it is anticipated that the report of the committee appointed some months ago will be brought before the Parliament? I know that my concern is shared by members generally. The Treasurer is aware of the committee to which I refer and I ask him whether he can tell the Parliament when we can expect the recommendations of that committee to be brought to Parliament.

Sir Charles Court: You have had the report.

Mr Moller: We have had no action.

Mr T. H. JONES: When will the Government take some action to implement the suggestions contained in the report?

Mr Moller: Next year, when there is a change of Government.

Sir Charles Court: In fact, the Government has implemented already an important recommendation in relation to pensioners in the north-west. As far as the rest of the report is concerned, it was referred to Mr Whitlam who said he wanted it considered by a special committee. Mr Fraser reiterated that statement and we have again asked the Federal Government to expedite it. We, as a Government, have agreed to co-operate with the Federal Government.

Mr T. H. JONES: In New South Wales where the pensioners receive the benefits of concessions in shire and water rates the initiative was taken by the New South Wales Government.

Sir Charles Court: We took the initiative in respect of fares.

Mr T. H. JONES: The Court Government took the initiative—it took the fares off the pensioners.

Sir Charles Court: We did not take the fares off the pensioners—why don't you stick to the facts? We still have the most generous concessions in Australia.

Mr T. H. JONES: What was the concession the Government removed earlier this year?

Sir Charles Court: We never took away one cent of the concessions the pensioners had, and don't you distort it. We never took away a cent.

Mr T. H. JONES: Why was it necessary for the pensioners to hold a protest meeting last week?

Mr May: And not one State Government member turned up.

Sir Charles Court: I am just telling you that we never took away a cent from the pensioners.

Mr T. H. JONES: It is time the Government faced up to the situation. It is no good blaming the Federal Government all the time.

Sir Charles Court: Do not talk nonsense.

Mr T. H. JONES: The pensioners in Western Australia are in a needy situation.

Sir Charles Court: Of course they have needs.

Mr T. H. JONES: Pensioners have to pay to license their vehicles, they have to pay for driver's licences, and they have to pay water and shire rates. All this must come out of their pensions and many are in precarious situations. It is time the State Government tackled the problem. Until last year the State Government could blame the Federal Government, but now a Liberal Government is in power in Canberra, what about showing some initiative?

Sir Charles Court: We have taken the initiative. Why don't you ever think about the things that have been accomplished instead of being negative all the time?

Mr T. H. JONES: I am negative?

Sir Charles Court: Of course you are negative.

Mr T. H. JONES: I would like to see the Government operate in a positive way for once.

Sir Charles Court: You are just noise and more noise.

Mr T. H. JONES: When can we see the introduction of some positive policies to alleviate the stress on the pensioners of Western Australia? This is the question I ask the Government. All we have heard since the member for Victoria Park raised this matter is the statement that the Government has appointed a committee to look into it. That is all we have heard, but we want action. The pensioners of Western Australia want action from a Government that was going to put things right.

As the member for Mt. Hawthorn has just reminded me, it is something to which they are justly entitled. So I hope that rather than merely talking and appointing committees some positive action will be taken by this so-called "put things right" Government, and that we can expect some relief for pensioners, generally, in Western Australia.

I conclude my remarks on that note, and I hope the Ministers concerned will take note of the matters I have raised in the debate.

MR BERTRAM (Mt. Hawthorn) [12.10 p.m.]: We have been told today—and the public were told a short time ago—that the Government finished the last financial year with a surplus of \$500 000, and this notwithstanding that at about this time last year the Treasurer, typically parading, performing, and posturing, was telling the people of Western Australia that we would have a deficit of \$80 million.

Sir Charles Court: I brought in a balanced Budget; but it would not have been balanced had we not had the formula adjusted. We brought in a balanced Budget.

Mr BERTRAM: Of course the Treasurer did. He knows what I am talking about. He knew what was going on weeks beforehand when he tried to put it over the people.

Sir Charles Court: Of course, and had the formula not been adjusted we would have had a deficit.

Mr BERTRAM: Of course the Treasurer knew the Budget would be balanced weeks before, and the people whom he regards as peasants and whom we regard as people were told there would be a deficit of \$80 million.

Sir Charles Court: There would have been such a deficit if we had not got the adjustment that we sought.

Mr BERTRAM: Let the Treasurer look at the newspaper and see what he said.

Sir Charles Court: What we said to the Press was right, and the Press reported it correctly.

Mr BERTRAM: That \$80 million deficit has now turned into a surplus of \$500 000!

Sir Charles Court: That shows how good we are; you seem to be upset about it.

Mr BERTRAM: This reeks of Fraser to me; we know how he makes promises and then says they are to extend only for the immediate three or six months. Only the other day I saw a *Daily News* headline which said, "Lottery—Fraser says no devaluation". There may have been a line appearing under the word "Lottery", but on the other hand it may well have been that the media were trying to convey to the people that it was a lottery and that the Prime Minister should not be believed.

I am a supporter of Moss Cass, because there is a bundle of evidence available to support his statement that whatever the Federal Government says, we should expect the opposite. So when the Treasurer was talking about an \$80 million deficit, I did not believe him. But unfortunately many people outside did believe him. However, he has finished up with a so-called surplus of \$500 000.

Mr Sibson: Terrific administration.

Mr BERTRAM: We will come to that. That is an apparent surplus in a situation in this State which is supposed to be critical; when we are supposed to be broke and cannot give people jobs.

Mr Sibson: You are having two bob each way.

Mr BERTRAM: Let the member for Bunbury listen to this and then go home to Bunbury and try to justify the performance of his Government to his electors.

This is a notional credit of \$500 000; it is not a dinkum credit. If the Treasurer—the leader of the band—had listened to some of his people, and others were not puppetised to his baton, as obviously occurs in this Chamber for anybody who has eyes to see with and ears to hear with—

Mr Sibson: You are too one-eyed to see that.

Mr BERTRAM: The member for Bunbury will have a chance to justify this false accounting position which I am about to make clear. So that he will understand it I will give it to him slowly. If the Treasurer had not fiddled, postured, and messed around with Medibank last year, he would not have deprived the people of this State of something like \$3 million—

Sir Charles Court: If the Commonwealth had not deprived them.

Mr BERTRAM: —and the alleged surplus would be increased from \$500 000 to \$3.5 million. I will take it slowly at this stage for the benefit of the member for Bunbury, because I do not think he listened to the Treasurer. We have a new type of accounting coming into the Budget. The Treasurer has given an "explanation"; he is always capable of explaining things away. In this case he has debited in the year just passed an amount of \$8 million—money representing a period which was not relevant to last year.

Sir Charles Court: Don't talk nonsense. With the degree you boast of you should be able to work out that this is a legitimate accrual figure.

Mr BERTRAM: The Treasurer would know a fair bit about boasting, but I have not boasted about that degree in my life.

Sir Charles Court: You of all people should not criticise the fact that we were able to bring it in on an accrual basis.

Mr BERTRAM: I am criticising a bit of accrual accounting.

Sir Charles Court: It is on an accrual basis.

Mr BERTRAM: I am in favour of accrual accounting.

Sir Charles Court: That is what we have done.

Mr BERTRAM: Yes, but the fact is that the Treasurer has done it now—

Sir Charles Court: Of course he has.

Mr BERTRAM: —and is pretending he has a surplus of \$500 000, when in fact he has a surplus of \$8.5 million.

Sir Charles Court: Of course we have not. If the item is accrued it is a legitimate figure for the last year, and we have adjusted this for all Governments in the future.

Mr BERTRAM: This Government has a surplus of \$8.5 million.

Sir Charles Court: You flatter me.

Mr BERTRAM: It has this surplus in a situation in which we have people unemployed, in which people are being tied down with limited expenditure, and in which the screw is being tightened. That credit of \$8.5 million plus the amount of \$3 million for Medibank makes a total credit of \$11 million to \$12 million, and this in a situation in which the State is supposed to be broke and people are unemployed.

The Treasurer very well knows that in fact he should have done what was done at the time of transition of ordinary taxation to provisional taxation; that is, to provide a reserve for this sum of \$8 million, of which not a penny has been spent.

Sir Charles Court: It gets spent as soon as the pay day arrives.

Mr BERTRAM: The Treasurer can put it over his people, but he cannot put it over me. He had a credit of \$11 million in the last Budget.

Mr Sibson: The comment you made about Medibank is not justified, and you know it.

Mr BERTRAM: Just to accommodate the member for Bunbury, let us put Medibank aside for a moment; but let that not be construed as my resiling from that position. If we put Medibank aside, it still leaves a credit of \$8.5 million; and the Treasurer, recognising that, suddenly decided that is no good and that it would be political dynamite to be seen to have a surplus of \$8.5 million. Therefore, he decided to bury it in a reserve fund.

Sir Charles Court: It is not buried. It is there to be spent as required when the accrual becomes due. Heaven forbid you ever being in charge of the Treasury.

Mr BERTRAM: So that there will be no doubt of what I am saying, let me repeat that the true surplus is at least \$8.5 million.

Sir Charles Court: Don't you believe in allowing for accrued commitments?

Mr BERTRAM: What the Treasurer should have done—and what any other accountant would do in ordinary circumstances—is to phase that money into the economy, particularly when the State is broke, instead of trying to camouflage the truth.

Sir Charles Court: You are making a complete ass of yourself.

Mr BERTRAM: Has the Treasurer ever looked in a mirror? He is the one who talks about a fifth column and parades and performs. What the people want from the Treasurer is some action, and fewer words.

Sir Charles Court: They have it, in this.

Mr BERTRAM: Did they get it in regard to the Tresillian issue? The member for Karrinyup and the member for Scarborough were both wearing smug and complacent expressions when they listened to their Premier ridicule a bona fide motion moved by a former Minister for Health, the member for Victoria Park.

Sir Charles Court: For three years, the former Minister did not have a programme.

Mr BERTRAM: It would now appear that these two members opposite were only pretending to be so concerned about the issue because, by the smug expressions on their faces, they thought it was a smart move for the Premier to turn the issue around and ridicule the motion.

Mr May: It was on the notice paper for two months.

Mr BERTRAM: That is correct.

Mr Clarke: Do not be ridiculous! There is no foundation to what you are saying.

Mr BERTRAM: I realise the honourable member is just saying that so his denial can be recorded in *Hansard*. This is a Government which postures and parades and does not act with a particular flair for apparent rectitude and respectability but, when one scratches the surface, is found to be not so respectable. The Government prefers to go through the pretence of accountability procedures to hide the fact that \$8.5 million which was budgeted for expenditure in 1975-76 was not spent. The amount does not relate to any other year, and the Government should have released it.

Sir Charles Court: It does relate to 1976. Do not make such distortions.

Mr BERTRAM: The Government was not concerned about the people suffering the humiliating experience of being unemployed. As far as the Government is concerned, it is not a question of people but rather of correct accounting procedures and face saving.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: Balance sheets first.

Mr BERTRAM: That is right, and the people are placed last. The Government has refused to use this money to provide services which are required now, not on the eve of the next election. That is the true position, and let nobody mistake it.

It is a very depressing thing to come into this Parliament and observe the corpse-like lack of activity of this Government; it is cold and dead, fiddling around with an almost nonexistent legislative programme. When one compares this Government's programme with the Tonkin Government's legislation, one will see how poor this Government's performance has been.

Let us examine some of the areas which are crying out for attention. Or are we all to remain mute in this place, like members opposite?

Mr Sodeman: When did the Tonkin Government get off the ground in the Pilbara during its three-year term? All we saw were big headlines and no action.

Mr BERTRAM: For example, let us consider the Standing Order of the Legislative Assembly relating to the *sub judice* rule; it has been there for I do not know how long.

Mr Speaker, you are quite familiar with this rule and you know how useless it is and how it can be abused. You know that attempts have been made to correct it but that the Parliament, with the knowledge that it needs to be corrected, has done nothing about it.

Sir Charles Court: That is a matter for the Parliament, not for the Government.

Mr BERTRAM: Yes. The Parliament also received the blame for pulling the greatest strike this State has ever witnessed. I refer to the occasion when the Premier withdrew the representation

of Western Australia from the Federal Constitutional Convention. That was the biggest strike this place has ever seen, and the Premier put that down to a decision of the Parliament.

Mr Jamieson: If we had had one member there we would have won a substantial point for the States.

Mr BERTRAM: That is correct. It was the first statutory strike this State has pulled, within my knowledge. If we are to take the view that strikes are unlawful and therefore amoral, could we place a greater blemish on Parliament than by instigating a statutory strike?

I return to the subject of the *sub judice* rule. I have never heard anybody seriously argue that this place is not the highest court in the State. Every court, with perhaps the rarest exceptions—because it seems that there are no rules without exceptions—needs to have an inherent right to deal with contempt of that court.

But contempt can be committed in this Parliament and we would be unable to deal with it, making Parliament the only court in Western Australia where that can happen. Why should we be in such a position? All one has to do after committing contempt in this place is to issue a writ in another place and let the writ lie there until the cows come home.

Mr Sibson: And they come twice a day.

Mr BERTRAM: Is that a satisfactory situation? When does the Parliament intend doing something about this rule? I can assure you, Mr Speaker, that I do not intend to bring motions forward with a view to amending the *sub judice* rule, knowing that they would be axed by a disciplined Government. What is the use of taking part in such a sham? I do not propose to be a participant in the sham that is this Parliament.

Parliament is the highest court in the State, yet is the only court where, by the simple device of spending a few cents in issuing a writ, a person can take the control of its business out of the hands of Parliament. When is that situation going to be rectified? This is a reform which is long overdue and very urgent, and represents an attack upon the very dignity of Parliament—not that we are unused to that!

Let us examine some of the other issues. A member of a news medium telephoned me this morning wanting my comments about legislation in regard to homosexuality. He wanted to know what were my views on the subject. I pointed out to him amongst other things that I would not expect this Government to do anything about it. One does not need a Press release from the Attorney-General to learn that; we all know it.

Mr Sibson: What happened between 1971 and 1974?

Mr Jamieson: Action was taken during that time which the Legislative Council would not approve.

Mr BERTRAM: On this issue, as on many others, the Government will do nothing. One could think of the unfortunate history of the Ombudsman. The member for Melville, and leader of the Tonkin Government (Mr J. T. Tonkin) battled for this objective for 12 years. He wished to establish a system which is accepted as essential almost universally and now is being adopted around Australia, even by conservative Governments.

However, the people of Western Australia were denied the services of an Ombudsman for 12 years because somebody decided it was not on and in typical conservative style adopted this very dogmatic attitude, and would not shift. The only way to appoint an Ombudsman was by a change of Government. I referred to homosexual legislation as another example of that type of attitude.

Dr Dadour: You have a vested interest.

Mr BERTRAM: A Royal Commission has been held into the matter, and nobody has argued against its recommendations. Yet the report has been available for I do not know how many months or years and no action has been taken. Nobody suggests that any action will be taken by this Government.

Sir Charles Court: I can tell you that there will not be any legislation introduced this session by this Government.

Mr BERTRAM: No, and I would go a little further: As long as Sir Charles Court is Premier, there will be no such legislation.

Sir Charles Court: How did you guess?
Sitting suspended from 12.30 to 2.18 p.m.

FRENCH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

Presence in Chamber

THE SPEAKER (Mr Hutchinson): Before I call the member for Mt. Hawthorn to continue his speech I inform members that with us in Western Australia today is a French parliamentary delegation consisting of four senators representing majority and minority groups. They will be sitting behind the Chair.

Debate Resumed

Mr BERTRAM: Prior to the luncheon suspension I touched for a few moments upon the actual surplus for the State of \$8.5 million for the year ended the 30th June, 1976. During the suspension of the sitting a number of people prevailed upon me to elaborate that point and to discuss it further. Of course a number of other points can be made. I am also anxious to accommodate the Treasurer who seemed to react predictably when I was discussing the matter previously.

What has happened is simply this: the Premier has earmarked and placed into reserve \$8 million of unspent money. He had no authority from this Parliament to do so as far I am aware and legally needed no authority.

Sir Charles Court: If it helps you at all it is acceptable to the Auditor-General and welcomed by him.

Mr BERTRAM: I think the Auditor-General is an excellent Auditor-General.

Sir Charles Court: I am glad you admit it.

Mr BERTRAM: It is not a case of admitting it. I am putting it and acknowledging it and doing so with great enthusiasm.

Sir Charles Court: I remind you that it has not gone into a reserve. It has gone into a suspense account which is a very different thing.

Mr BERTRAM: I am sure it will gather considerable interest although we have not been told how many thousands of dollars interest it is likely to accrue. This matter does not involve a breach of law, just as nobody of whom I am aware has said that what the Governor-General (Sir John Kerr) did was a breach of law. I certainly have not said that. There are far greater breaches and transgressions than that, which view lawyers around Australia are ventilating. They ought to know something about the matter.

Mr Young: So he ought to, and obviously he does.

Mr BERTRAM: The member for Scarborough is one of the rare people who support this theory.

Mr Young: A former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales was appointed by a socialist Government—the Whitlam Government.

Mr BERTRAM: Who was he?

Mr Young: Sir John Kerr.

Mr BERTRAM: What about Sir Garfield Barwick?

Mr Young: I was referring to the Chief Justice of New South Wales appointed by the Whitlam Government.

Mr BERTRAM: Chief Justices are experts on the law and not on morality.

Mr Young: Has not the Constitution got something to do with the law?

Mr BERTRAM: It is a question of morality. I have accepted the fact the action might be lawful, but we allege it was not moral. Whilst it appears clearly enough to be a lawful matter, it is not one concerning which this Parliament has been given an opportunity to express an opinion. What has taken place happened willy-nilly, and \$8 million has been placed into a suspense account, as I have been corrected by the Treasurer.

Sir Charles Court: For a particular and legitimate purpose.

Mr BERTRAM: Certainly in 1976. From time to time legislation is placed before us in respect of which we are asked to legislate on amounts of \$100 and less; but here we have a situation involving over \$8 million in respect of which Parliament has not been consulted; it has merely been told.

Sir Charles Court: You are making yourself very stupid. This is all part of the budgetary figures. We have the Supply Bill for the purpose of getting authorisation for expenditure in the interim period, and in a few weeks' time we will have the Estimates before us.

Mr BERTRAM: The Treasurer is aware of the effects of this particular move. Pensioners on becoming aware of it will naturally say, and I think with some justification, "This is a bit rough. In effect we have a surplus of \$8.5 million, which is an extremely high figure, yet recently we were required to pay increased amounts of money, and certain concessions were withdrawn from us." The unemployed people will say, "This is a very bad feature. That money should have been used to provide us with necessary work in the community."

Mr Young: In the next 24 hours it would be paid out.

Mr BERTRAM: Surely the Treasury is more efficient than that.

Sir Charles Court: You do not seem to understand accrual accounting.

Mr BERTRAM: Various departments are being and have been denied funds, and that is not in dispute. They find they have been denied \$8.5 million! The next point is that the whole of this amount has been earmarked out of one financial year—not spread over a number of years. It has been earmarked in 1976.

It is interesting to observe that this is one of the years in which there will be 27 pay periods. It is also the financial year in which the next State general election will fall. I refer to the year ending the 30th June, 1977. So, the Treasurer decided this was an excellent way to make it easier for him in 1977—an election year—so that he could promise more things than he would otherwise have been able to promise. That is the whole picture of what is happening.

Mr Young: You are obviously wrong. There will be 27 pays this year, and the Government will have to use between \$6 million and \$7 million to meet that extra pay.

Mr BERTRAM: The honourable member will have an opportunity to speak on the Bill in due course.

Sir Charles Court: Fortunately I will too.

Mr BERTRAM: There are a number of other matters I would like to mention. We still have in Western Australia the situation where the Labor Party has not since responsible Government—to wit 1890—been in power in this State. On many occasions the Labor Party has had a majority in this Chamber, but not once a majority in the upper House. Even at this stage, to all intents and purposes it is impossible for the Labor Party to gain a majority in the upper House.

So, in the 80-odd years since responsible Government the Labor Party has not had power in the upper House; it has merely been in office. I say the time for change is overdue. It seems that the member for Scarborough supports the proposition that one person somewhere in Western Australia should have a vote which is 14 times greater than the vote of another person.

Mr Young: Why were you elected as member for Mt. Hawthorn in the lower House, and Mr Arthur Griffith, a Liberal candidate, was elected as a member of the upper House by the same voters?

Mr BERTRAM: For the benefit of the member for Karrinyup and the member for Scarborough I shall tell them what a former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the USA had to say in respect of the equality of votes. We adhere precisely to what he said. This was what he said—

Legislators represent people, not trees or acres. Legislators are elected by voters, not farms or cities or economic interests. As long as ours is a representative form of government, and our legislatures are those instruments of government elected directly by and directly representative of the people, the right to elect legislators in a free and unimpaired fashion is the bedrock of our political system. And if a State should provide that the votes of citizens in one part of the State should be given two times, or five times, or ten times the weight of votes of citizens in another part of the State, it could hardly be contended that the right to vote of those residing in the disfavoured areas had not been effectively diluted.

To the extent that a citizen's right to vote—

The member for Scarborough and the member for Karrinyup, to mention two, might have a look at this. I will repeat it—

To the extent that a citizen's right to vote is debased he is that much less a citizen.

Mr Clarko: What about your system which does just that?

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BERTRAM: No less a person than the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the USA referred to two times, five times,

and 10 times the weight of voting. In Western Australia it ranges through the whole spectrum right up to 14 times!

Mr Clarko: What system will you bring in?

Mr Skidmore: If the honourable member continues interjecting in this manner we will have to assign him a special *Hansard* reporter.

Mr BERTRAM: The United States is a country which is comparable constitutionally and in many other ways with Western Australia, and although the USA has long since seen the light, Western Australia is still floundering around doing nothing about this type of thing.

Mr Clarko: You do not propose it either.

Mr BERTRAM: The fact is that so many worth-while reforms and benefits of one sort and another to which the ordinary people in Western Australia are entitled to meet their quality and standard of living—and by those expressions I mean real standards—are being denied because of this 14:1 exploitation of voting in the year 1976. I wonder whether it occurs anywhere else in the world, let alone anywhere else in Australia.

Notwithstanding the position that for all practical purposes one party has absolutely no hope of controlling the upper House, that same upper House can reject the popular Government elected in the Legislative Assembly. It can put that Government out of office. So we have the situation under which the Labor Party can win a majority of votes here and is doing a good job, but can be tipped out unceremoniously by the upper House which could at that time be composed of people elected by a handful of people. The upper House can tip out the Government without members of that House themselves having to face the electors.

Mr Clarko: How often has that happened lately—in the last 100 years?

Mr BERTRAM: It will happen more often in the future because it has been done once in Canberra and the leader of the member for Karrinyup with his acquiescence and connivance attempted to do it here, but was blocked only by a few responsible people in another place.

Mr Clarko: Your system is not one-vote-one-value—

Mr BERTRAM: What the interjector is saying is that the one-vote-one-value system is impossible of absolute performance. We acknowledge that.

Mr Clarko: So your whole argument is wrong. In metropolitan Perth we have one-vote-one-value—

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BERTRAM: What the honourable member says therefore is typically conservative; that is, "Let us throw up our

hands in despair; let us live in medieval times; let us do nothing about it." We usually expect that sort of reaction from older people, not the younger Government back-benchers. If this is their performance now, what will be their performance in 10 or 20 years' time.

Mr Sibson: We will all be here then.

Mr BERTRAM: If I were the member for Bunbury I would not be so sure. From what I hear in Bunbury the honourable member's days are numbered.

It is understandable that we will have a "do-nothing" Government here when it is well known there is a split within its ranks.

Mr Sibson: Where?

Mr BERTRAM: Just under the thin film of cement which has been used to conceal it. Members opposite are not aware of it. Already two Ministers representing the Country Party in a so-called coalition have lost their jobs and two others have replaced them.

That was the first manifestation of the split which we knew was evident long before that. That was just the ultimate manifestation of it. Then we recently encountered the Tresillian situation where others came out and said they were not going to support the Premier who must have been very impressed with them I am sure. One can imagine what he had to say to them. As a matter of fact it would be wonderful if each of the four of them told us exactly what he said.

Mr Thompson: If we told you nothing, would you believe us?

Mr BERTRAM: Recently, for the first time in many years, a Liberal Premier has said that his party intends to oppose its coalition partner at the polls in a few months' time—even the National Country Party Ministers. The Liberals are going to oppose them in their own electorates; this is something that has not been done for years and it is breaking a precedent followed by the Brand Government. When there is a continuing schism within the coalition and when it is aggravated by this type of conduct and there is no unity in the Cabinet, what sort of performance can we expect? What sort of performance are we entitled to expect? We are entitled to expect the lack of performance about which I have been complaining.

We have a petty legislative programme which is most unimpressive and the things we should be legislating about and which are urgent and fundamental to the people of this State are being neglected and put aside.

Recently a Royal Commission was conducted into prostitution in Western Australia.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has five minutes.

Mr BERTRAM: That will be ample to allow me to touch upon this subject, Mr Speaker.

The Premier established the terms of reference in such a way that the people could not gain any value from the Royal Commission. The Press obtained plenty of copy and according to the Premier, the commission cost the people \$63 000. I am not dogmatic about the figure, but I think that is what it was. The terms of reference were such that no matter how much he may have wanted to or recognised a need to submit certain recommendations for the benefit of the community, the judge had no jurisdiction to do so or even to inquire into the matter sufficiently to enable him to make certain recommendations to this place.

He was absolutely confined to a very limited, useless, and inconsequential field. On the 24th August I asked the Premier question 24 as follows—

Why did he deny the Royal Commissioner the right to bring in recommendations concerning the future of or lack of future for prostitution in Western Australia?

He put the blame onto someone else. That is not altogether unique; that is perfectly normal procedure for the Premier. It was thoroughly predictable, and his explanation was—

Counsel recommended against such a Royal Commission.

It was not a legal question for counsel to decide. Counsel should not have been relied upon to do the work of the Government. The need for something to be done in this area is well known to most thinking people within the State of Western Australia. One does not need to be a Queen's Counsel or a Crown counsel to know something is drastically wrong, and there is a need for something to be done. What, we do not know. However, that is for the Government to decide, not a decision which has to be made by a non-elected legal eagle. It is a social question and the Government is elected to deal with social matters and not pass the buck or simply sweep problems under the carpet and do nothing about them.

While debating the Supply Bill I think it is worth referring to the shocking performance of Fraser in connection with the finances of this State, and outside this State. We had a case recently where the so-called Liberal Premier of Victoria had to go to the new Labor Premier of New South Wales to get his support to do something about Fraser. That extreme situation was brought about by extreme circumstances; a desperate measure to meet a desperate situation. We are receiving the first impact of the dictatorial stance of Fraser and I predict that in the near future we will cop a lot more to the detriment of Western Australia.

It is very important that we get this point over so that the people will know what is to happen. When it does happen they will know we are not all in the dark; that as a matter of fact Fraser is not turning on the lights as he said he would, but is turning them off. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

MR SKIDMORE (Swan) [2.42 p.m.]: The matter I want to deal with today has received a great deal of attention from this Parliament during its lifetime. Quite recently it has again received considerable coverage in this House, and in the media. I refer to the question of proposals by the Government to introduce secret ballots for the election of union officers.

Mr Blaikie: Hear, hear!

Mr SKIDMORE: On the 4th August I asked the Minister whether it was the intention of the Government to proceed with the introduction of legislation to provide for the control of union ballots by the Western Australian Industrial Commission. The Minister replied as follows—

It is expected that a Bill will be introduced to amend the Industrial Arbitration Act to provide for postal ballots for the election of union officers.

As a result of that reply I thought perhaps the Industrial Arbitration Act was deficient in its intent as to what should take place in union ballots. So, I examined a copy of the Act. I thought I was fairly familiar with the Act but I was amazed to find out the following: There are two complete divisions devoted to secret, court controlled ballots; there are 19 sections devoted to secret, court controlled ballots; and there are 16 pages out of a total of 130 pages of the Act devoted to secret, court controlled ballots. Of the 131 pages covering the Act, 12.3 per cent are devoted wholly and solely to secret, court controlled ballots. However, the Government wants to include additional provisions for the purpose of controlling the ballots of unions.

One may ask why it is necessary to amend the legislation when so many sections and words are already devoted to court controlled ballots. Are the present conditions imposed on the unions inadequate? Are the present provisions of the Act completely unfair to the unions or the employers? Does the Act restrict the rights of the individual union members? Is the Act remiss in any regard at all which would prompt the Minister's advisers to suggest that it should now include a right to control the ballots of unions just because the Commonwealth Government has suggested similar steps in its legislation?

I have undertaken to deal with this matter but as I have only three-quarters of an hour during which to do so it will

be difficult for me to paraphrase some sections of the Act which, I am aware, I cannot ask to be tabled or included in *Hansard*. However, I will try to draw attention to the sections which are the basis upon which I say there is no necessity for any further amendment. I will endeavour to show that further amendments are absolutely unwarranted.

The first section in dispute concerns applications for inquiries respecting elections. I will quote from section 36A, as follows—

36A. (1) Where a member of an industrial union, or a person who, within the preceding period of two months, has been a member of an industrial union, claims that there has been an irregularity in or in connection with an election for an office in the industrial union, he may lodge an application for an inquiry by the Court into the matter.

There is no necessity for a member of a union to go out and get 150 signatures. There is no reason for any member of a union to go to a committee meeting, stand up, and say that he wants a court controlled ballot. All he has to do is follow a simple reference to the rules if he feels that a union ballot should be controlled. It is as easy as that. There are restrictions on such action. Section 36A continues—

(2) An application under this section shall—

- (a) be in writing in accordance with the prescribed form;
- (b) be lodged with the Registrar before the completion of the election or within such time after the completion of the election as is fixed by or under the regulations;
- (c) specify the election in respect of which the application is made and the irregularity which is claimed to have occurred, and state the facts relied on in support of the application; and
- (d) be accompanied by a statutory declaration by the applicant declaring that the facts stated in the application are, to the best of the applicant's knowledge and belief, true.

That does not seem to present any insurmountable obstacle to any person who claims a ballot should be court controlled.

Section 36B sets out the action which shall be taken by the registrar. If he is satisfied, the matter is referred to the court for deliberation and the court may authorise the registrar, or a person acting on his behalf, to—

- (a) inspect ballot papers, envelopes, lists and other documents which have been used

in connection with or are relevant to the election;

- (b) for the purpose of the inspection, enter, with such assistance as he considers necessary, premises which he believes were used or occupied by the industrial union, and in which he believes the ballot papers, envelopes, lists or documents to be;
- (c) require a person to deliver to him, in accordance with the requirement, the ballot papers, envelopes, lists and other documents in the possession or under the control of that person;
- (d) take possession of the ballot papers, envelopes, lists and other documents; and
- (e) retain the ballot papers, envelopes, lists or other documents delivered to him, or of which he has taken possession, until the completion of the proceedings arising out of the application or until such earlier time as the Court orders.

(4) Before authorising action under subsection (3) of this section, the Court shall, if of opinion that, having regard to all the circumstances, a person should be given an opportunity of objecting to the proposed action, give the opportunity to that person.

So, if an individual considers that a union has conducted an irregular election, and he wants a court controlled ballot, the union can be advised of that decision. Alternatively, a person who feels he has a right to intervene may be given the opportunity to appear before a court in order to state his case. In fact, if he commits certain offences or refuses to comply with any court order he can be fined \$100.

The decision of the registrar is subject to appeal. The decision of the person who determines the application for a court controlled ballot is subject to appeal. Everybody is subject to appeal, including the union and the employer involved. So I do not know why we want any further evidence that a court controlled ballot cannot be held now. I do not know what can be done about rewriting what is already written into the Act. We will probably see some inane nonsense coming from the Minister for Labour and Industry. The court has an unfettered right at the moment to conduct a secret, court controlled ballot.

Mr Grayden: In that case it will not matter if there are a few minor amendments.

Mr SKIDMORE: In his speech the Minister suggested he might not be able to introduce this legislation. If so, he should

not waste the time of the Parliament by bringing forward some minor amendments, when all his utterances have been about the inability to conduct court controlled ballots. Either the Minister is fair dinkum or he is not. Quite frankly, I believe the Minister's advisers are not aware of what is in the Act. If they are not, they should be. I hope after today they will understand it.

Mr Grayden: They are certainly aware of what is in the Act.

Mr SKIDMORE: If what I have said is true, why does the Act need amending to allow court controlled ballots to be held?

Mr Grayden: There are some minor amendments.

Mr SKIDMORE: We have heard a lot of rhetoric about the terrible unions, the left-wing militants, the communist dominated unions, the people holding the country to ransom, John Halfpenny, and Jim Mutton who, of course, is not a communist, but is in the category of left-wing militant.

Mr Grayden: It will not matter if a little more goes in.

Mr SKIDMORE: There is enough already; 12.3 per cent of the Act is devoted to court controlled ballots.

Mr Grayden: A couple more paragraphs will not make any difference.

Mr SKIDMORE: It would be stupid to add more if the Act already allows what is desired.

The jurisdiction of the court is set out in section 36C. Directions as to the hearing are contained in section 36D. Directions are given for the fixing of a time and place for an inquiry, and all those who may be involved in an inquiry must, by law, be informed. There is no question of hiring a solicitor to advise the applicant. The court informs everybody. It is objective democracy in action. The Act does not allow anybody to be uninformed about what takes place.

Mr Grayden: Who pays for the court controlled ballots?

Mr SKIDMORE: I will tell the House about that in a moment. Section 36E covers the interim orders. It states that no further steps shall be taken in the conduct of the election while an inquiry is taking place; and that a person who has assumed an office or continued to act in an office, or who claims to occupy an office being an office to which the inquiry relates, shall not act in that office. So if a person who has been charged with a ballot irregularity is holding an office in a union which happens to be communist or left dominated, he cannot act in that office while the inquiry is being held. I do not see anything wrong with that. I might quarrel with the reasons for getting rid of the militant as opposed to the reactionary, but I will not go into that.

In paragraph (d) of section 36E (1) it is stated that where the court considers an order made under paragraph (c) of this subsection would not be practicable, or would be prejudicial to the efficient conduct of the affairs of the union, or would be inappropriate having regard to the nature of the inquiry, the court may make one or more orders. Paragraph (e) of this subsection states that an order incidental or supplementary to an order under the subsection is valid.

To my mind, it is obvious that directions in regard to the hearing and the interim orders to be issued by the court of inquiry are much better than those in many facets of common law regulations because the court must inform everybody. If I receive a summons for a debt I know that from then on I am supposed to apprise myself of what goes on and make my own arrangements; but in this instance I can go to the registrar and inform him of the complaints I have about the union. The union can talk to the registrar about what has been complained of and the efforts it has taken to ensure no irregularity has occurred. The registrar can send the matter on to a court of inquiry. I do not know what else is needed.

Section 36F deals with the procedure at the hearing, but the most remarkable thing about it is that it gives to the Attorney-General the right to be represented at the hearing. Subsection (3) of this section states—

(3) The Attorney General may, at any stage of an inquiry intervene by counsel, solicitor or agent on behalf of the State.

We now have a third party coming onto the scene as the representative of the Government to intervene in an irregularity in a court controlled or union ballot. What more control does the Government want? It has direct access to the inquiry and the jurisdiction—so easily and without any restrictions. Section 36F states—

(1) The Court shall allow to appear or to be represented at an inquiry, persons who apply to the Court for leave to appear or to be represented, being persons who appear to the Court to be justly entitled to be heard, and the Court may order any other person so to appear or be represented.

In other words, any person has an opportunity to appear before the court, as an individual who has an interest in the matter and knows of an irregularity or informality in a union controlled ballot, and state his case. If the court hears that a member of a union is alleged to have said certain things, it may of its own volition order that person to come before the court to have his veracity tested.

I have mentioned only three or four sections, but 19 sections of the Act cover the rules applying to court controlled ballots. Among the functions and powers of

the court, it may determine whether an irregularity has occurred in the election. It must have that power. It may order a recount of the votes. It may issue an order that an irregularity has occurred. It may declare an election to be void. It may issue an order declaring a person who purports to have been elected not to have been elected.

If the opponents of John Halpenny, who is a self-confessed communist, feel he is disrupting the affairs of the AMWU, they have an opportunity to challenge his election, and if an irregularity is proved he will not be able to remain in office. What more do the Government and the Minister want to protect legislation which is so plausibly held up as being designed to prevent irregularities in the conduct of union ballots? If the Minister cares to look at the records of the industrial commission, he will find very few applications have been made for court controlled ballots, which indicates to me that the unions have shown a degree of responsibility.

Mr Grayden: Have you never heard of any requests for court controlled ballots?

Mr SKIDMORE: No, I do not know specifically how many have been made.

Mr Grayden: You want to find out.

Mr SKIDMORE: We have been trying to find this out from the Minister for a long time.

Mr Grayden: Why do you think there were no requests?

Mr SKIDMORE: I do not know; I can assume only that it was not because of any question of the difficulty of an individual to approach the court because that is not difficult. It is easier to obtain a hearing in this jurisdiction than in any other. I can only assume that no irregularities have occurred in union ballots. I have examined the constitutions of 56 unions and I have seen this provision in every one of them. The Minister can check this out if he has the time.

Provision is made for two types of ballot: firstly, members can vote at a general meeting for the election of officers, or secondly, a full postal ballot can be held. In fact, the Act demands that the secrecy in the election of office bearers be of paramount concern. That is an added protection. The union rules allow for the ordering of a new election.

The court may say to a union, "You will run your ballot not only in accordance with your rules, but also in accordance with these rules." The registrar has the power to delegate his responsibility to run the ballot to the Chief Electoral Officer of the State.

I was involved in one application where a union asked the Chief Electoral Officer to run the ballot.

Mr Grayden: How long ago was that?

Mr SKIDMORE: The Minister should do his own research and find out for himself. Why should I help him when he is not too happy about helping me out? All he gives are airy-fairy figures and so-called facts which would confuse anybody. Certainly the Minister's speeches confuse me—I am quite sure he is not adequately equipped beforehand to deliver them!

Section 36G (d) reads—

an order directing the taking of such safeguards as the Court thinks necessary against irregularities in, or in connection with,

- (i) a new election if so ordered;
- (ii) a step if so ordered to be taken again; or
- (iii) uncompleted steps in the election,

There are all sorts of other controls, such as in subsection (4) which reads in part—unless the Court is of opinion that,

having regard to the irregularity found, and any circumstances giving rise to a likelihood that similar irregularities may have occurred or may occur,

the result of the election may have been affected, or may be affected by irregularities.

So in these particular sections of the Act, union members are given an unfettered right, in a very democratic way, to have court controlled ballots. The Minister says: let us add more to that and rewrite the section. Should we rewrite something that apparently has stood the test of time? These provisions have not appeared suddenly in the Act; some of the substantive provisions have been in the Act since 1952—unchanged for 24 years.

Mr Grayden: But never made use of.

Mr SKIDMORE: Why should they be made use of when there is no necessity for them? Is the Minister suggesting that every irresponsible union member ought to go along to the registrar to challenge a ballot? For instance, a union member could suggest that someone had seen some ballot papers before they were put in the ballot box. No irregularities have occurred in the ballots with the consistency suggested by the Minister. When an irregularity has occurred, the matter has been subjected to the perusal of the court.

Mr Grayden: Do you really think that?

Mr SKIDMORE: Yes, I really think that. Surely the proof of the pudding is in the eating. When an appeal has been made, the matter has to come before the commission, so there have been no appeals. How could it be otherwise? The Minister might just as well say that every union ballot is crooked, or we might say that because the Liberal Party ballot in the Forrest Division was crooked, every Liberal Party ballot is crooked. I do not adopt that policy. I do not like what happened

in the Forrest Division election any more than did Government members, but I do not wish to seek political advantage from what happened. However, I am using that situation as an analogy. The matter was cleared up by the party within its own ranks.

Mr Grayden: Why are you opposed to court controlled ballots?

Mr SKIDMORE: I am not, and I have just spent about 18 minutes telling the Minister that as well as referring him to the sections in the Act which provide for them.

Mr Grayden: You take exception to the introduction of legislation?

Mr SKIDMORE: I take exception to the introduction of further legislation—not on the basis that I am opposed to court controlled ballots but for another reason. In simple language I will attempt to explain to the Minister what that reason is. The Act provides for court controlled ballots. Surely from what I have said today, the Minister cannot deny that is so—it is set out in black and white in the Government's own legislation.

Mr Grayden: I know unions have availed themselves of this provision for good reason.

Mr SKIDMORE: The Traffic Act provides that I may not do certain things. However, if it so happens that I commit an offence and a policeman does not catch me at it, surely he is not in the the wrong simply because he was not present when I committed the offence. It is rather unfair to say otherwise. The Minister is grabbing at the proverbial straws in the wind in an attempt to justify the unnecessary burdening of this House with an extra legislative load. If the Minister continues to listen, in a few minutes the message will get through.

The marginal note to section 36J is, "Validation of certain acts, etc." and subsection (1) reads—

36J. (1) Where the Court declares void the election of a person who has, since the election, purported to act in the office to which he purported to have been elected, acts done by him while so purporting to act and which could validly have been done by him if he had been duly elected are, subject to this section, valid and effectual for all purposes.

In other words, after hearing a case the court may say that although an irregularity occurred the result was not one that materially affected the result of the ballot. Subsection (2) reads—

(2) The Court, may, if it considers it desirable so to do, declare an act so done to have been void, and thereupon that act is, for all purposes to be deemed not to have been validly done.

So a person can take some action and it can be validated. The result of the voting is the paramount consideration. For instance, it may happen that a union secretary is locked out of the office. To get into the office someone may cut the padlock with a hacksaw. However, if it could be shown that this was the only reasonable action available to the member of the union, the court may not hold him to ransom for attacking the office. That is all provided for in the legislation. Subsection (3) reads—

(3) Where an election is held, or a step in or in connection with an election is taken, in pursuance of an order of the Court, that election or step shall not be invalidated by reason only of a departure from the rules of the industrial union involved in compliance with the order of the Court.

Section 36K deals with costs. The Minister asked me who was to pay for all this. Incidentally, a union which seeks a court controlled ballot is responsible for the costs incurred.

Mr Grayden: That is why there are so few requests for court controlled ballots.

Mr SKIDMORE: The Minister will never get me to take out of context anything of advantage to me—I have been in the arena too long. The arguments of the Government are patently flimsy. The Minister thinks he can put forward a case whilst shutting his eyes and putting his head in the sand. The Government need not think that I will say it will provide costs for a court controlled ballot because I will not say that.

I admit readily that that is one amendment needed to the Act but I do not think it is necessary that a union making an application for a court controlled ballot should have to bear the cost. It is different if an individual member makes an application for such a ballot, because the resources available to him would be limited.

In fact, in a particular case of which I am aware a person sought a court controlled ballot for his appointment, and the whole issue finished up in the Supreme Court. The costs to the union amounted to \$5 500, and although I do not know the costs to the employers, I can assume they were in the same vicinity. Unfortunately in this instance the judge hearing the case collapsed and died whilst on holidays, and we had to go through the whole ritual again. One wonders whether unions should have to meet the great expense incurred by court controlled ballots. I do not think this provision is fair, and I am sure the unions do not want it. They are not paupers; they are able to pay their way, and they do not want subsidies.

In respect of costs, subsection 36K (3) states—

Where the Attorney General is satisfied that, having regard to the findings of the Court upon an inquiry, it is not just that a person, not being the person who applied for the inquiry, should be required to bear, or to bear in full, any expenses, including expenses of witnesses and fees of legal practitioners who are allowed to appear, incurred by him in connection with the inquiry, the Attorney General may authorise payment by the State of the whole or a part of those expenses.

So under this legislation a fair and reasonable approach is evaluated. It is possible that a member of a union could be vindictive. A ballot could be brought forward in a vindictive manner, not to upset a previous ballot which was won by a large margin, but with a vindictive purpose in mind. Such a person may go to the court and say there is a valid case of irregularity. In that instance the degree of payment is at the discretion of the court, and it may order the payment of expenses in total or in part. The court may find that the member was irresponsible in his attitude.

Subsection (4) of the same section states that if the Attorney-General is satisfied that the nature of the irregularity found by the court to have occurred is such that it would be unreasonable for the industrial union to be required to bear, or to bear in full, the expenses involved in compliance with the order of the court, he may authorise payment by the State of the whole or part of those expenses.

Mr Speaker, just a few moments ago the Minister suggested to me that this legislation should contain in it the right for the costs incurred by unions in court controlled ballots to be paid by the State; and he said that would be a big step forward. At that time I did not bother to tell the Minister that a section of the Act already does exactly what he purports his amendment will do. The Act already contains authority for the Government to make a payment.

It is incredible—that seems to be an “in” word because I see it all the time in the Press—that the Minister is not even aware that the Act at present states that certain expenses may be paid by the Government to a union in respect of court controlled ballots.

Mr Grayden: That doesn't cover the situation.

Mr SKIDMORE: For the benefit of the Minister, I will read out once more the provision contained in the Act. It is as follows—

the Attorney General may, if he is satisfied that the nature of the irregularity found by the Court to have occurred is such that it would be unreasonable for the

industrial union to be required to bear, or to bear in full, the expenses involved in compliance with the order of the Court,

authorise payment by the State of the whole or part of those expenses.

Mr Grayden: But you are talking about the situation when there is an irregularity.

Mr SKIDMORE: That is right.

Mr Grayden: That is not what I am talking about at all.

Mr SKIDMORE: The Minister is simply trying to use up some of my time, and I will not be conned in that way. Subsection (5) (a) of section 36K states—

The Court may make an order as to the costs and expenses, including expenses of witnesses and fees of legal practitioners who are allowed to appear, of proceedings before the Court in or in connection with an inquiry.

Those expenses may or may not be paid by the State. That just about covers the cost arrangements, and whose costs may be recouped. It is useless for the Minister to try to convince me, or anybody else who has an atom of reason in him, that the unions are not already covered.

Mr Grayden: You misunderstand the provision.

Mr SKIDMORE: Section 36K refers to costs and says that in certain circumstances the Attorney-General may award costs. Under a particular provision a union, having made application to challenge the validity of a ballot, may have its case found to be proven by the court. What happens then is that the Attorney-General may or may not reimburse the total amount of the expenses.

I do not intend to go through the whole lesson again. If the Minister cannot understand it the second time around, it is not my intention to spend the rest of the afternoon trying to convince him. He is not that stupid; he is a shrewd operator and he does not fool me for one minute. I was prepared to go along with him so far, but after repeating it once I will not do so again.

Mr Grayden: If a union or a certain number of members of a union request a court controlled ballot not because of an irregularity, but for some other reason, who will pay the costs: the union or the State?

Mr SKIDMORE: I have already said that under those circumstances the union would pay.

Mr Grayden: That is the answer.

Mr SKIDMORE: The Minister said there is no way the union may be paid these expenses. Who in the union movement would make application to the court

before becoming aware of the fact that there was an irregularity in the ballot? No-one is that crazy.

Mr Grayden: That is the whole purpose of the amendment.

Mr SKIDMORE: Well, I will now give the Minister something to go on with. Section 36L deals with ballot papers, etc., to be preserved. It states that ballot papers must be preserved at the office of the union for a period of one year after the election, and the penalty for failing to keep them is \$100. That is the penalty provided in most cases in these sections.

Section 36M deals with the registrar conducting elections upon request. Perhaps the Minister may enlighten us on how the unions can go about making approaches to the court to conduct a ballot. Subsection (1) states that an industrial union may request the registrar to conduct an election under section 36M, and subsection (2) goes on to state that the request by the union may be made by or on behalf of the committee of management of the union, or by the prescribed number of members of the union. Under those circumstances, it could be that the union would have to meet the costs involved.

However, I point out that even court controlled ballots are not always the clean skin affairs we would like to think they are. I cast no reflections on any union official or Government officer, but if the Minister wishes to do a little research into ballots and will read the *Western Australian Industrial Gazette* for the last few years he will be amazed at what takes place even in court controlled ballots.

Mr Davies: The one the court got me to conduct was all right.

Mr SKIDMORE: That is right; it was subject to an appeal. The Minister should take note of the member for Victoria Park. Section 36M goes on to state that notwithstanding the rules of the industrial union, the person conducting the election must be directed, if necessary, to ensure no irregularities occur, or to remedy procedural defects which may appear to exist in the union rules.

I mentioned earlier that I was aware the union rules relating to the running of a fair and reasonable ballot could be ignored. The relevant section of the Act states as follows—

36M. (1) An industrial union may, in writing, request the Registrar that an election for an office in the industrial union be conducted under this section with a view to ensuring that no irregularity occurs in or in connection with the election.

It continues at a later stage—

(10) The expense of an election conducted under this section, but not including the salary of an officer of the State performing a duty in relation to the election, shall be borne by the industrial union concerned.

But—and this is a big “but”—the officer running the election is not a charge upon the union, and when all is said and done, the officer's time represents the major part of the cost of running an election.

Mr Grayden: No it does not.

Mr SKIDMORE: Yes it does.

The SPEAKER: The honourable member has five minutes remaining.

Mr SKIDMORE: I do not wish to deal further with this particular subject because I believe I have shown adequately to the Minister that it is drivel to say there is need for further legislation.

Mr Grayden: You have demonstrated a need for it.

Mr SKIDMORE: For the Minister to make such an interjection indicates his complete incompetence in this field.

I have quoted the relevant parts of the Act relating to court controlled ballots. The Minister should be careful in this respect because one of these days an employer may request a court controlled ballot, because the definition of an employer includes the following—

(a) persons, firms, companies and corporations;

(b) the Crown and any Minister of the Crown, or body corporate acting on behalf of the State; and

(c) any employer within the meaning of the Public Service Arbitration Act, 1966,

employing one or more workers;

Mr Grayden: It will apply to them.

Mr SKIDMORE: It already does.

Mr Grayden: How can it apply at present? The amendments are being introduced for that purpose.

Mr SKIDMORE: I assure the Minister that it already applies to those people. The Minister reminds me of the proverb that “you can lead a horse to water but you cannot make it drink”. There is none so stubborn as that horse.

I wish to refer briefly to a matter which was also raised by the member for Collie. It relates to a section of the Aboriginal community within my electorate and I should like to recount their plight with deep humility. Some 20 or 30 of these people are forced—by circumstances perhaps of their own making or perhaps of ours—to spend their lives living under the traffic bridges at Guildford or out in the open at the Stirling Gardens, or in the very limited space near a church. They are completely subject to the elements and have been totally disregarded by this Government.

In an effort to assist these people. I wrote to the Minister for Community Welfare seeking a meeting with him. The Minister replied, “No. I cannot see you but you may care to approach Mr Mike Robinson,

who is running a State programme for Aborigines." I must say that I received more courtesy from Mr Robinson than I did from the Minister, who professes such concern for the welfare of these people.

Like the member for Collie, I am concerned that people could be subjected to such terrible conditions in this day and age. Whether we like it or not, we have contributed to their situation. Every member in this House must stand condemned because of our attitude to the Aboriginal community.

I know there are some Aborigines whom I have to avoid every night when I pass them because they are drunk and disorderly. A wine bar is situated quite close to my residence and I can observe at close hand the terrible calamitous effect alcohol has on these people. However, there is no need to destroy the very dignity of these people by subjecting them to such living conditions.

I hope that when the Minister meets with the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (Mr Viner) who has been responsible for the savage cut-backs in expenditure on Aboriginal housing and Aboriginal heritage, he applies himself to obtaining financial aid for these people because without finance they are doomed to a tragic existence which is a blot on the legislators of this country. I sincerely trust that the next Budget will provide at least some money for transitional housing in the Swan Valley. I do not mean we should build houses as such but rather that small but adequate shelter accommodation should be constructed.

MR DAVIES (Victoria Park) [3.25 p.m.]: I understand that this morning the Leader of the Opposition mentioned in the debate some of the matters with which I should like to concern myself, and because there are more than a few members still wishing to speak and as the hour is already getting late and we do not wish to return after the suspension of the sitting for tea, I will attempt to confine my remarks to areas which have not already been canvassed.

I must, however, refer to pensioner travel concessions. If one sat back and listened to the Treasurer speaking on this subject, one must have imagined that his halo must have been hurting him. He was full of righteous indignation and virtue on this subject, which seems to him to be of no importance at all.

I was at the annual meeting of the Australian Pensioners' League WA Branch last year when the Premier was an honoured guest. I recall that he stood, full of righteous indignation and said it was a scandal that people were going around saying that the Government intended to withdraw the free travel concession enjoyed by pensioners. He could

only believe they were being deliberately mischievous and trying to worry and hurt that section of the population.

These people were all of considerable interest to the Premier, according to the Premier. Of course they were! The Premier was at that meeting trying to win their votes, just as I was. However, I did not stand and make any scandalous statements that we were not going to withdraw the concessions.

The next day, on the 17th September, 1975, the Premier issued a Press statement No. P 75/879 which stated as follows—

The Premier also strongly scotched rumours that the Western Australian Government intended cutting back on pensioner State concessions.

"These rumours are completely without foundation," he said.

The Premier did not say "abolish"; he said "cutting back". Now, he has decided to place a 5 per cent, 10 per cent, or 15 per cent surcharge on pensioner concession fares where previously they were free. He then said that nothing has been taken away from the pensioners—nothing except the word "free"!

Despite the fact that a matter of only about \$800 000 is involved and that our Budget now runs into hundreds of millions of dollars, the Treasurer feels it is necessary that this section of the community should continue to play its part. There are many such people who must travel regularly, and if they are forced to pay 10c or 20c a day it could make serious inroads into their pensions.

The Treasurer somewhat belatedly said that the Government would extend the two-hour minimum whereby the pensioners could use their original tickets on their return journey. However, no-one yet knows how this is going to work. The Treasurer said it would be handled by the Department for Community Welfare which indicates how sloppy is the Premier's thinking on this matter. Surely to goodness the matter should be handled by the Transport Commission.

It is similar to the arrangements the Premier made regarding Tresillian. He was in session all day on the matter, but completely ignored the Minister for Health. Who is running this State, and who is running it badly? I do not have to answer that question, because the community at large is well aware of the answer.

A committee of inquiry into pensioner concessions was formed in May, 1974, and its report has been available to the Government since May, 1975. In fact, the report is nearing its second birthday, yet the Premier always uses the excuses for inactivity that we have had a change of Government, or that these matters should

be uniform in all States. There are many issues—my leader pointed them out this morning—that can be taken on a purely State basis if the Premier is genuine in believing that concessions should be provided to pensioners. If the Premier believed there was a need to establish a committee of inquiry, he should act upon the report of that inquiry, and act upon it now.

It can be paid for within the conditions of the present financial position of this State. These are still underprivileged people within the community and they still need our help. There are those who go to senior citizen centres every day for five days a week for a meal, and these people have to pay fares now. This is adding something like 20 per cent, or more in some cases, to the cost of their meals. It is a real matter of concern to them.

I am disgusted that the Government thought it necessary that these people should be made to toe the line. Of course there are people who want to pay and there is nothing in the world stopping them from doing so. If they want to put in a 10c or 20c fare, with the machines that issue tickets these days, there is not the slightest difficulty in acknowledging whatever fare they wish to pay. Surely the matter should be left to them. It is disgusting—and I shall be saying more and more about this—that the Government has decided to act in this pettifogging manner.

We ask why it has been done and who will be the beneficiaries in the matter. Of course we will not get any answer. No-one will benefit and I do not think the \$800 000 the decision proposes to bring in is of any real benefit to the State as a whole.

While looking at the way the Government handles its money, it was disgusting to see that it thought it necessary to take three full page advertisements in the newspaper concerning its position regarding Tresillian. They cost \$3 000-odd in addition to the art work. I have not been told how much the art work cost but no doubt that figure will be made known to me in due course. This is a waste of public money.

Another matter of real concern to me is the future of the East Victoria Park senior and junior primary schools. Many will know them as the Mint Street schools. They are on a site on the Albany Highway near Mint Street. Some three years ago this site was supposedly sold for a shopping centre but apparently the company decided that it was not able to go on with the project because of finance and now the matter has been revived and I understand the site has been sold. When trying to get anything out of the Government about the matter and trying to find out what is going on one meets a wall of silence. I knew this site had been sold.

The information had been communicated to me from a particular quarter. I wrote to the Minister and I was still waiting on the reply when I met him in the corridor and he told me that although he was not quite sure about it, he thought it had been sold. I was able to check later with the department and found that the developers had signed and that the Public Works Department was the only party which had yet to sign. This has since happened and now we are waiting to find out the future of the school.

While all this was going on what was happening at the school? Repairs and renovations are being carried out at the school. The Government is spending money on fixing up the school—which certainly needs some fixing up—whilst it is selling it for demolition. That is more money being wasted. Two classrooms were burnt because of an arson attempt by two young girls who, perhaps, demonstrated their women's lib rights by deciding to set the school alight. Damage was done and that needed to be repaired but there was other work being done on the school which was going to be demolished.

The department has been reluctant to say anything about the matter. I am still awaiting replies from the Minister. I have questions on the notice paper for next Tuesday. I should like to know, the parents would like to know, and I am sure the teachers would like to know, even if the children themselves are not interested. This is the kind of thing that is happening. One part of the Government does not know what the other part is doing. I hope the Government by now has withdrawn its tradesmen from the school. At least I have brought this matter to the Government's attention, which is as much as I can do.

The proposal is to send some of the children to nearby schools and those nearby schools can accommodate some additional children. But the new school will be built on the old Hawker Siddeley site. We should not mention that because it must be a matter of acute embarrassment to the Government when one thinks that that company owes us several million dollars still and is paying only 5 per cent interest on the money. The company must be laughing up its sleeve when it recalls that the present Premier, when Minister for Industrial Development, told us of the splendid job the Government did in getting rid of the State sawmills. Once again big business put it over this Government. I wish I could borrow a couple of million dollars at 5 per cent interest.

Mr Thompson: To buy an enterprise that was losing money.

Mr DAVIES: It was losing money only because of incompetence under Government direction. What has happened is that it has gone to one large combine. There is

only one decent timber company in Western Australia and we are all being held to ransom at every time—

Mr Thompson: How do you work that out?

Mr DAVIES: There is only one decent large timber company.

Mr Thompson: What about Millars and Bunnings?

Mr DAVIES: Millars went out years ago. What is the member talking about?

Mr Thompson: You do not know what you are talking about.

Mr DAVIES: As a major supplier it withdrew years ago and combined with other companies. The fact remains that the companies have their way once again, and this is of some concern to me.

I mentioned the Hawker Siddleley site because that is where the new school is to be built. I do not know whether this will be the best place to build a school because it is alongside railway lines and a railway crossing which has boom gates and clanging bells. I want to be sure that provision has been made to ensure that there is no nuisance to the students because of this.

We think the school will be built on this site. Once again we are not told very much, but the point I am coming to is that if it is built on that site it is essential that a pedestrian overpass be provided across Shepperton Road. For many years that road was not much more than a normal two-lane suburban roadway. It now has three lanes in each direction and is a six-lane highway. It has been widened considerably. At times it is like a speedway. It is far busier than Albany Highway. It is essential that at some convenient point along that road an overpass be provided so that the children can cross in safety.

I know that these are matters which are probably not looked at in the initial planning but they are matters which need a great deal of consideration at this time because what was once a normal suburban street now has become a race track. I am receiving many complaints from residents there regarding noise from heavy haulage vehicles and motor bikes—the usual things that happen when there is any development of this nature. Regrettably I cannot do very much about it but I can ask that the Government make certain that at a convenient point—I think Mint Street and Shepperton Road would be the most convenient point—a pedestrian overpass is provided when the school is built and not at some time in the future. It is essential that this be provided and I am sure the parents will demand it.

I hope that there will be no disruption to the schooling of the children as a result of the development that is likely to take place, and that no children will be forced

to quit school before the end of their school year. I will not stand for that. The Premier will have another Tresillian issue on his back if he tries to shunt the children around for the convenience of developers. The children's schooling will be of primary concern to me as it will be to other members from the district, including one from his own party who has already stood him up. I am sure I can get the support of that member and we will demand that there be no disruption to the children's schooling before the end of the year. We must make certain that the facilities that are provided are in no way less than the facilities which exist at present.

Mr Rushton: You were not very interested when you were in office.

Mr DAVIES: That needs to be done. Once again it is a case of one part of the Government not telling another part what it is doing. The Education Department sold the shopping centre site, but it was not even zoned as a shopping centre site. Approaches had to be made to the Perth City Council to resolve this matter. That is how we become overpowered by persons in Government departments, who should know better about how to act. No doubt the project will proceed, but we need another shopping centre in that locality like a person needs a hole in the head!

I am most concerned with the likely run-down in the health services of the State, particularly the community health services. From the figures it will be seen that the capital expenditure this year will be roughly the same as that for last year. That is the best we can hope for, although the figure does not take into account the effects of inflation. Probably the department will be able to work within that budget.

More important are the community health, community psychiatry, and the school dental services. I suggest the Government could save money by directing Ministers to give forthright answers to questions. As I pointed out previously, generally a member does not ask a question unless he has a good idea of what the answer will be.

In May last I asked whether any changes had been made to the school dental service, in relation to the position of the Commonwealth and the State. On the 6th May the answer was given indicating that no changes had been made. I knew a conference had been held in Canberra, because I read about it in the *Federal Hansard*, and I knew that the States were being asked to pay an extra 10 per cent.

On the 12th May I followed up with another question. I inquired whether it was a fact that the States had to change their contributions, and that they were asked to pay an extra 10 per cent in the capital and recurring costs of the scheme.

The answer to that question was "Yes". I asked for the amounts, but I was not given them.

I had to ask a third question to find out. I asked what was the actual sum involved, and in reply I was told it was just over \$500 000. I had to ask three questions two of which would have been completely unnecessary if the Government had been forthright in its first answer. It could have said, "Yes, changes have been made and they are proposed to operate from the 1st July. There has been an increase in the contribution of the States by 10 per cent in recurring and capital costs and that will cost \$500 000."

That is the type of answer we should be given. What concerns me more is the likely amounts of money that will be allocated to community health. I shall be interested in the figures which the Government will put out in due course. This is where the new federalism policy will affect us. On some counts we will be in a disadvantaged position.

Where the Government assists charitable organisations with deficit funding it has set new norms, and these organisations find it tremendously difficult to work within those norms. One organisation I know of has been able to retain its staff by moving the staff around and reducing the hours. It means that some organisations, such as charitable nursing homes and the like, will have to cut down on staff, because the Government has cut down on the funds. This will lead to increased unemployment, and it gets back to the topic we were discussing last evening.

I am concerned about this; but I am particularly concerned about the East Victoria Park School and the Government's attitude towards the pensioners, and on this topic I will have something more to say. As it is afternoon tea time and as other members want to speak in this debate I shall conclude my remarks on that note.

Debate adjourned until a later stage of the sitting, on motion by Mr T. D. Evans.

(Continued on page 1615)

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.03 p.m.

QUESTIONS (37): ON NOTICE.

1. WHEAT *Certified Seed*

Mr CRANE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) In view of probable shortage of clean seed wheat for the 1977 sowing due to crop failure in large areas of the wheatbelt, have plans been made to have areas of wheat certified true to type and free of noxious weeds to ensure that adequate supplies of clean

seed will be available at stabilised prices for purchase by wheat growers?

- (2) If plans are not in hand would he take steps to have this done and so prevent shortage, confusion and possible black market developments?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) and (2) The Drought Consultative Committee has appointed a sub-committee to investigate all aspects of the provision of seed wheat from the 1976-77 harvest.

2. GREYHOUND RACING *Introduction of Bookmakers*

Mr T. D. EVANS, to the Premier:

Further to his answer to question 14 on 20th May, 1976, concerning the provision of bookmakers at greyhound racing events, since the said date has Cabinet considered the matter and if so, with what result?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

Yes, and with further submissions to be made by the Minister before any decision is made.

3. KALGOORLIE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Improvements: Recommendations

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

- (1) Is the Minister able to give me any further information further to his answer No. 10 on 19th May, 1976, concerning development at Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital?
- (2) If not, when is it expected that a decision will be known?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) and (2) The committee recommended a staged development programme of up to 100 acute beds with adequate support facilities. Planning is dependent upon current negotiations relating to the utilisation of beds at St. John of God Hospital, Kalgoorlie.

4. DROUGHT RELIEF *Social Welfare Payments*

Mr CRANE, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware that employees are leaving some rural areas as a result of drought conditions causing diminishing harvest prospects?
- (2) Does he appreciate that such an exodus from rural areas will have far reaching and disastrous effects on country businesses, schools and community life?

- (3) Will he explore the possibility of—
 - (a) having social security paid to employers and employees where needed;
 - (b) having the RED scheme or similar plan reintroduced so that these people may be employed in the districts in which they now reside;
 - (c) having the State Government subsidise the social welfare benefit to a reasonable wage to help keep them gainfully employed with dignity in their own communities on work such as construction of extensions to the Comprehensive Water Scheme which would be of future benefit to the State?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (3) The whole question of local rural communities affected by drought is being considered as an additional subject to the already announced assistance to farmers and which assistance is, of course, also under regular review.

5. *This question was postponed.*

6. **HEALTH**

Abrolhos Islands: Survey

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

- (1) Has a survey of health conditions at the Abrolhos Islands been conducted this year?
- (2) If "Yes" will the Minister please table a copy of the results of the survey?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The report is confidential to the Commissioner of Public Health, and the results are not intended for publication. However, the results show steadily improving standards of sanitation.

7. **JOHN WILLCOCK HIGH SCHOOL**

Upgrading

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

- (1) Has the Minister received correspondence from the parents and citizens' association of John Willcock High School and from parents of children at the school, expressing concern that no decision has been made for the school to proceed to Senior High School status in 1978?

- (2) Will the Minister dispel the concern felt by staff, students and parents by making an early announcement that the school will proceed directly to years 11 and 12?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) In accordance with established practice the decision will be made in about 12 months' time when the school has year 10 students.

8. **REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR**

Geraldton

Mr CARR, to the Minister Co-ordinating Economic and Regional Development:

- (1) What will be the public service classification of the regional administrator for the Geraldton region?
- (2) How many staff will be appointed to the Geraldton regional office?
- (3) What will be the classification of each staff member to be appointed?
- (4) Will he please provide details of the duties of the regional administrator?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) A-1-5.
- (2) Initially one, with a progressive build up as the role of the regional administrator develops and staff needs are determined.
- (3) Clerk, C-IV with the classification and qualifications of others determined as need and recruitment takes place. Obviously, any special qualifications can only be decided as the regional administrator becomes established and operative.
- (4) Initial official list of duties will be presented for tabling. Like other aspects of the work, this list will be adjusted to suit the special needs of the region in the light of operating experience.

9. **TRAFFIC LIGHTS**

Spencer-Nicholson Roads Junction

Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Traffic:

- (1) Is he aware of the increased heavy build up of traffic at the junction of Spencer and Nicholson Roads, Cannington, during peak hour traffic, and generally throughout the day?
- (2) If "Yes" will he arrange to have traffic lights installed at this junction to enable traffic to flow more freely?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) The Main Roads Department is negotiating with the Town of Canning and Town of Gosnells for the provision of channelisation suitable for the anticipated installation of traffic control signals in 1977-78.

10. SEWERAGE

Beckenham

Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Metropolitan Water Board to run a reticulated sewerage main across the Canning River from the Langford main to service Beckenham?
- (2) If "Yes" what area of Beckenham would be serviced?
- (3) If "No" when can it be expected the Beckenham area will be deep sewered?

Mr Ridge (for Mr O'NEIL) replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Not presently programmed as other areas have been given a higher priority in the backlog sewerage programme.

11. LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Long Service Leave: Portability

Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has he sought the views of local authorities as to the question of portability of long service leave for local government employees?
- (2) If "Yes" what has been the result?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) Yes. The Local Government Association and the Country Shire Councils' Association have been requested to advise the views of their member bodies on the principle of long service leave portability and on a modified scheme which provides for a qualifying period of service.
- (2) The replies received to date are as follows:—

Local Government Association—

In favour, 13;

Against, 14;

No reply, 3.

Country Shire Councils' Association—

In favour, 48;

Against, 31;

No reply, 37.

12. SHOPPING CENTRE

Langford

Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Have tenders been called for the proposed shopping complex at Langford?
- (2) If "Yes" how many tenders have been received?
- (3) Were any of the tenders successful?
- (4) If not, why not?

Mr Old (for Mr P. V. JONES) replied:

- (1) Yes. Tenders closed on 27th April, 1976.
- (2) One tender received.
- (3) No.
- (4) Tender price not acceptable, however the commission has entered into negotiations with the tenderer.

13. PORT OF BUNBURY

Additional Wharves

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

Does the Government intend extending the port facilities at Bunbury with the provision of additional wharves to cover other types of cargoes such as sheep, etc?

Mr Ridge (for Mr O'NEIL) replied: The Government intends to extend the port facilities at Bunbury by providing a general purpose berth within the inner harbour basin, adjacent to the woodchip berth.

This berth has been designed to handle general cargo, including the export of sheep, etc.

14. COAL

Deposits in the North-west

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

- (1) Will he inform the House if any recent deposits of coal have been discovered in the north-west part of the State?
- (2) If the answer is "Yes" will he please advise the anticipated tonnages, the thickness of the seams and whether or not the proposition would involve a deep mine or open cut methods?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) None to the knowledge of the Department of Mines.
- (2) Not applicable.

15. POLICE AND ROAD TRAFFIC AUTHORITY

Air Patrols

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

- (1) On how many occasions has the Road Traffic Authority or the police hired an aeroplane or a helicopter for patrol work since the authority was established?
- (2) Will he state—
 - (a) what and where helicopters and aeroplanes have been used;
 - (b) who the helicopters and aeroplanes were hired from; and
 - (c) the individual costs involved in the operations, including hire and wages?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) (a) Fixed wing aircraft constantly between 18th February, 1975, and 30th June, 1976.
- (b) Helicopter—5 occasions—1st March and 22nd March, 1976, 15th, 17th and 19th April, 1976;
- (c) Gyrocopter, 22 occasions between 17th December, 1975, and 10th January, 1976.
- (2) (a) (i) Fixed wing aircraft: Perth, north to Ajana, east to Kalgoorlie, south to Esperance, Albany and Busselton;
- (ii) Helicopter: Perth, south to Mandurah, north to Lancelin, east to Northam;
- (iii) Gyrocopter: Perth, south to Bunbury and in Metropolitan area.
- (b) (i) Fixed wing aircraft: Transwest Aircraft Charter Pty. Ltd;
- (ii) Helicopter: Bell Bros. group of companies.
- (iii) Gyrocopter: United Air Services.
- (c) (i) Fixed wing aircraft: At hourly rate including fuel and maintenance, total \$32 393.18; No salary other than police pilots and observers.
- (ii) Helicopter: At hourly rate for fuel and pilot, total of \$1 359 plus salary for one police observer.
- (iii) Gyrocopter: At hourly rate for fuel and pilot, total of \$2 645.25 plus salary for one police observer.

16. STATE FORESTS

Karri: Concessions

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

- (1) Which companies or firms hold concessional rights over areas of State forest from which they are entitled to draw karri saw logs?
- (2) What is the area which applies in each case, and what is the annual quantity of karri which it is permissible to remove in each case?
- (3) At the present level of cutting, for how long will the supply of karri in each instance last?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) None. The procurement of hardwood sawlogs is now carried out under either permit or licence.

The following companies or firms have either permits or licences to cut karri:

Bunning Bros. Pty. Ltd.
 Millars (W.A.) Pty. Ltd.
 Worsley Timber Pty. Ltd.
 Whittakers Limited.
 Gandy Timbers Pty. Ltd.
 Concrete Industries (Monier) Ltd.

- (2) Bunning Bros. Pty. Ltd. permit area—269 689 hectares.
 Millars (W.A.) Pty. Ltd. permit area—113 789 hectares.
 Worsley Timber Pty. Ltd. licence area—94 hectares.
 Whittakers Limited licence area—326 hectares.
 Gandy Timbers Pty. Ltd. licence area—172 hectares.
 Concrete Industries (Monier) Ltd. licence area—1 145 hectares.

The permissible karri cut is not specified but the total permissible cut that can include karri as part of the intake is 517 766 m³ and during 1974-75 245 953 m³ karri was taken or 47.5 percentage of the total. The question of the proportion of karri cut under each permit or licence is under active consideration in the preparation of the present working plan.

- (3) The duration of the supply of karri at present depends on the proportion of karri removed as part of the overall permissible intake.

Information relating to individual companies or firms is in any case confidential.

17. ALWEST ALUMINA PROJECT

Commencement

Mr MAY, to the Premier:

- (1) Following the meeting with partners of the Alwest alumina project held in Melbourne during January, 1976, has any further discussion taken place subsequently?
- (2) If so, would he indicate the date of the latest meeting?
- (3) When can it be anticipated that an announcement regarding the commencement of the project will be made?
- (4) Will the Federal Government's recently announced foreign investment policy assist the development of the Alwest project?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) There have been a number of discussions with representatives of participants—and some of them quite recently. Further meetings will be held.
- (3) It would be premature for me to comment on this matter now.
- (4) From earlier discussions with the Federal Government, no problems are anticipated in regard to the equity structure of this project.

18. RAILWAYS

North-west to Queensland Line

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Has the Government investigated the viability of constructing a railway line between northern Western Australia and Queensland as proposed by the Queensland Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petersen and Mr Lang Hancock?
- (2) If "Yes" is the proposal considered economically viable?
- (3) If "No" is it the intention of the Government to investigate the proposal?
- (4) Has the Government had any discussions on this matter with Mr Bjelke-Petersen or Mr Hancock?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Yes briefly.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) No.

19. IRON ORE

Deepdale Project: Japanese Participation

Mr MAY, to the Premier:

- (1) Has the State Government had any discussions with Broken Hill Proprietary Co. Ltd. regarding

possible equity participation by Japanese steel mills in the proposed Deepdale iron ore project?

- (2) Is the Government aware of any negotiations or discussions which have or will be taking place between the mentioned companies?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) The Government is aware of negotiations taking place in respect of iron ore contracts for Deepdale and which discussions could include possible Japanese equity participation.

20.

MINING

Prospectors Assistance Scheme

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What is the current rate available under the Prospectors Assistance Scheme?
- (2) What is the date of the last increase in the rate?
- (3) How many prospectors are currently receiving assistance?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) \$17.50 per week in areas "A" and "B" on attached plan.
\$15.00 per week in areas "C" and "D" on attached plan.
- (2) 1st July, 1966.
- (3) One.

The plan was tabled (see paper No. 322).

21.

RAILWAYS

Mullewa-Mt. Magnet Line: Upgrading

Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the condition of the Mullewa-Mt. Magnet railway line such that it is incapable of handling annual tonnages between 100 000 and 200 000?
- (2) If the answer is "Yes" what expenditure would be necessary to bring it to the standard to perform such a task?
- (3) Could the State fund such amount or would the user be called upon to meet the capital expenditure?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The line is presently carrying tonnages in excess of 200 000 tonnes per annum but the railway is deteriorating and severe speed restrictions have had to be imposed.
- (2) It will not be possible to continue with the existing line for more than about two years when it will need to be completely rebuilt. A feasibility estimate of the cost to replace the railway is \$18 to \$20 million.

- (3) In normal circumstances the user would not be called upon to meet the capital expenditure.

22. URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT

Establishment

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Has the State Government authorised a study to be undertaken of the feasibility of a uranium enrichment industry being established in Western Australia?
- (2) Has any technical advice been requested from the Atomic Energy Commission?
- (3) In view of its responsibilities under the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, would the establishment of a uranium enrichment plant require the approval of the Commonwealth Government?
- (4) Has there been any move by the State Government either officially or unofficially to investigate the possible establishment of a uranium re-processing industry in Western Australia?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) A preliminary study was done some years ago.
- (2) Yes, at the time of the above-mentioned study.
- (3) Such a development if proceeded with would be advanced in close collaboration with the Commonwealth Government.
- (4) No.

23. STATE ENERGY COMMISSION

Levy on Revenue

Mr MAY, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) What was the date the Government decided to apply the 3% levy on SEC revenue for Consolidated Revenue purposes?
- (2) What is the total amount of revenue derived from the 3% levy up to 30th June 1976?
- (3) Is it the intention of the Government to continue the 3% levy indefinitely?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) The 3 per cent levy is made to the State under the Public Authorities (Contributions) Act, 1974. This was assented to by the Governor on the 18th November 1974.
- (2) \$5 196 465.
- (3) The need to continue the levy is kept in constant review by the Government.

24.

EDUCATION

Country Schools Competitions: Bus Hire

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

As country school children have long distances to travel to participate in activities arranged between schools in their districts, which incurs extra costs to parents and parents and citizens' associations for bus hire, will the Government give consideration to providing finance to country schools to cover these charges?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

The Education Department provides a subsidy from its budget of up to \$100 per country school towards the cost of bus hire for an annual inter-school athletics meeting. Due to other higher priority needs for available funds, an increase or extension of this subsidy cannot be considered at this time.

25. COUNTRY HIGH SCHOOL HOSTEL

Wyalkatchem

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

What progress has been made towards the building of a four-night hostel at Wyalkatchem to cater for the parents located in the northern and eastern sections of the area?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

No expansion in hostel accommodation is contemplated at the present time when there are many empty places in existing hostels.

26. TRANSPORT AND RAILWAYS

Mail Carriers

Mr McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has consideration been given to the provision of a courier van operated by Westrail based in a centrally located town such as Wyalkatchem, to service adjoining districts carrying parcels, spare parts, mail, etc.?
- (2) Has consideration been given by the Government to use other means of transport such as milk runs, paper delivery vehicles, freezer vans, etc., to be accredited mail carriers?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No. Westrail already has motor trucks on regular timetables operating from various country centres carrying parcels, mails and less than car load traffic as ancillary services to rail.
- (2) Mail deliveries are the responsibility of Australian Post and transport agencies work in close liaison with Australian Post.

27. DROUGHT RELIEF

Oats and Barley: Availability

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

What is the total quantity of—

(a) oats;

(b) barley,

currently held in storage in Western Australia and which could be available for stock feed in drought areas as an emergency measure?

Mr OLD replied:

(a) No oats are held in storage for stock feed purposes.

(b) 30 671 tonnes.

28 to 30. *These questions were postponed.*

31. DIANELLA HEIGHTS SCHOOL

Additional Accommodation

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

- (1) Is it intended that three new classrooms will be provided at the Dianella Heights Primary School and that they be ready for occupancy by the beginning of the 1977 school year?
- (2) When will the assembly area be covered?
- (3) When will a library resource area be provided at the school?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (3) Works comprising four new classrooms and a library resource area are under construction at present. The completion date for these additions is 7th January, 1977.
- (2) At present, covered assembly areas are provided in cluster schools only. It is not possible to indicate when a covered assembly area will be provided at the school.

32.

BIRDS

Licences to Sell

Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

With respect to the sale of exotic birds from pet shops—

- (1) What types of licences are presently available?
- (2) How many such licences have been issued to shop keepers in the metropolitan area during the past 12 months?
- (3) How many applications for such licences are presently held by his department?
- (4) When is it anticipated that any such outstanding applications will be processed?

Mr Old (for Mr P. V. JONES) replied:

- (1) Regulation 13 made under the Wildlife Conservation Act may authorise the sale of indigenous and introduced avian fauna subject to certain conditions which may vary according to the requirements of conservation.
- (2) 1 at Morley and 1 at Armadale.
- (3) 60.
- (4) The policy of refusing all applications except in centres where a wildlife officer is already appointed is being reviewed and restricted licences may be more readily available in the next few weeks.

33.

EDUCATION

Mental Defectives: Special Schools

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

With respect to the construction of special schools for the mentally handicapped—

- (1) What was the cost of the White Gum Valley special school?
- (2) What other such schools are presently under construction and what is the budgeted cost?
- (3) What other such schools are scheduled for construction in the 1976-77 financial year, and what is the estimated cost?
- (4) Have any plans been prepared, even in part, for any other centres, and if so, what are the centres?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Tender price \$296 200.
- (2) Nil.

- (3) (i) Narrogin special school (transportable unit) \$30 000.
(ii) Willetton special school \$1 000 000.
- (4) Kellerberrin special school (replacement); White Gum Valley special school—Stage 2; Bayswater special school—Stage 2.

34.

TRACTORS

Weight Determination

Mr COWAN, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

With reference to section 75 (5a) of the Machinery Safety Act concerning the requirements of a protective cab or frame on a wheeled tractor, are optional extras such as a sound proof cab, dual wheels and wheel weights taken into consideration when determining the weight of the tractor?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

Paragraph (a) of subsection 5 of section 75 of the Machinery Safety Act specifically states that when determining the size of tractor which may require a fitting of a protective cab or frame the mass of the tractor is . . . "deemed to be the lowest mass in which the tractor in any form is normally available for retail sale when new and without water, fuel or lubricating oil."

The fitting of optional extras which may increase the mass of the tractor are not taken into consideration.

35.

HEALTH

"Clanger Molloy": Distribution

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

What is the present position regarding publication and distribution of the comic *Clanger Molloy*?

Mr RIDGE replied:

The Health Education Council has considered the publication and distribution of the comic *Clanger Molloy* and has decided not to proceed.

36.

ART GALLERY

New Structure

Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

Referring to question 11 of 7th April, 1976 regarding a public appeal for a new art gallery, can he inform the House what progress has been made in this direction please?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The Western Australian Art Gallery Board is, at this moment forming a committee, together with the Art Gallery Society, for the purpose of launching an appeal for funds towards the new Art Gallery.

In consultation with the Minister for Cultural Affairs, business concerns and likely patrons, it is felt that an appeal for funds would be more successful if the sum raised were to be put to important art purchases ready for the opening of the new Art Gallery, rather than become part of the overall building fund.

Such art purchases could be seen to be distinct contributions by the people of Western Australia.

Without such a contribution, the board would need to approach the Government for supplementary purchase funds in order to upgrade the present collection when it is displayed in the new Art Gallery.

37. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Delay by Guidelines on Foreign Investment

Mr MAY, to the Premier:

Will he give particulars of potential major projects and sales contracts which are being delayed or impeded because of the Federal Government's guidelines on foreign investment?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

Basically, the policies of the present Federal Government in respect of foreign investment are conducive to the encouragement of major projects and sales contracts.

For reasons the member will understand, I am not prepared to be specific about any particular projects where these policies or guidelines have potentially been an issue.

I am now assured the guidelines have a flexibility that, when the major factors affecting economic viability (such as construction and operating costs and industrial instability) can be settled, we will have no serious problems.

All current negotiations are proceeding on this basis although there was a time when statements emanating from Canberra caused anxiety in the minds of those undertaking the negotiations.

QUESTIONS (3): WITHOUT NOTICE

1. DROUGHT

Road Maintenance Tax: Waiving

Mr CRANE, to the Minister for Transport:

Further to my question 59 of Wednesday, the 4th August, requesting the waiving of road maintenance tax in certain drought conditions, as the matter of livestock carriage is covered will the Minister agree to further amending section 6 of the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act to include exemption of tax on water and fodder transport in drought areas?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of his question, the answer to which is as follows—

No, but other avenues of assistance or compensation are under consideration by Cabinet.

2. ART GALLERY *New Structure*

Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

I ask the Premier whether he can give any further information to the reply to question 36 on today's notice paper.

In view of the proposed appeal by the committee of the Art Gallery Board and the Art Gallery Society, what is the Government's intention in respect of bricks and mortar? Has the Government set aside any money for the building?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

In answer to the honourable member, I thought the position was quite clear. The Government has accepted responsibility for the Art Gallery.

As a result of the move by those friends of the gallery—those who are patrons of the gallery and who want to be identified with some fund raising—it is hopeful we will get an additional dimension of fund raising.

As far as I am concerned, the Government agreed on the design. I do not recall the date for the calling of tenders.

Mr Davies: Tenders have not yet been called?

Sir CHARLES COURT: A date has been set but I cannot recall whether tenders have actually been called.

An announcement has been made which was quite specific. I did read a statement that those involved were hopeful of having something ready for an opening during the 150th anniversary of the State.

Mr Davies: I do not think there was any timetable.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I could not be precise but I am fairly certain we even conveyed it to the TLC following one of the requests about the projects which were coming up.

3. GOLDMINING

Representations to Prime Minister

Mr MAY, to the Premier:

(1) Having regard for the article which appeared in *The West Australian* today headed "Canberra rejects gold pleas" has he had any official notification from the Acting Prime Minister confirming the rejection of the State Government's representations?

(2) Because of the apparent immediate rejection of this State's representations, does he consider that sufficient consideration was given to the representations?

(3) In view of the apparent disregard for the plight of the goldmining industry by the Acting Prime Minister (Mr Anthony) and the Treasurer (Mr Lynch), will he give consideration to submitting urgent representation to the Prime Minister on his return from overseas?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) I had received no official notification up to the time I left my office this morning but it could have come later in the day.

(2) From the very brief look I have had at the article I can only assume that the Commonwealth and its advisers had considered the matter in considerable detail at the time they made the original announcement, and that any representations which have been made since have been dealt with in the light of the previous studies they had made leading up to the decision.

Not having received any word officially at this stage, my own judgment on the matter is that they would not have given the representations—diverse, as they were, from varying interests—adequate consideration to make an independent decision; that is,

a decision independent of the previous commitment they made and publicised. However, it is not for me to judge until I know more about it.

- (3) It was my intention, if the matter were rejected in the absence of the Prime Minister, to make very strong personal representations to him in the hope that their significance might have some effect, especially as the Commonwealth Government did not join in with the scheme to which the State Government had committed itself in respect of both KLV and Mt. Magnet. So I will be making my own separate representations to the Prime Minister. I must admit that when I sent my message over I sent it to the Prime Minister, hoping he would have returned before the matter was reconsidered; but apparently it has been dealt with in his absence.

SUPPLY BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR BLAIE (Vasse) [4.23 p.m.]: I take this opportunity to address the House in the debate on the Supply Bill, and I hope this will be my swan song in relation to an industry in which I have a tremendous involvement and which I have mentioned in this House on many occasions; that is, the dairying industry.

I convey my appreciation to the Government for its action, to the Premier for his clear understanding, to the Minister for Agriculture for his valuable assistance, and to the Dairy Industry Authority for allowing the spread of a further 157 milk quotas since May last year. That was an historic occasion. Political sniping has occurred about the dairying industry from time to time, but I believe the decisions which have been made during the life of this Government will go down in history and will be recognised as important decisions for the future of the dairying industry.

The allocation of quotas for new areas is of definite benefit to the producers concerned but, more importantly, it will consolidate and give new benefits to the communities in which those producers operate. In one locality many producers had their buildings and premises up to date but others did not; they required other facilities, refrigerated vats, and new milking machines to bring them into line with the market milk standards. In this regard the expenditure has been approximately \$750 000. With this kind of expenditure the whole area receives benefits.

Recently there was an increase in the price of milk and for many producers it was virtually the first time they had entered an industry and automatically received an increase of \$800 for the year's supply. That is a bright aspect about which I am particularly pleased. It creates renewed vigour and optimism for the future. I am certain these people will meet the challenge and acquit themselves very well.

However, there are difficulties which we do not discount and of which the people concerned are fully aware. They now have a requirement to meet summer milk production and a continuing supply of quality milk throughout the year. They have stress periods, and the level of management will need to be first class. That is the whole object of the exercise. From here on we will be able to build up a far better and more important industry for Western Australia.

In this regard, I believe herd recording must play a much more important role in the future. The stresses of quality milk will become even more important. Today we talk about solids not fat and there are required standards for protein measurement. The standards which were accepted previously no longer count. The herd recording system needs to be overhauled and more producers must avail themselves of this mechanism so that they can do an individual cow analysis on a protein and solids not fat basis. At this stage I do not know how this will come about but I believe the Government has a responsibility to look into this factor because it will be of major importance.

While I am speaking about the dairying industry, I must mention another matter which has been of concern to me. There has been a lot of talk among leaders of the dairying industry in this State and across the Commonwealth about the problem of the surplus of manufacturing milk products. The question has been asked time and time again: Should quota restrictions be placed on the respective States? Whether this is to be done on an individual basis or on a State basis is still being discussed.

I indicate to the Parliament my concern about the matter and ask for a degree of caution in this regard. I believe it is important to be fully aware of the particular situation we have in Western Australia, where we import dairy produce. Whereas other States, particularly Victoria and Tasmania, have major problems with surpluses of manufacturing milk, that is not the case in this State. I urge the industry leaders to observe extreme caution before they commit Western Australia to a course of action which cannot be reversed, and if possible to give every consideration to not implementing production quotas on either a State or individual basis.

The very success of dairy producers in the past, whether or not they have had market milk entitlement, has stemmed

from the fact that they have had the opportunity to market their surplus as their efficiency improved. I am very concerned that the industry might be shackled with production controls, which I do not believe would be of benefit to producers with market milk entitlement, and certainly not to the remaining few in the manufacturing milk industry.

One matter I wish to refer to whilst speaking about dairying is the people who have recently obtained market milk entitlements. I indicate to the House that I am not naive enough to say that every recipient of this entitlement will have 100 per cent success or even that everyone will succeed. These people have a hard row to hoe and it is a completely new ball game. However, it is a policy which will be of major consequence; it will stabilise the industry and unify the producers. The policy will restore confidence and it is of major importance in my electorate.

While I have the opportunity to speak on matters in my electorate, I will refer to a problem which is becoming apparent at Augusta, and that is the matter of accommodation at the hospital. The Augusta Hospital was built some years ago and it has a capacity for eight beds. It services the town quite well, but members are aware that Augusta is growing all the time and the bed capacity is no longer adequate.

Mr Davies: You have the Busselton Hospital—don't start on Augusta!

Mr BLAIKIE: The Busselton Hospital is under way and I am very pleased about that. I almost forgot to mention it and in remembering, I thank the member for Victoria Park for his help and co-operation.

As I indicated, the Augusta Hospital has an eight-bed capacity. It has another area known as the solarium—for what reason I do not know—and three beds are used there in emergency situations. On several occasions this year 11 beds have been required and it has been necessary to use the solarium. Also, it was announced recently that Augusta is to be the recipient of \$167 000 from the Department of Social Security to provide a frail aged home to be built adjacent to the hospital. This home will increase the need for hospital accommodation.

I have already made representations to the Minister for Health in this regard, but I mention the matter in the House because I believe forward planning should be commenced now. We already have a proven need, and once the home for the frail aged is completed, there will be more people in the area who may require hospital facilities from time to time.

I have also had representations made to the Minister for Transport concerning the roads in the area and in particular the road from Margaret River to Augusta. We have now a magnificent highway almost

to Karridale but the new highway cuts out some 12 miles short of Augusta. It is most important that this road should be completed. Augusta is without rail access and it is totally dependent on road services. Members are aware of the importance of tourism to Augusta; approximately 100 000 people have visited the caves this year. This gives some indication of the necessity to finalise the vital road link with Augusta.

A deputation has been made to the Minister for Works on another matter, but I take this opportunity to bring to the attention of the House an increasing problem in regard to water reticulation to the town of Dunsborough. It was only two years ago that the Dunsborough Water Board handed over the control of water in the area to the Public Works Department, but since that time the department has done an excellent job in upgrading water mains. The PWD has undertaken a programme of water boring and drilling to find a suitable source of water in order that the area may be serviced adequately as the existing services were not sufficient to meet the needs of the area and adequate supplies have been located at Quindalup.

Mr Bertram: Is that what you call socialism in action?

Mr BLAIKIE: This work has continued at considerable expense to the Government.

Mr B. T. Burke: What about your \$8 million slush fund? That is all it is!

Mr BLAIKIE: The Government has probably already spent \$100 000 to date.

Mr A. R. Tonkin: Plenty of money in kitty.

Mr BLAIKIE: It is important to proceed with the programme to bring the water through Quindalup to link up with Dunsborough. I am pleased that the member for Murray appreciates the necessity for the completion of the project. As a resident of Dunsborough for some years he realises it is important that these areas have adequate facilities available. I am quite aware of the pressing budgetary problems of the Government and also very aware of the high cost of such a capital works programme. I take this opportunity to put the matter before the Parliament and urge the Government to give every consideration to it in the current Budget Estimates.

Last night, during the censure motion, I was a little concerned to hear the Deputy Leader of the Opposition become very critical of "dole bashers", and he made certain references to such people. I would like to make a few points on this matter because I could well have been one of the persons about whom he was talking. From the outset let me say that I believe the criteria used by the Department of Social Security is that unemployment benefits are for those who can show a proven

need. Unemployment benefits are very important to primary producers, and I know some primary producers who are already receiving these payments. I am aware also of some dairy farmers who are receiving unemployment benefits. These people subjected themselves to an assessment of means and this is fair enough. As long as someone can show a need, consideration is given.

The other important criterion is that anyone seeking benefits must be available and willing to work, and this is where the difficulty comes in. I have always found that I have had little or no difficulty in dealing with the department when making representations for genuine people in genuine need. However, there is a minority of people who are not interested in work in any form but who want the benefits provided by a working nation. I have referred to this matter in the House previously because certainly some people who fall into this category temporarily reside in the area I represent. They move to an area where no work is available so that they can seek the benefits of unemployment relief. They are not prepared to work, and certainly I take steps not only to hinder them but also to deter them from making an application. I ask these people to return to the metropolitan area and advise them I will not help them.

My attitude is that if people have not got a genuine desire to get off their tails and to do something to help themselves, I am not prepared to help them. I have taken this stand in the past and I will take it in the future. I do not mind standing up to be counted as a "dole basher".

Mr B. T. Burke: What about the \$8 million campaign chest?

Mr BLAIKIE: I do not want to see my electorate filled up with people who do not want to work. By all means let us look after genuine people who show a desire to work. It is our responsibility to do so, and certainly I accept my responsibility.

Mr B. T. Burke: Eight million dollars and we have a drought on our hands!

Mr BLAIKIE: If there are members who are assisting people who are not genuine, I believe they are shirking their responsibility to the Parliament and to the taxpayers who elected them.

Mr Bertram: Quite right—they would be corrupt.

Mr BLAIKIE: This brings me to another matter which has been highlighted again in the last week. Members will know that in this area we have the problem of drug abuse and the people associated with it. Only last week we saw an article in *The West Australian* where a local JP (Councillor George Kevill) indicated his concern about this growing problem in the

area. I certainly share his concern and support the bringing of this to the attention of the public.

Quite frankly, drugs are a real problem. Since January of this year we have had 36 convictions in the Busselton area, but I indicate to the House that almost all the people who have been convicted on drug charges are not indigent to the area, and never have been. Their past addresses are such places as Perth, Fremantle, Cairns, Rockhampton, etc. We are getting the problems of other areas, because the people are leaving those areas and coming to Busselton.

Mr Davies: Do they go there to surf?

Mr BLAIKIE: That may be one of the reasons, but the point is that many stay in the area.

I would like to indicate my real appreciation of the improved methods of detection and surveillance undertaken by the Police Force in my area. I applaud the efforts of the police in attempting to keep the matter under control.

Mr Bertram: They are doing an excellent job.

Mr BLAIKIE: At present I am concerned that we are only touching the tip of the iceberg and that as convictions are escalating it seems that penalties are not providing the answer. I believe there is a need for Parliament to review the present penalties. In my opinion it will be necessary for Parliament to restate its attitude regarding cannabis. Let me indicate now that I am definitely opposed to the use of cannabis. None of the information I have read has convinced me that cannabis is not harmful. Many young people are going along and telling justices of the peace and magistrates that cannabis smoking is not as harmful as cigarette smoking. That may or may not be the case, but we know at the moment there is no penalty for cigarette smoking, whilst there is a penalty for cannabis smoking. It is possible that in time it may be an offence to smoke cigarettes; at the moment it is an offence to smoke on MTT buses. That is how society changes.

However, the law of the land is precise: if a person is smoking cannabis or is in possession of cannabis, he is committing an offence. I believe there is a need for Parliament to review and restate its attitude in this respect. I feel penalties should be made uniform. At the moment fines range up to \$2 000 for persons found smoking cannabis. I believe there is a need for review; secondly, we should impose a minimum penalty; and, thirdly, where first offenders are involved ample consideration should be given to the fact that it is the first occasion on which the persons have offended. In this respect I am referring only to the smoking of cannabis or cannabis derivatives.

Mr Bertram: What is the first offence penalty?

Mr BLAICKIE: It is up to \$2 000. In respect of first offenders there is a need for a minimum penalty or, alternatively, to have these people released on probation with the court having discretion to endeavour to help them to mend their ways. That would be up to the individual concerned, if he wanted the chance.

There are other penalties. For many years now the penalty for supplying or selling drugs has been \$4 000 and/or 10 years' imprisonment. I believe this penalty should be reviewed and, again, minimum penalties should be invoked.

At the moment a great deal of variation occurs in the penalties handed down by justices of the peace and magistrates throughout Western Australia, and in my opinion we should try to achieve some kind of uniformity in this respect.

With those words, I support the Bill.

MR MOILER (Mundaring) [4.46 p.m.]: Three years ago, almost to the day, the gentleman who is now the Premier of this State moved an amendment to the motion "That the Bill be now read a second time" in respect of the Supply Bill introduced by the Tonkin Government. He was calling for the refusal of supply unless the Tonkin Government was prepared to agree to an early election. The amendment moved by the then Leader of the Opposition was as follows—

That the word "now" be deleted with a view to adding after the word "time" the following words—

after the Government has given the necessary undertakings to the satisfaction of the Parliament to ensure that a State General Election will be held on or before October 6, 1973.

That occurred on the 8th August, 1973. At that time the then Leader of the Opposition (the present Premier) saw no reason that supply should not be refused to force a legitimately elected Government to the people. Subsequently we saw that filthy and undemocratic action taken in respect of the Federal Government.

Fortunately for this State the Leader of the Opposition at that time was unsuccessful in his move to refuse supply in this Chamber. His amendment was supported by every member of the Opposition but, naturally was defeated. This did not prevent the then Leader of the Opposition from scurrying around and endeavouring to get members of the Opposition parties in the other place to refuse supply to the Government of the day. Possibly the most undemocratic thing that can happen to a properly elected Government is to be tossed out in that fashion, and that is what the present Premier wanted to do, just as the Federal Labor Government was refused supply.

Mr Bryce: The action of a desperate man.

Mr MOILER: During the debate at that time, one of the reasons given by the present Premier in support of his effort to refuse supply was that there had been a general lack of confidence in Western Australia as a result of the policy of the Australian Labor Party.

The point I wish to make as I go through what happened on that occasion in 1973, is that the charges laid then against the Tonkin Government by the present Premier, could now be laid at his own feet. The following is one of the reasons advanced by the then Premier in his effort to refuse supply to the Tonkin Government—

There has been a general lack of confidence in Western Australia because of the policies of the Australian Labor Party, as reflected in the downturn of the economy of Western Australia during the first eighteen months of the present State Government's term of office and the slower reaction to the overall national recovery than has been apparent in other parts of Australia, in spite of the fact that this State has, of all Australian States, the greatest potential for economic activity and growth in proportion to its population.

The very same thing could be said at the present time, but in connection with the Liberal Party. There is no reason that Western Australia should have the greatest inflation rate and the greatest number of unemployed in Australia. However, at that time the present Premier thought that was good reason to refuse supply.

Whilst the present Opposition party would never agree to refusing supply to a democratically elected Government, I believe the action of the Liberal Opposition warrants mention.

If there was a case for a Government to go to the people in 1973, there is certainly a far greater case for this State Government to front up to its responsibilities and face the people. I challenge the Premier to call an election in October, and see what the public do to him. It would soon become very obvious what the public thought of his actions in regard to Tresillian and the removal of pensioner travel concessions. I believe public feeling would be almost 100 per cent against him; of course, there would still be the odd ones who would continue to blindly support the Liberals.

Mr Jamieson: About the third Saturday in October would be ideal.

Mr MOILER: However, members can rest assured that the Premier will not have the courage to call an early election.

Sir Charles Court: We will look forward to the election at the appropriate time.

Mr MOILER: One of the groups which will vote strongly against the Premier and his Government is the pensioner group within our State. Quite obviously, they have been placing political pressure on the Government as they have been urged to do. At a recent rally of pensioners held at Gloucester Park, they were obviously being encouraged to take an interest in politics.

Sir Charles Court: By whom?

Mr MOILER: Certainly not by Labor.

Sir Charles Court: Oh no? Have you seen their address?

Mr MOILER: I concede that it may well have been by Labor; certainly, it would not have been by the Liberal Party because not one Liberal member of Parliament had the courage to accept the invitation which was sent to all members to attend the rally; but 10 State Labor members attended.

Sir Charles Court: Was it not a TLC-promoted meeting?

Mr MOILER: It was not.

Sir Charles Court: I received a very interesting letter from them.

Mr Bryce: Did you have the courtesy to reply?

Mr MOILER: There will be a great mass of people within Western Australia who will not vote for the Premier because of his actions in regard to pensioners. This point was raised at the rally, when a speaker pointed out to the assembled pensioners that, despite the fact that the Premier initiated a committee of inquiry into pensioners' concessions and benefits at a time when we had a Federal Labor Government—no doubt, he hoped in some way to be able to blame somebody else for his own inefficiency and shortcomings—and despite the fact that the committee released its report almost a year ago, the Premier has continued to refuse to accept the recommendations contained in the report.

One of the excellent recommendations made by the committee was that pensioner travel concessions should be expanded. This point was highlighted to the people attending the rally. However, the Premier chose to go against his own report and remove the free travel concession enjoyed by pensioners.

The West Australian of Monday, the 12th July, contains a small article headed, "Pensioners' free-travel plea fails" and states as follows—

Pensioners have been told they must pay for metropolitan bus and train travel.

Special fares for pensioners came into effect yesterday with the increased fares.

The Premier, Sir Charles Court, has rejected a request from the WA branch of the Australian Pensioners' League to retain free bus and train travel for pensioners.

This decision has been taken by a Premier who initiated a committee of inquiry which produced a report containing 14 pages of recommendations which the State Government could put into effect on its own behalf, without the need for Commonwealth support. The report contains 10 such recommendations.

It suggests that the State Government could allow a rebate of 25 per cent on motor vehicle registration fees; allow a reduction of 50 per cent on corresponding motor vehicle drivers' licences; provide one free trip each year to eligible pensioners resident in the north-west and other remote areas of the State; make available an amount of \$52 000 to provide relief to those pensioners who are ill, frail, handicapped or of advanced age who do not have access to public transport or cannot avail themselves of it; extend travel concessions to dependent children of eligible pensioners, provided they are accompanied by at least one parent; allow to continue the present system of permitting eligible pensioners to defer payment of local government and water rates; and allow eligible pensioners who wished to pay their rates as they fell due each year a 25 per cent concession.

In addition to the 10 recommendations which the Government could act upon on its own behalf, the report also contains other recommendations which would require joint Commonwealth and State action, and recommendations requiring Commonwealth action alone.

If the Premier chooses to work along the lines he advanced when in Opposition—that the States could beat inflation and unemployment on a State by State basis—surely he could adopt the same principle in this case and implement the recommendations brought forward by his own committee. But the Premier has demonstrated once again that he is all talk without any worth-while action.

Perhaps I should not say the Premier takes no action, because he does take action occasionally. For instance, he took immediate action to rescue Alan Bond from financial difficulties.

Sir Charles Court: What did we do to rescue him?

Mr MOILER: The Premier spent Commonwealth moneys inappropriately in order to save Bond; I believe the Premier did so quite wrongly.

Sir Charles Court: Do not talk nonsense!

Mr MOILER: Similarly, the Premier took action to save TVW Channel 7 and Michael Edgley.

Sir Charles Court: You should not start an argument on that point. The sooner you bring that one up in this House, the better we like it.

Mr Nanovich: What about Yunderup.

Mr Jamieson: Who started Yunderup?

Mr Bertram: It was a good bargain.

Mr O'Connor: The Labor Government was involved.

Mr Jamieson: That shows how much you know. You know nothing about it, you great horse.

Mr Nanovich: That was a typical Frankenstein comment from the new image on the front bench over there.

Mr B. T. Burke: I should like to know about the \$8 million slush fund—the war chest for the Premier.

Mr MOILER: I shall leave it to the member for Balga to spend some time on the slush fund because he will do that quite capably. I think it warrants a mention that on the 15th June, seven weeks ago, I wrote to the Premier after he had announced that it was the Government's intention to rescue Academy Entertainments Pty. Ltd., the company that developed the Entertainment Centre. I acknowledged the fact that I did not know a great deal about economics. I sought information. In seeking this information I raised the point that the major shareholders of Academy Entertainment Pty. Ltd., TVW Ltd. and Edgley, the entrepreneur, were possibly the parties who utilised the Entertainment Centre most. They produce most shows there and they obviously make profits out of those productions. I wanted to know whether Academy Entertainment Pty. Ltd. were charging these two producers sufficient rental. What was the rental when Disney on Parade was very well attended? What was the rental for Peter Pan? What has been the rental when there has been good attendance? I think those questions are reasonable.

The main producers of shows at the Entertainment Centre and the previous owners of the Entertainment Centre, I suspect, are primarily the same group of people. On the one hand it is running at a huge loss, but they are still making a profit on the production line. I wanted to know whether sufficient rental was being charged. I mentioned one of two other matters in the correspondence. I merely sought information from the Premier.

It is reasonable that if a Government is to make a handout to such people, as it did, to save them from bankruptcy, the people who have to foot the bill, the taxpayers of Western Australia, are entitled to know some of the circumstances. On what did the Government base its decision? Why did not the Government allow Academy Entertainment Pty. Ltd. to

go bankrupt? The Government's investment would have been secure. The Premier does not have any pity for small businesses that go bankrupt. It is just one of the hard things of our free enterprise business world!

I suppose some members of Parliament may even have interests in TVW Ltd.

Sir Charles Court: Such as who?

Mr MOILER: I shall not mention any names. If the cap fits, wear it.

Sir Charles Court: Such as who?

Mr Jamieson: The member for Murchison-Eyre has a pocketful.

Mr MOILER: There could well be members of Parliament who either directly or through family interests have shares in TVW Ltd. So it could be indirectly of benefit to them if TVW Ltd and Edgley are rescued to the extent of many millions of dollars at the expense of the Western Australian public. If that company had been allowed to go bankrupt the Entertainment Centre would still have been there and the State Government could still have obtained it and used it for the benefit of the Western Australian public, instead of paying this huge amount of money to save TVW Ltd. and Edgley. I hope that at some time the Premier will have the courage to reply to my letter.

Mr Harman: You will be lucky!

Mr MOILER: I will be lucky. It will be like the reports that so often are shelved and never see the light of day.

I should like to touch on another matter which is a little closer to my electorate. I have mentioned it on previous occasions. I am very pleased to announce—this was clarified last week by way of an answer to a question—that some three years after it should have been built the Swan View High School has now been commenced by this Government.

Mr Rushton: Give it some praise.

Mr MOILER: It is three years late. If it had been a Labor Government it would have been built three years ago.

Mr Rushton: It didn't do it at all.

Mr MOILER: What a ridiculous statement! The point is that, as he is so capable of doing, in his policy and performance document the Premier used great phrases such as "We are going to have community involvement". He said—

We will also consider the future potential of schools both as education centres and as leisure centres when appropriate, recognising that double use can justify a major extension of school facilities for the benefit of students and adults.

The plans for the Swan View School were submitted to the Mundaring Shire Council and the council was advised that the plans were not for public edification but were strictly for the information of the

councillors. In view of the fact that this was the condition under which the plans were made available to the representatives of the community, the engineer did not display the plans because they would become public. So the community involvement as far as the Swan View High School is concerned went as far as the plans being sent to the shire council. In fact there was no community involvement. That demonstrates the complete absence of any community involvement or encouragement by this Government.

Mr Rushton: Why did not you go to Midland Junction the other night with the 450 people who were there?

Mr MOILER: That was a public relations exercise. There was no community involvement there. The Minister told the people nothing.

Mr Rushton: They had the opportunity of an interchange of ideas.

Mr MOILER: Rubbish! It might interest the Minister to know that I was there. It was even reported in the Press that the meeting was very vague and was nothing more than a public relations exercise. The Minister can learn from his Premier that that does not achieve anything. It might pacify the community for a while, but eventually they wake up to the fact that the Government is only staging these things.

The point I wish to make is that included in the plans for the school is provision for the construction of basketball courts. In the Swan View area there are many basketball teams that take part in competitions of an evening. But in the area there are insufficient lighted basketball courts. It would have been common sense to light those courts during the course of construction. I believe it should be the responsibility of the local authority to install the lights, to cover the cost of installation, and to cover the cost of maintenance. This Government will allow the construction of a school and will allow the construction of basketball courts. Then at some later stage, when it has been prodded to the extent necessary, someone will have to pay the additional and much greater cost of lighting the courts so that they can be used of an evening.

Mr Thompson: Are you sure the Mundaring Shire Council will pay for the cost of illuminating those courts?

Mr MOILER: I did not say I was sure.

Mr Thompson: Did you put the proposition to the council or the Public Works Department?

Mr MOILER: Yes, the proposition was put to them some two years ago when we were attempting to get the new school building. If the Government was genuinely looking ahead and wanted the co-operation of the community concerned it

should have adopted the common sense approach and asked those people, "In what way can we utilise this development for the full benefit of the community?" The Government would have been told, "Install lights on the basketball courts."

Included in the main structure is an all-purpose hall, just like a type of gymnasium with a mezzanine floor. Had the hall been built a few feet wider it would have been able to accommodate four games of squash, instead of two games of squash at a time. These matters are obvious to the people in that community, and had they been given the opportunity to make a contribution they would have put forward their views.

This Government has talked a great deal about community involvement, yet the Public Works Department seems to be dedicated to keeping the public in the dark. Its officers are supposed to know everything about the construction of schools, but sometimes they seem to be blind to the obvious.

Mr Rushton: You sound very negative.

Mr MOILER: The Mundaring Primary School project also is one on which the Government has wasted money. This project has become quite laughable, even to myself. For the benefit of members I shall outline some of the history of that school.

Mr Thompson: Ask me about its history. I was secretary of the P. and C. Association for a while.

Mr MOILER: Some three years ago a proposition was put forward to establish a new school, and so replace the present inadequate 60 to 70-year-old school.

Mr Thompson: About two rooms of that age.

Mr MOILER: It has two weatherboard classrooms, and the floors have holes in them. They are between 60 and 70 years old. This school is adjacent to a busy highway. The proposal was to establish a new school and to phase the old one out.

Mr Thompson: Years ago at the request of the P. and C. Association the old roof was retained against the advice of the Public Works Department.

Mr MOILER: When there was a change of Government the Liberal Minister for Education visited Mundaring with the proclaimed intention of looking at the schools in the area, but obviously he went there with the express intention of knocking the proposal to develop a new school. He had not been there for five minutes before he said, "We cannot replace the school. We will spend \$100 000 to make some modifications."

That sum of \$100 000 was promised in 1973. The improvements were included in the list for 1973; they were on the list in 1974 and still on the list in 1975 and 1976. In that period the parents formed many deputations to wait on the Minister asking that something be done. This very active

P. and C. Association received full co-operation from the Assembly member for the district, and in return the member received full support from them. A public meeting was called at which there was an attendance of at least 80 parents.

Despite the fact that I had approached the Minister for Education a week or so prior to the meeting and had been advised there was no money available to carry out the improvements at the school, the Legislative Council member for the area was able to attend that public meeting. By a strange coincidence he was able to advise the meeting that on that very day he had seen the Minister who gave him authority to announce that \$100 000 was available to carry out improvements to the school.

Mr Blaikie: It was through strong representations.

Mr MOILER: Undoubtedly there were strong representations. The parents decided unanimously to tell the Government and the member to keep the \$100 000. They said they would strongly oppose the \$100 000 being spent on the existing school building. Up to this point the Government had wasted thousands of dollars on architects' fees, plans, and designs for three rooms to be added to the existing structure. The parents said that they would deny the Government the opportunity to spend the money in that manner, because it would be a waste of money.

Mr Thompson: Why would it be a waste of money?

Mr MOILER: Because it would be stupid to make additions to the existing school building.

Mr Thompson: Why?

Mr MOILER: It is no wonder there was no improvement to the school while the honourable member was secretary of the association. Not as a result of the actions of the members of Parliament for the district, but as a result of the determined attitude of the P. and C. Association in opposing the expenditure of \$100 000 on additions to the structure, the Government has now agreed to expend some \$150 000 to make a start on the nucleus of a new school which the Labor Government had promised the people of Mundaring three years before.

Because of the change of Government in 1973 the Swanview High School project and the Mundaring School project are three years late in commencing. Those are some of the issues which I believe warranted raising. I hope the Premier will see fit to reply to some of the points I have made. Along with other people, I believe many groups within the community would welcome the opportunity to pass judgment on the efforts of the Government. This is in line with what the present Premier

said three years ago when he was in Opposition: if a Government was unpopular it should go to the people.

I urge the Premier again to think along those lines. The Opposition assures him that he personally has lost considerable favour in the community. It is said that he is extremely arrogant and without compassion, and that he leads a Government comprising nothing more than "Yes" men. This has been demonstrated time and time again. The Opposition believes that he, along with his members, would be defeated if they were to go to the people; and I urge him to do just that to see who is correct.

MR B. T. BURKE (Balga) [5.21 p.m.]: I am sure you, Mr Speaker, are as amazed as we in the Opposition are amazed at the effrontery of the Premier. In one fell swoop he has set aside \$8 million and tried to foist upon the public in this State the deception that Western Australia has a surplus of less than \$1 million.

The Premier says that it is a method of accrual accounting. It is certainly "cruel" and the Premier is certainly "a cruel" accountant. There is no doubt whatever that this suspense account is the greatest exhibition of humbug to which this Parliament has been treated in many years. It is something that has never been done before in Western Australia and never been found necessary by any previous Treasurer. Never before have we been deceived in such a manner.

There is no doubt at all that a close inspection of the situation reveals that this \$8 million is nothing but an election slush fund set aside in a miserable misleading attempt to ensure this Government remains in office. What the Premier did not tell us was that this funny 27 pay period year occurs once every 12½ years, and if he wants to be honest he should set aside in each year leading up to that 27 pay period year one-twelfth of the amount for which he will be liable as Treasurer.

Sir Charles Court: That is not correct.

Mr B. T. BURKE: But he does not. He imposes the pain before taking any reasonable step whatever. He has imposed the pain on the pensioners to ensure he has \$8 million in his kick. He has imposed the pain on the water supply workers he threatened with the sack and then forced to stand down for one week without pay. That is what he has done to ensure that this miserable Government has at its disposal an amount of money with which it hopes to buy votes. It is not acceptable; it is not even proper; and it is not decent.

Mr Young: You don't know what you are talking about.

Mr Bertram: Don't worry about that. It is an old gimmick.

Mr B. T. BURKE: Is it not funny how some members show a glimpse of courage and after that brief glimpse of courage they flee back to the good graces of the Premier? They cannot maintain their independence because their future is so squarely entwined in the Premier's good graces.

The facts are quite simply these: this Government has, for the first time in the history of this State, found it necessary to deceive the people about the size of the surplus with which—

Point of Order

Sir CHARLES COURT: On a point of order, I take exception to the use of the words "deceive the public". I have been more than tolerant during this debate and I ask that those words be withdrawn.

The SPEAKER: The Premier has requested a withdrawal of words. Will the honourable member please withdraw them?

Mr B. T. BURKE: I am quite happy to do so.

Debate Resumed

Mr B. T. BURKE: I say quite simply that this Premier and his Government have misled and are attempting to mislead the people of this State by including in this Bill provision for a funny suspense account.

Sir Charles Court: You have not read the Bill.

Mr B. T. BURKE: That account contains more money than the amount for which the Government will be liable to meet its commitments in respect of this funny 27 pay period year on which we are about to embark. The Premier has assigned this amount to the year 1976, not 1977. This is the year in which he has undertaken the harshest and the most depressive series of increases in taxes and charges we have yet seen in this State.

It amazes me that the members sitting alongside the Premier can retain their seats when he carries on in this manner. We saw the surprise and anger with which the Premier greeted the speech of the member for Mt. Hawthorn when he discovered that the honourable member had twigged to the idea and had thrown into the public arena the truth of this situation.

Sir Charles Court: It is in my speech. What are you talking about?

Mr B. T. BURKE: I am referring to the truth about the suspense account. How can the Premier justify his action in assigning the entire burden for the next year to the current year?

Sir Charles Court: We have not done so.

Mr B. T. BURKE: Of course he has. He has not attempted to deny it until now and the appropriate time and place to have done so was during the second reading speech.

Sir Charles Court: It is in the speech.

Mr Bryce: We have read your speech, and so has the member for Balga. That is not the point he is making.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr B. T. BURKE: There are none so blind as those who will not see! For the Premier's benefit I will now repeat what I said which was that the Premier should have used the right and appropriate place which was his second reading speech to explain why he has assigned to the last financial year the entire burden of the next financial year's 27 pay period peculiarity. The Premier did not do that.

Sir Charles Court: Read pages 5 and 7.

Mr B. T. BURKE: He had an obligation to do so, but he failed to fulfil that obligation. Not only that, the Premier has failed to explain how he is magically and suddenly so wealthy as to be able to provide an amount of this nature in a year when he has found it necessary to withdraw from pensioners their free bus travel. How can he justify setting aside this amount of money when his Government has become the only one in the Commonwealth to impose a management fee on SHC purchase accounts? How can he justify setting aside \$8 million when other States are unable to set aside this sort of money in a suspense account?

Sir Charles Court: Haven't you seen South Australia's accounts?

Mr B. T. BURKE: That State did not increase its electricity charges by the amount our Premier has found it necessary to increase the service charge. It will not wash. We in the Opposition wondered how the Premier would shore up his waning popularity. We wondered where he would find the funds to purchase the votes he hopes will keep his Government in office. This is the funny accounting way he has set about the task. It is a fair dinkum joke and the Premier should be ashamed of himself.

Let us have a look at some of the things the Premier has done to enable him and his Government to have this slush fund. He has increased water rates, excess water charges, drainage rates, State Government hospital fees, electricity charges, drivers' licence fees, vehicle registration fees, vehicle transfer fees, State Housing Commission rents on new, older, and inferior homes, metropolitan bus and rail fares, shipping freight rates, land title transfer fees, rent on Government-owned dwellings, Westrail freights, railway road freight rates, country train and railway bus fares, SGIO vehicle insurance premiums, and

natural gas rates. That is what he has done to provide his Government with \$8 million.

Mr Coyne: And organised a State-wide drought!

Mr B. T. BURKE: The member for Murchison-Eyre would be wise to keep his peace because some of the \$8 million may well have been used to rescue the gold-mining industry and to answer the pleas he made during yesterday's grievance debate. The honourable member should ask his Premier about the \$8 million. How many more goldminers would that have kept in work? The honourable member should tell them when they ask for work that the money is in a suspense account. They will understand as will the water supply workers who took a week off work, and the pensioners who now pay for bus travel in order to give the Premier a suspense account!

If ever there was need for legislation providing for the disclosure of campaign fund sources, the need is now. The major source which would be disclosed, so far as Liberal Party funds are concerned, would be the suspense fund. Good God! A suspense fund! It is unbelievable, Mr Speaker.

There are other matters I wish to touch on briefly. It has been revealed that there is a coup to overthrow Mr Anthony as Leader of the Country Party, or the National Party, or the National Country Party, or the National Alliance Party, or the spring onion push—or whatever the name of the party might be at the moment. The reason is that the Leader of the Country Party in this State is out of sorts with Mr Anthony. The leader in this State, and Sir Charles Court, are not hitting it off too well these days. In his practised fashion I understand the State Leader of the Country Party is working to ensure that he and the Liberals in this State continue in an amicable fashion by replacing Mr Anthony. A member of the Country Party will be assured of his future. I imagine Mr Anthony is trembling in his boots after witnessing the example which the present State leader set when he carried out a coup against his own former leader.

Mr Old: There is no doubt about you, Tubby.

Mr B. T. BURKE: I have been told that in order to join the Katanning Branch of the Country Party one has to be a member or a former member of the Liberal Party.

The last point I want to make is in regard to the Salvation Army. This example will illustrate to the House the manner in which the Premier carries on. In 1974 I wrote to the Premier and asked whether he might consider advancing some finance to the Balga Salvation Army Day-care Centre. A year passed and I received no reply. I did not worry unduly

because that had become quite usual. I again raised the matter, in the House, and I was told that the request was in hand and a reply to my letter would be forthcoming. That was in 1975.

It was not until 1976 I learnt that the Premier had agreed to the request, and I learnt he had agreed to the request only because I read the newspaper. The Premier still has not replied to my letter, and that is typical of the way he carries on his business. One cannot get a letter from his office because his private secretaries are lurching from nervous breakdown to nervous breakdown. One cannot open the door to his office because of the stacks of files on the floor. It is unreal.

I am very grateful for the fact that the Salvation Army has been given some financial aid but I would have thought the Premier would have the manners to inform the person who first drew the matter to his attention and made the request.

Sir Charles Court: You have a hide to talk about manners.

Mr Old: He would have no idea of manners.

Mr B. T. BURKE: It is quite clear that in this Supply Bill the Government is attempting to do something which has not been done in Western Australia previously.

Mr Bertram: Correct; unusual.

Mr B. T. BURKE: The Government is misleading the people by referring to a surplus which is just one-sixteenth of the true surplus, and that is not taking into account the cost to this State of the Government's foolish action with respect to Medibank.

We in the Opposition give this undertaking to the Government: This slush fund—suspense account, war chest, campaign accumulation—will not go unnoticed. At every opportunity we will point out to the people of Western Australia that this Government has set up a suspense account simply to ensure its own survival. That, Mr Speaker, summarises the situation precisely.

Mr Bertram: Hear, hear!

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Treasurer) (5.35 p.m.): I thank honourable members for their contributions towards making this an interesting day; a continuation of the entertainment presented last night.

Mr Davies: This morning!

SIR CHARLES COURT: Now that the member for Balga and the member for Mt. Hawthorn have hopefully got the headlines they sought I want to say at the outset we might be able to convince those listening in the Press gallery that if they read pages 5 and 7 of the notes I used when introducing the Supply Bill they will have

the complete answer which will show how ill-informed and just how malicious has been the attitude of the two members towards this matter.

Point of Order

Mr BERTRAM: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, malicious is an offensive word.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Sir Charles Court: What about "slush fund"?

Mr BERTRAM: Malicious is an offensive expression directed to me. I take exception and ask for a withdrawal.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: From the Chair, I do not consider that "malicious" is an unpardonable word.

Mr Old: Hear, hear!

Debate Resumed

Sir CHARLES COURT: I remind honourable members that the disclosure, or the conveying of the information—call it what one likes—concerning the method used by the Government through its Treasury was done by me in the presentation of the Supply Bill.

Mr Bryce: Precisely.

Sir CHARLES COURT: In presenting the Supply Bill I remind those members who do not seem to have got the message that we are talking about money to tide the Government over from the 1st July, 1976, until the main Budget is introduced, considered, and passed by the Parliament.

The item referred to is a legitimate one and a desirable one. The member for Mt. Hawthorn, who parades an accountancy degree after his name in the list of members which appears in *Hansard*, should be one to stand up and applaud the Government for having the decency and the good sense and honesty to include a proper accounting figure in the Budget results for 1976.

Mr O'Connor: He would not understand.

Mr Bertram: The Minister would not know.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I want to tell those members who cannot tell the difference between a suspense account and a reserve account that the money put into the suspense account was to take care of an actual accumulated liability at the 30th June, 1976.

Mr B. T. Burke: Where did the money come from?

Sir CHARLES COURT: A sum of \$5.9 million was actually paid out to school-teachers on the 1st July, the next day.

Mr Bertram: What is wrong with that?

Sir CHARLES COURT: The rest had been spent within a few days. It was to cover an accumulated liability at the 30th June, 1976. I suggest if the Government had not allowed for that accumulated liability, at the 30th June, 1976, in the results which it disclosed it would have been failing in its duty.

I know that previously Governments have had to allow for the 26 or 27 pay period whenever it occurred. However, I doubt whether there has ever been a Treasurer who has not wanted to put this right. I also remind honourable members opposite, who seem to want to distort this matter out of all proportion, that when the 30th June, 1977, comes around the Treasurer of the day will have an accrual at that time. It is like stocktaking; if stocks are fiddled at one end the effect is felt at the other end.

In this case we have a proper accounting figure used this year. I submit that if we had allowed the full amount of \$8 million to go onto the next year when, in fact, it had been incurred—or the legal liability had been incurred—as at the 30th June, 1976, we would have been culpable.

I sincerely hope that those members who have the capacity to study my speech will discount completely this very unfair and untrue allegation made by the member for Mt. Hawthorn and the member for Balga.

Mr B. T. Burke: Will you put \$8 million into this account next year? Of course you will not.

Sir CHARLES COURT: If members look at pages 5 and 7 of the notes I distributed they will find the whole situation explained as to why this accrual method of accounting was used—and properly used. I sincerely hope the message has been received.

I also remind the member for Balga, who talked about people who had suffered, that it was this Government which applied a lot of its Budget to helping to keep the maximum number of men employed by the Metropolitan Water Board, and I have not heard a single word from the Opposition about it. I remind the member for Mt. Hawthorn, with all his accounting knowledge, and the member for Balga about the fact that before we ruled off the books we publicly stated we were transferring from last year to the current year \$2.4 million to the Metropolitan Water Board for one purpose; namely, to enable the board to keep men employed in the coming year because of the cut-back in the sewerage programme.

When members see the loan funds Budget and the Consolidated Revenue Budget they will see that this is one Government which has had regard for the retention of the maximum number of people in employment through using its finances in

a sensible way. Had we been indiscreet or reckless in our finances, or had we gone on with the kind of policy which was advocated by the ALP for 1975-76, we would now be so stone, motherless broke we would be sacking hundreds of men. Through the prudence of the Government in its budgeting, the way it has handled its Consolidated Revenue, and the fact, as has been announced in my speech on this Bill, that \$6 million interest from the short-term money will be used to keep people in work in the current year surely those members in the House who understand these things will have the sense to say to some of the people over there, "Pull your head in; the Government is being prudent and frugal in its budgeting." And the more responsible we are, the more people will be in employment.

I come back to the remarks which were made on this Bill by the Leader of the Opposition. My colleague the Minister for Labour and Industry will investigate the attitude of the Wheat Products Prices Committee towards the particular type of loaf of bread he referred to. My understanding is that the Wheat Products Prices Committee does not necessarily fix prices for all breads and that there are certain basic breads for which it fixes prices. It may be this loaf is one which is outside of that.

However, it is interesting to note that the items on which we have some statutory price control seem to be the items which increase quicker in price. I wonder whether the price of bread has gone up quicker with the operation of the Wheat Products Prices Committee than it would have had we left the market to look after itself. The items which are subject to statutory price control have had very steady, solid increases in prices on every occasion where the people concerned have been able to convince the statutory body that increases should take place.

The Leader of the Opposition dealt at some length with pensioners. The matter has been covered in a number of ways and I do not propose to comment further.

I appreciate his remarks regarding the *Oklahoma City*. No doubt the Minister for Tourism is aware of the situation but it is my understanding that an effective arrangement is made to ensure the people on visiting ships, and particularly the lower deck sailors, are given ample information about the facilities available here, quite apart from the wonderful local committees which work to see they have entertainment and access to homes, which is the most ideal way in which these people can obtain entertainment. Where the crew of the *Oklahoma City* obtained the publication *Inside Australia* I do not know but I would be amazed if they did not have very strong and effective services from the appropriate departments in connection with literature about Western Australia,

particularly about the places which could be seen and visited to good effect for their entertainment while they were here.

The member for Collie touched on a number of matters relating to the police. In the meantime I have had some inquiries made by the Minister and we can find absolutely no suggestion at all of any instruction being given or any threat being made to anyone that he would be transferred if he did not produce a higher incidence of fines.

Mr T. H. Jones: I will tell the Minister the area concerned and have him investigate it.

Sir CHARLES COURT: A serious allegation has been made and it has been flatly denied at all levels.

The honourable member mentioned complaints about overtime. I cannot see a situation where the Police Force would not work overtime, even if we had double the numbers. There is always an incidence of overtime in the Police Force and the RTA when they have to be called out for special reasons.

The honourable member was on again about the so-called dissension between the police and the RTA. I know nothing of it. In every large organisation there are always personality clashes but I can find no evidence of a general allegation, nor can the Minister.

Mr T. H. Jones: Ask the member for Vasse.

Sir CHARLES COURT: If the honourable member can tell us of any specific case, we will have it investigated. There may be isolated cases. For instance, within the ALP, Mr Hawke is very angry with a few people at the moment; but one would not say there was general dissension within the ALP. It happens he is angry with a few people and no doubt they are angry with him. If we went into the ALP party room we might find a few Labor members were angry with one another.

Mr T. H. Jones: We are very orderly.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The honourable member was concerned about accommodation for people arrested at Bunbury. I am assured that if they were the kind of people who would normally be issued with a bed they would get a bed. I am assured there are beds at the station but they are not given to some people because perhaps the first thing they would do is bash the policeman with it. However, the matter will be investigated.

So far as the excess work load in the CIB is concerned, from the report I have asked for from the Minister I can only assume the member was in Bunbury at the time the pressure was on in connection with the bombing.

Mr T. H. Jones: It was well before the bombing.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I am assured when the pressure is on, such as in a case like that, extra assistance is given. I have asked the Minister to submit the honourable member's speech to the Commissioner of Police, and I want a report on it to find out what happened.

Mr T. H. Jones: The employees themselves told me this.

Sir CHARLES COURT: We will be interested to see what is said when they are confronted with the honourable member's remarks.

I have dealt with the comments of the member for Mt. Hawthorn. He does not seem to be able to distinguish between the various phases of budgeting. When my predecessor went to the Premiers' Conferences and was trying to put a case to the Commonwealth, he would have to state that if he did not get the assistance he sought the deficit would be \$X million. It will always be the same situation. I am hoping the margin will be less under the new system, when we will have much more chance of assessing what we will get.

The member for Swan dealt with industrial matters which I will refer to my colleague. Likewise, I have asked my colleague to follow up what was said by the member for Victoria Park.

The member for Mundaring seemed to be upset about the Entertainment Centre.

Mr Moiler: I am upset about the way you saved the people concerned.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I do not propose to go into full details on it at this stage.

Mr Moiler: I am sure you do not.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Any time the Parliament wants full details—

Mr Moiler: Why do you not answer my letter?

Sir CHARLES COURT: We will have a look at the letter.

Mr Moiler: After six weeks.

Sir CHARLES COURT: If the honourable member knows the transaction—and he seems to be very interested in it—most of the sources of funds which were guaranteed and thus made available by our predecessors are related to Government instrumentalities.

Now, if we go into possession under such circumstances, we finish up owing ourselves the same money and owning the premises. For all practical purposes we would then be in exactly the same position we are in at the moment. The people concerned have lost all the money they invested, including the loans they advanced quite separately from the equity capital they introduced. What more can they lose? If the honourable member has any magic, I would like him to let me know about it. I remind him that these people did not intend originally to build at this site at all. The intended site was at the Royal Agricultural

Society Show Grounds and the estimated cost was \$2.6 million. These people were enticed to build in the city at an estimated cost of \$5 million, but with a finished cost of \$8 million, as well as all the associated costs.

Mr Moiler: Obviously they went into it as a business venture.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I am very interested to hear the attitude of the member for Mundaring. I am assuming that he, or someone on his behalf, will come forward with a motion on this matter.

Mr Moiler: You might have the decency to reply to my letter.

Sir CHARLES COURT: If the Opposition moves such a motion, we can let the honourable member and the public know just how sensibly, carefully, and responsibly the present Government has acted.

I thank the members for their contributions to the debate, and I commend the Bill to the House.

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

Bill read a third time, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Treasurer), and transmitted to the Council.

House adjourned at 5.55 p.m.

Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 10th August, 1976

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. A. F. Griffith) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

LIQUOR

Sunday Trading: Petition

THE HON. G. E. MASTERS (West) [4.32 p.m.]: I wish to present a petition from the residents of Western Australia requesting that Parliament change the legislation relating to the purchase of liquor from licensed premises on Sundays. The petition contains 18 000 signatures, and bears the Clerk's certificate that it is in conformity with the Standing Orders. I move—

That the petition be received, read, and ordered to lie upon the Table of the House.

Question put and passed.