

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 16th March, 1978

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

CLERK ASSISTANT

Absence in London: Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr Thompson): I wish to advise members that Mr Lionel Farrell, the Clerk Assistant of this House, is currently in London. He went overseas on a private trip as part of his long service leave and I authorised him to stay in London for another few days to attend the Palace of Westminster and to observe the practice of the House of Commons. He should return at the end of this month and during his absence Mr Allnutt will be acting as Clerk Assistant and Mr Green will be acting as Sergeant-at-Arms.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Report

MR YOUNG (Scarborough) [2.18 p.m.]: I present the 14th report of the Public Accounts Committee and move—

That the report be received.

Question put and passed.

MR YOUNG (Scarborough) [2.19 p.m.]: I move—

That the report be printed.

Question put and passed.

The Public Accounts Committee report was tabled (see paper No. 92).

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Delay: Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mr Thompson): I should like to apologise to the House and in particular to the Government for the delay that occurred today in delivering questions to Ministers. I regret that the delay occurred and it is possible that there may be some questions which cannot be answered today as a result. Those questions which can be answered, will be answered at some later stage of the sitting.

BILLS (4): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Acts Amendment (Constitution) Bill.

2. Limitation Act Amendment Bill.

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

3. Censorship of Films Act Amendment Bill. Bill introduced, on motion by Mr O'Neil (Chief Secretary), and read a first time

4. Rural Housing (Assistance) Act Amendment Bill.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by Mr Shalders, leave of absence for four weeks granted to Mr Clarko (Karrinyup) on the ground of urgent public business.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 15th March, on the following motion by Mr MacKinnon—

That the following Address-in-Reply to

His Excellency's Speech be agreed to—

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

MR HERZFELD (Mundaring) [2.25 p.m.]: I enter the debate on the Address-in-Reply motion so ably moved by my colleague, the member for Murdoch, with some pleasure because His Excellency refers to a matter to which I have been giving a great deal of consideration since the House met in session last year, and a matter which was so ably expounded by His Excellency the Governor.

I was particularly pleased to see the optimism, the responsible optimism, with which His Excellency spoke on the question of the economy and related matters. I remind members of the salient paragraphs as I saw them. His Excellency made the following remarks—

Difficulties persist, but lessening inflation and lower interest rates clearly indicate improvement.

He continued—

Western Australia is well placed to influence the rate and extent of the nation's return to better times.

And his final remark in relation to the economy was as follows—

Both the Western Australian and the Commonwealth Governments continue to pursue policies aimed at stimulating activity

in the private sector as the only effective means of creating sufficient employment opportunities in the longer term.

Last night we listened to a great deal of discussion on the economy and related matters of employment and unemployment. I was rather disappointed with the debate, because all I heard emanating from members opposite were emotive arguments and arguments unsubstantiated by facts. It was the paucity of understanding of the anatomy of the economy and how it relates to the question of employment that resulted in such a futile effort by members opposite last night.

I indicated earlier that I have spent a considerable period of time in the parliamentary recess looking at this question. One of the exercises I undertook was to research the question of employment and unemployment. When one does this to establish trends, one must delve deeply into statistics going back over a period of time. We must recognise that if the problems which were discussed last night are to be overcome we must examine closely how the situation relates to today's society and, more particularly, how the situation relates to the future.

Our social prospects as a nation are tied inextricably to the way a changing society with new expectations, new standards, and new attitudes can adapt to the forces which affect the nation's economy.

On the one hand, we have a rapidly increasing population which demands higher and higher standards of living. To meet these demands the trend has been for higher paid jobs. More skilled positions are being created. On the other hand we are finding these costs are built into the charges made for goods and services on which the economy depends and on which we all depend.

To keep a rein on prices, industry has had to improve its efficiency through mechanisation and automation, a process which has worked against new jobs. I will come to some statistics a little later. It is with these opposing forces successive Governments, since post-war years, have had to grapple.

The boom years of the 1960s were the direct result of Government action to create jobs. The early 1970s became depression years in Australia, again to a large extent because of misguided Government policies. No nation as underdeveloped as ours can afford to waste human resources caused by large numbers of people not being gainfully employed. Nor, in fact, can it be tolerated. My purpose, therefore, will be to review the past, to analyse what can be learnt

from past experiences, and then consider the relevance of that review and analysis to today's situation.

The questions that need to be answered are: What are the prospects of getting the unemployed back to work in the short term; what are the prospects of maintaining satisfactory levels of employment in the future; and how should our planning be influenced by our economic relations with industrialised nations with underdeveloped neighbours? I consider these are the sorts of questions that should be discussed, not the political diatribe we heard last night. If we look at the question on the basis of fact then perhaps we, as a State, can get somewhere.

Mr Skidmore: Do you doubt Government statistics which were quoted last night?

Mr HERZFELD: I shall first of all direct the attention of members to the era of the great depression which has been referred to frequently by members during debate. However, I wonder how many members opposite really know what it was all about.

Mr B. T. Burke: Your policies caused it.

Mr HERZFELD: I certainly did not know much about the great depression until I decided to study the era—because I am not of that era. The Opposition has spent far too much time in this House sitting down and getting flabby around the middle and around the rear end. I hope this sitting around does not also cause Opposition members to become flabby around the head.

Mr Harman: We have given you a fair go so far.

Mr HERZFELD: I will first of all refer to the 1920s which, in Western Australia, was a period of economic buoyancy. The economy was dominated by the rural sector. In the five years leading up to the depression—from 1923-24 to 1927-28—the gross domestic product increased by 24 per cent. The real *per capita* income increased by 103 per cent during that same period, but in the succeeding five years quite the reverse occurred with a drastic effect not only on the economy, but also on the social structure of the State. It had a great demoralising effect.

The situation was reflected by a high percentage of unemployed. Statistics were not kept at that time but the estimates are that 30 per cent of the work force was out of work in 1932. It is also rather interesting to note that, in fact, at no time between the early 1920s and the Second World War was unemployment ever below 6 per cent; never at any time. In fact, for

some three years between 1930 and 1934 unemployment persisted at 20 per cent of the work force.

Mr Harman: What lessons have you learnt from your study of the depression?

Mr HERZFELD: Let us look at the basic causes of the great depression. As far as this State was concerned it could be summed up rather simply in a couple of areas. In those days—quite distinct from the situation which exists today—this State was dependent almost entirely on the rural sector for its economic well-being. The great gold rushes of the late 19th century had created a tremendous amount of work but by the turn of the century, about 1903, the goldmining industry started to decline. With the decline of that industry unemployment problems were created.

Government policy during the 1920s was directed towards solving this unemployment problem. That policy was to open up new land. All the resources of the Government were directed towards opening up new land because it was a resource we had available in abundance. It was hoped this action would consequently solve the unemployment problem. As a result, all the resources of the State were directed towards the development of services which supported that programme. As I will point out later, that attitude turned out to be somewhat misguided.

Another problem which led this State—as it did many other countries throughout the rest of the world—into the depths of the depression was the lack of money available for development. I have a couple of references which I will quote to indicate the situation at the time. The first reads—

...an Australian Press Association telegrammed from New York date 23.12.29. states that there are the clearest intimations that any Australian borrowing during the first quarter of 1930 would face nearly insuperable barriers. The market in New York is described as most unpropitious. Even gold edged issues are being taken up with caution. As a result of this situation the Commonwealth and the State Governments were forced to reduce their Expenditure.

It is also interesting to note what the Premier of Western Australia at the time (Phil Collier) had to say.

Mr B. T. Burke: He was some man.

Mr HERZFELD: He is reported, on the 5th March, 1930, as saying—

...the present year's programme is being again severely pruned by the Governments of the States and the Commonwealth. For the coming year, loan estimates of all Governments are being framed on a figure of approximately 50% of last years expenditure; but there is no alternative as we cannot continue spending money from loan if the market cannot provide that money at a reasonable cost.

So, shrinking overseas markets for loan money, for the State's programmes, was one factor. Another factor, of course, was the price we received for our primary products, which dropped dramatically. Over a relatively short period from 1928 to 1930 the price of our primary products fell by something like two-thirds. The reason for the fall in price was that America had an over-supply situation in agricultural products, and as a result of that over-supply situation we suffered.

So much for the theory of the lead into the depression. Let us now look at what happened in the recovery. Again, one can identify two major factors which led us out of the depression.

Firstly, in the 1930s there was a remarkable revival of the goldmining industry. This revival came about because, firstly, the price of gold went up. Secondly, and more importantly, there was a recognition by the people in the industry that to survive the industry had to become more efficient.

As a result of these factors, employment in the industry—which had fallen to a low of 3 800 in 1928—rose dramatically to nearly 10 000 in 1933 and 16 000 in 1937. I emphasise this point because it is rather interesting to note that the mining industry was the leading sector in solving the problems of the State in those days. In fact, had it not been for the then Government's action in developing the mining industry in this State during the 1960s, we would be in a very sorry position today. The Premier was denigrated last night when the Opposition suggested that the Government had been sitting around and doing nothing about the mining industry.

Mr B. T. Burke: It was closing it down.

Mr HERZFELD: It was the Premier who spearheaded the effort to establish the great industry we have today, and I will shortly quote some statistics to show that this is so.

One other factor was important in assisting Western Australia's recovery from the great depression and that was the recognition by the Government of the day—the Mitchell Government

—that it had been spending its money in the wrong direction. This realisation is perhaps best illustrated by quoting from a speech made by Sir James Mitchell in this House when he said—

... from the 30th June, loan expenditure must be limited to works that will earn interest and sinking fund within a reasonable time.

I ask members to note those words. To continue—This is due to the financial position which at the present time bristles with difficulties. We shall be able to meet the situation only by improved administration or increased taxation. Our deficits have been due to losses on the investment of loan money. We certainly have provided transport facilities out of proportion in relation to production.

Sir James Mitchell said that rather than turning money towards unproductive Government works, he intended—and he carried out his intention—to put the money into projects that would earn the Government money.

Mr Bryce: What year was this?

Mr HERZFELD: Sir James Mitchell said this in 1930.

Mr Tonkin: He was knocked off in 1933.

Mr B. T. Burke: We made him Governor!

Mr Tonkin: Lieutenant-Governor.

Mr HERZFELD: Opposition members said again last night that more money should be spent on Government works.

Mr Bryce: In 1930 Sir James Mitchell promised jobs for all, and in 1933 he lost his seat.

Mr HERZFELD: It was the Mitchell Government that took the initiative. Its initiative was copied subsequently by the Collier Government which took note of Sir James Mitchell's remarks.

Mr Tonkin: The only Premier to have lost his seat—what a great man!

Mr HERZFELD: I would not like to take credit away from the Collier Government for its action in directing expenditure in the right direction. It was the Government that took the action suggested by Mitchell, and I give it credit. As a result of not spending money on sustenance allowances, etc., the money was spent on unproductive projects, on dams, sewerage, and the like. In fact, I know of four dams which were built in this period; that is, the Drakesbrook, the Harvey, the Wellington, and the Canning Dams. The Government also invested a great deal of money in forests; that was constructive expenditure, and I do not take credit away from that Government.

I would like now to refer to some statistics because of their relevance to this matter. I will read out these figures because there is no other way to have them incorporated in *Hansard*. Last night members spoke about employment and unemployment figures and Opposition members pulled percentages and figures out of the air.

Mr Skidmore: No they did not; I pulled percentages out of your own Government statistics.

Mr HERZFELD: I do not doubt that these figures were obtained from Government statistics, but such statistics must be looked at in a proper context. One cannot simply take one set of statistics and say, "This is the full picture." One must look at all the figures.

Mr Skidmore: The Federal Minister used the words I used.

Mr HERZFELD: First of all I refer to the participation rate in the job market, and I will refer to this very good publication put out in May, 1977, by the Australian Bureau of Census and Statistics. It contains some very interesting graphs and members studying it will see that the participation rate of all people in the work force has remained constant for the last decade. The number of males in the work force has dropped slightly, and probably this reflects, to some extent, the trend towards an earlier retirement. Also, it reflects the trend for students to stay longer at school.

Mr Skidmore: They have to; they cannot get jobs.

Mr HERZFELD: It is very interesting to look at the female participation rate, and particularly the participation rate for married women. In the period from 1969 to 1977—nine years—the married female participation rate has increased from 31 per cent to 42 per cent. In 1954 the participation rate was 25 per cent. To enable us to get these figures into perspective, if the trend continues at the same rate until the year 2000, 80 per cent of all married women will be in the work force.

Mr Skidmore: Is that good or bad?

Mr HERZFELD: This factor has had a great impact on the total structure of the work force and its changing nature. Looking at the graphs we see a progressively increasing unemployment rate over the same period in certain of these groups. Between 1969 and about the middle of 1974, the unemployment percentage of males in Australia remained fairly constant. It was seldom more than 0.1 per cent above 2 per cent.

Mr Bryce: What does the publication say about Aborigines?

Mr HERZFELD: This percentage rose dramatically around about the middle of 1974, and the graphs illustrate this. By the middle of 1974, 4 per cent of the Australian male work force was unemployed. We see that to the end of this graph—that is, the middle of 1977—the percentage of unemployed females gradually increased, although it must be pointed out that this percentage has always been slightly higher than that applying to the male work force.

We find something quite different in relation to the 15 to 19-year-old group. The unemployment rate for these people has been rising steadily since 1969—the first figures I have. In February, 1969, about 4 per cent of the 15 to 19-year-old work force was unemployed, and the percentage rose to about 6 per cent in November, 1973. It dropped to 4 per cent in May, 1974, but then, in a matter of six months, it has increased to 15 per cent! Perhaps members can guess who was in government at that time.

I must be fair about this and point out that the graph continues to rise although certainly not at the dramatic rate at which it rose in the period to which I have just referred. However, it continues to rise, and I will come to the reason for that in a moment.

Mr Skidmore: Fewer jobs, perhaps?

Mr HERZFELD: That is right—

Mr Skidmore: Now you needn't explain it.

Mr HERZFELD: —except in Western Australia. Let us look at the population and the work force and see what has happened in the last decade. The population of Australia as a whole increased from 11.5 million to nearly 14 million over the intercensal period of 1966 to 1976, an increase of 24 per cent, and a rate of increase of slightly over 2 per cent per annum. In Western Australia over the same period the population increased from 837 000 to 1.170 million, an increase of 49.8 per cent—or double the national rate—and an annual rate of about 4 per cent.

Over the same decade the national work force increased by 24 per cent. In Western Australia—and let members opposite mark this—in the same decade the work force increased from about 334 000 to 501 000, nearly 50 per cent, and more than double the national average rate. During the bulk of that period, the thrust for the increase was provided firstly by the Brand Government and subsequently by the Court Government. These are matters of statistics and matters of performance.

It is interesting to study these figures to see what they mean in detail. Let us study the figures for Western Australia. Over the period to which I have referred the increase in the work force in Western Australia resulted in increases in some areas and decreases in other areas. Let us consider the private sector. In the mining and quarrying industry the number of people employed increased by 161 per cent from 8 300 to 22 400 in that decade.

Mr Skidmore: I understood you were talking about unemployment.

Mr HERZFELD: Members opposite are always talking about unemployment. Have they ever looked to see what has happened to employment? The change there is far more dramatic, and I am sure if members opposite studied the jobs that have been created they might learn something about getting unemployed people back to work. The member for Swan thinks it is funny that we should try to do something for the unemployed people in this State.

Mr Bryce: We think the antics of the member for Mundaring are funny, not the issue.

Mr HERZFELD: Let us consider what has happened in respect of the junior employment situation. The only figures I have been able to obtain in this respect are for the period 1971 to 1977. Nationally the number of actual jobs available for 15 to 19-year-olds fell by 2 per cent, and during the same period the number of juniors coming onto the employment market increased by 11.6 per cent. In other words, no jobs were being created for these juniors and yet the number of juniors coming onto the employment market increased by 11.6 per cent. Before some smart person opposite says, "What is your Government doing about it"—

Mr Pearce: What is your Government doing about it?

Mr HERZFELD: —let me point out the situation in Western Australia is considerably better than the national situation over the short period of time in which the Western Australian figures have been separated from the national figures.

Mr Bryce: What is the point of your argument? You have only 17 minutes left, and it has been a very long history lesson. There is always a point to history lessons, and we are waiting for the point of this one. We have been sitting here fairly patiently.

Mr HERZFELD: I have been endeavouring to submit to the Chamber the true situation in respect of employment. The Opposition, of

course, does not like that sort of thing; its members like to rant and rave and, in the process, distract me from saying what I wish to say.

I refer also to what has happened to the economy during the decade to which I have been referring. Let us consider first average weekly earnings. The figures I have refer to Western Australia for the period 1966-67 to 1976-77. In that period average weekly earnings in this State rose by 321 per cent, but the CPI rose by only 219 per cent. Therefore, I think one can justifiably say Western Australians certainly improved their standard of living in that period.

Mr B. T. Burke: The ones who could get jobs did.

Mr HERZFELD: It is also interesting to find that in the same period average weekly earnings for adult females virtually quadrupled; so the increase in those earnings was double the CPI or the inflation rate.

Mr Skidmore: That is because of equal pay for equal work.

Mr HERZFELD: These figures are important if we want to get the whole matter in perspective, because the cost of labour is not the only thing that increased in that period. Many other costs increased, and I will refer to a few I have been able to think of. I refer to the costs associated with improved working conditions; holiday pay loadings, which provide a 17.5 per cent bonus for every week a worker is on holiday—

Mr Skidmore: Don't you agree with that?

Mr HERZFELD: —an extra week's annual leave, which was introduced in December, 1972; and a vast improvement in conditions of the work place over that decade. The conditions that apply to a work place today cannot be compared with those which applied 10 or 12 years ago. Of course, these are all cost factors and burdens which the employer must carry.

Mr B. T. Burke: Must pass on to the customer.

Mr HERZFELD: Workers' compensation is another subject on which I have taken out some figures which I find rather interesting. I believe it was in 1974 that members opposite amended the Workers' Compensation Act.

Mr B. T. Burke: Those changes were the result of a recommendation by a joint committee which included your members.

Mr HERZFELD: If one follows the statistics one finds that between the financial years 1973-74 and 1974-75 claims on insurance companies for workers' compensation increased from \$17.7 million to \$37.5 million. In fact, the increase

was so staggering that for the first time in the history of the insurance industry—as far as I can ascertain anyway—the insurers found the premiums collected were not adequate to cover the claims they had to meet, and they faced a shortfall of something like \$5 million. That is money which went into the pockets of people on workers' compensation.

Mr Skidmore: What is the reason for that?

Mr HERZFELD: I will tell the member the reasons for it, but not at this time. At the moment I am talking about cost increases which have occurred during the past decade.

In that time workers' compensation premiums increased 5.8 times, and claims increased seven-fold.

Mr Skidmore: Do you know who sets the workers' compensation?

Mr B. T. Burke: Are you talking about claims in number or value?

Mr HERZFELD: To show that I am fair and reasonable about this, I intended to mention something that could be taken as a criticism of the Government. However, I am heartened by something the Premier said last night, and now no criticism is needed. I am referring to expenditure by the Government, which is interesting to trace. All sorts of aspects could be considered here, but I will pick out only a couple of salient matters which relate to the decade in question. Firstly, the total outlay in the public finance sector for Australia increased 4.5 times in the decade. Total receipts increased by 4.33 times, and the deficit over that period increased by five times.

If we look at where the Federal Government obtains its funds we will see that in the decade from 1967-68 to 1977-78 personal income tax increased from \$2.18 million to \$12.88 million—six times. If we reduce that to a *per capita* basis, the average Australian paid \$432 at the beginning of the decade and today pays \$913.

If we look at the State situation, it is rather interesting to follow through the *per capita* figures which appear in the papers which the Premier tables when delivering the Budget speech; and we will see that some dramatic things have happened. Final consumption expenditure went up 6½ times, which is twice the rate at which the Federal figure increased. Gross capital formation in the same period went up by only 2.8 times. The interesting thing about that is that if we consider the ratio of the financial consumption expenditure, which is recurrent expenditure, to the total outlay we will see that the recurrent

expenditure in the decade has gone up from 34 per cent to 55 per cent of the Government's total expenditure, whereas the same ratio for gross capital formation has dropped from 44 per cent to 31 per cent. This means that instead of putting more money into capital works our labour costs are so high that we are having to put more into the day-to-day running of the Government; and that is rather tragic for the future of the State.

Summarising what I have said to date about these figures, it is obvious that they indicate some fairly dramatic changes during the last decade. It is these to which we have to look and which I shall consider briefly in the time left to me to give some indication of the direction in which I believe we should go. The solution to finding more employment for people lies in a co-operative effort between all the people who are involved in this field, including the Trades and Labor Council, the unions, and the people of the State, as well as the Government. It is not just a matter of the Government providing jobs, as the Opposition reckons it should do, by printing money or raising more taxes.

I shall suggest some of the things which people might contribute. The first need is to establish a sense of national purpose in relation to employment. I heard the member for Swan last night commenting about the new number plates which contain the word "State of Excitement". Perhaps it is a petty sort of thing—

Mr Skidmore: It is very puerile.

Mr HERZFELD: It is a little thing which could start to build in people a bit of pride in their State.

Mr Skidmore: It is the laughing stock of the Eastern States.

Mr HERZFELD: It is not, because they have similar number plates. It is the attitude of people such as the member for Swan which is holding back this State.

Mr Blaikie: Narrow-minded and bigoted.

Mr HERZFELD: Narrow-minded, yes.

Mr Blaikie: And bigoted.

Mr HERZFELD: I am suggesting that it is little things such as this which develop a sense of pride in the State and a sense of purpose. I suggest that a little less selfishness on the part of individuals would also help. In the *Daily News* of the 16th November last year there was a headline which read, "Bricklayers agree to \$100 pay cut". I thought to myself, "Western Australians, you beauty, they have some sense." But no, this happened in the United States. These sorts of considerations, not necessarily pay cuts but certainly some restraint in demands for in-

creased wages, would help this State a great deal. In other words, I am talking about industrial responsibility, not industrial lawlessness.

A more recent report stated that the line of argument used by the Secretary of the Water Supply Union, a Mr Bennett, is that we should maintain the number of jobs in the water supply industry, whether or not they are there. To use his own words—and this is reported in the *Daily News* of the 7th March—"We must establish a minimum number of workers in this industry below which the work force must not be allowed to fall." He went on to say that we will have to make every possible effort to convince private contractors that they are unwelcome in this industry.

Mr B. T. Burke: Hear, hear!

Mr HERZFELD: If a private contractor can do it more efficiently and better, why should not he do the work?

Mr B. T. Burke: If he cannot?

Mr Skidmore: Who says he can?

Mr HERZFELD: It is a matter of judgment.

Mr B. T. Burke: It is a matter of fact.

Mr HERZFELD: This is the sort of sense of irresponsibility I am talking about. I also suggest that in the State's interest we could achieve a lot more if we had a sensible attitude towards development, be it mining, or whatever it is, because invariably when the Government tries to do something a small group of people get together and protest on environmental issues or something else. Let us face it: We have reached a situation in the history of mankind and in the history of this State when everything which anyone will try to do will involve a conflict of interests if it involves the use of land. The sensible way out of the problem is to establish where the compromise lies and work from there. But I am afraid that the people who throw up their banners around the place can see things only one way; that is, as either black or white. It does not matter what we try to do. Such people cannot see that developing the uranium industry or bauxite mining creates jobs; they want it both ways. Members opposite fall for the five-card trick every time by getting sucked in by these people. They reckon they can stop these development projects and at the same time they need jobs. They cannot have it both ways.

Mr Speaker, I should like to say much more about the Government's role, youth employment, and so on, but time does not permit. One of the things that disappointed me about the debate last night when the Government was under attack for allegedly not doing anything about creating jobs was that the Premier and the Minister forgot to

mention not only that the Minister for Industrial Development has just been overseas for a month selling Western Australia and setting up the North-West Shelf gas project to make sure it gets off the ground but also that the Minister for Agriculture went on a similar trip before Christmas. This is the sort of thing the Government does.

I wonder whether any previous Government in the history of Western Australia has done so much to encourage enterprise to get developments off the ground and provide work not only for the people of this State but also for the rest of the nation.

I should have liked to have a lot more time, but I shall conclude on this note. Far more can be achieved if people will analyse any situation by looking at the facts and at what can be learnt from history, consider them in the context of today's situation and come up with some responsible suggestions. That is not much to ask. All it does is take a bit more time. For example, instead of going on holiday over Christmas members could do what I did; I spent my time with my nose in the library.

Mr Bryce: You would never know!

Mr HERZFELD: Mr Speaker, all the facts I have omitted I shall gladly make available to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition because I am sure he would get a great deal of benefit from the information I have been able to gain. I think, without any doubt, there is no Government which I have been able to identify in my reading that has done more for employment in Western Australia—

Mr B. T. Burke: Superman! The Phantom!

Mr HERZFELD: —than this Government, and, in particular, this Premier of Western Australia—

Mr Bryce: You will get to the Cabinet yet.

Mr HERZFELD: —whilst Premier and whilst Minister for Industrial Development. Let us not forget we have the greatest national undertaking that this nation has ever seen in front of us and which, with the assistance of the Opposition, we will get off the ground.

MR PEARCE (Gosnells) [3.11 p.m.]: I feel I owe the House an apology, because members will recall—

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr PEARCE: —when I came here in my ignorance and naivety last session, in my foolishness, I suggested that contributions from Government back-benchers would be welcomed. However, having heard a number of such contributions

in the last session, and particularly the contribution we have just heard, I feel that the less we hear from Government back-benchers the better.

If there is one comment one could make about the present Cabinet it is that the Ministers, in general terms, are somewhat better than the back-benchers who sit behind them. That is about all that can be said for them.

I noticed in *The West Australian* this morning a headline which read something like, "Government back-benchers are revolting" and I was tempted to agree with that. Upon reading the story, it appeared that the back-benchers were instigating some sort of revolution against their own Cabinet. In the same paper, I noticed that the Country Party is having one of its further clashes in its interminable civil war. As a result, I thought that the more things change on the other side, the more the situation stays the same.

Mr Old: When are you having a change of leadership over there?

Mr Bryce: They tell me there is a letter circulating inside the National Country Party.

Mr PEARCE: I wondered—hoping, with great expectations, that I would be enlightened—what we would be doing and how we would be earning our money co-operating and helping with Government legislation in the next few months. I discovered, as my leader pointed out in the debate yesterday, that in fact there is very little Government legislation planned. It seems to me that the major motion to be debated in this House during the current session is in fact the one I am speaking to at the moment—the Address-in-Reply. That is the most significant matter which appears to be coming before the House. There are many other silly bits and pieces, but nothing very substantial.

Because of my background, I tend to judge these matters on the subjects with which I am familiar. Therefore, I turned to the part of the Governor's Speech which related to education, in order that I might discover the future plans in that area. As my leader pointed out yesterday, the only matters which are to be raised are those which we have had before. It is a little litany of things that were done last year and, in some cases, the year before, including a suggestion that there might be two and maybe three new technical schools in the coming year. That is the Government's education policy. We know, of course, that the Government is not in the habit of bringing educational matters or, for that matter, most administrative matters before the House. It prefers to run the State, if one can call what the Government does "running the State", from

the Superannuation Building and offices scattered throughout the city, rather than bringing the House into its confidence, or the people of Western Australia and the members of its own party into its confidence, something which is absolutely necessary.

However, because I spend a considerable amount of my time both inside and outside my electorate visiting schools and keeping up the contacts which I have in the education system, I knew some time prior to the announcement in *The West Australian* that if the start of our year in Parliament has been fairly smooth, and if the passage looks even smoother and more untroubled, that is not the case in the school system. In fact, the beginning of the school year has been even more chaotic than anything we have experienced in the past. It has taken the Education Department two to three weeks to decide which schools should have which teachers and exactly what should be done with the teaching staff.

We have seen many strange situations, such as the one I shall now mention. A teacher reports to a school on a temporary basis for two days; he is then put off for three weeks. In the intervening period the school from which he was put off is struggling to obtain permanent staff to take the place of the temporary teacher. Finally, we have the situation where the teacher who has been sitting at home for two weeks and three days is sent back to the very school in which he was working previously and which has been waiting for two weeks and three days for a teacher.

We have a situation where a teacher has been teaching in a school for three weeks, is sent to another school on a temporary basis to replace someone, and someone else is assigned to that school on a permanent basis while the Education Department works out where it is going. Teachers have been notified on the first, second, and third week of the school term to which schools they are to be assigned. Some teachers who have been promised jobs in private schools have subsequently found out that they cannot accept the position because they had been awarded an education grant. As a result, they have been obliged either to turn down the commitment to a private school or pay back the bond in the way that the Education Department demands.

A situation was uncovered, not as a result of the meetings of school principals which have been held to discuss this problem—and there have been many—but through the strange story of the eye doctor that we saw in *The West Australian*. It appears that one person who was concerned about the chaos in schools believes

that it is resulting in the deterioration of the health and welfare of teachers. This doctor had the audacity, the temerity—I would have thought the co-operative spirit—to write to the Minister for Education to suggest that something be done about the problem. This man did not write to the papers. He sent a letter to the Minister for Education saying that the delays in staffing were causing stress amongst some of his patients who happened to be teachers.

He received a reply from the Minister, that I can only describe as rude and arrogant, suggesting that he should mind his own business and keep out of matters that did not concern him. I will quote one or two paragraphs of the letter from this top civil—or, I should say in this case not so civil—servant whose salary we pay. I shall quote from *The West Australian* of the 15 March, 1978. The article reads, in part, as follows—

Mr Jones, in a letter of reply, said the claim surprised him.

He was even more surprised and also somewhat annoyed by some of the statements the specialist had made.

“My surprise arises from your extension of your hypothesis to a totally incorrect conclusion,” he wrote.

If that sentence has any meaning perhaps it would require the member for Mundaring to work it out, because he has just used a number of sentences similar to that. The article continues—

“My annoyance is due to your intemperate and inaccurate statement that staffing is carried out by inept and disinterested ex-teachers. I can assure you that your statement could not be further from the truth.

That is more in the debating style of the member for Murdoch. To continue—

“Your attempted flattery does nothing to detract from the inaccuracies in the earlier sections of your letter.”

I might say that the doctor's attempted flattery was a suggestion that the Minister might be capable of doing his job which perhaps the Minister felt was not meant sincerely and he would probably know best about that.

However, the main point at issue is that until such time as the Education Department can cope with its own staffing in its own schools, the education system in this State will be in a mess and everyone will be affected by this.

I would be very surprised indeed if the revolutionary back-benchers on the Government side have not found themselves in schools in their own electorates during the past few weeks where exactly the same staffing problems as I have

spoken about have occurred; where teachers have not been able to get jobs; where teachers taught last year, but had lapsed because they were on the temporary staff rather than on the permanent staff and they were left uninformed as to whether or not they would be given a position this year. Of course, there were many hundreds or even thousands of students who found themselves with a temporary teacher or two for the first three weeks of the school year.

What sort of introduction to an education system is it for a five or six-year-old child to come into the school environment and be unsettled by changes in teachers? I would not imagine it would particularly endear them to the education system.

Everyone understands that there have been problems in the staffing of schools for many years, certainly throughout the life of the current Government and in the years before that. Everyone understands that is the case, and with the primary restructuring that occurred last year perhaps there are even reasonable explanations for it being so much worse. But when someone writes to the Minister to point out these matters, he does not receive an explanation or apology for this appalling situation. What we do get, and all we get, is a verbal attack on the man for having the temerity to raise the matter. I would have thought that had the Minister been unaware of these matters he would be grateful to have them explained to him. If he was aware of these matters, he owes it to the people of this State to provide at least a civil explanation, rather than make an intemperate attack on a person who wrote pointing out the problems.

The whole question of primary staffing has been further complicated and further chaos has been caused by the propensity of the centralised Education Department bureaucracy to stick its nose into the affairs of the schools.

The particular matter would have come to the attention of members as a result of the situation at the Claremont Primary School where the staff and principal wanted to organise the 19 teachers they had so that each teacher had a small permanent class. Apparently the local inspector told them they could not do this, but had to have two teachers floating around to do other duties and so have a class or two less than they wanted. If I were to be asked who would be in a better situation to decide the educational requirements of a school, I would say the principal and staff rather than the superintendent. Surely they are in the best position to work these things out in consultation and with co-operation. However, that was not the case at that school. The man from head office told them quite bluntly that

(they would have to put their school into order or else. Some of the teachers wrote to *The West Australian* and the matter came into the open.

Members must not believe that that is the only school involved. This has occurred in dozens of schools in the metropolitan area and, no doubt, in the country. The matter was first raised late last year when a similar situation occurred at the East Rockingham School and a deputation was taken to the director-general who claimed at that time that he had no knowledge of any directive of this type from the superintendent to schools, but that he would look into the matter and put it right. He put it right all right, by sending a similar directive to every other school which had had the temerity to organise its own requirements in accordance with the educational needs of the area.

We have had a lot of palaver from the Premier about decentralisation and how dreadful we were in regard to this matter. I would say that through the education system the Premier and his colleagues operate one of the most centralised bureaucracies in the State and there has not been a single move in the last two or three years towards decentralisation of the bureaucracy of the Education Department. Decision making is more and more centralised and many more items seem to find their way to the director-general's desk than is necessary. If the Premier were looking for a section of the Public Service which could be easily decentralised, he would find it in schools because each school has its own operation. If some significant power were to be given to the principal and staff, the parents and citizens, and all others concerned—including the students, particularly in the case of high schools and technical schools—they would have the capacity for decision making at a local level. Members on the other side have talked about decentralisation, but the position in the Education Department at present is quite the reverse, which is highly unfortunate. The fact that schools are being told what staff to use and where, emphasises what I am saying about the way decision making is being centralised.

Do members recall what occurred during the parliamentary recess when an effort was made to break up the Education Department bureaucracy by separating the technical education division from the department? For several years there has been discussion at many levels about the technical education division and finally there was a move towards separating it from the Education Department and making it a separate department. That would reduce the Education Department bureaucracy and reduce some of the very heavy pressures it is under in terms of its work load. The matter was referred to the *Western Australian Post*

Secondary Education Commission which considered it at length and made a recommendation to the Minister that the technical education division should be separated.

There was one major opponent to this move and no-one gets any prizes for guessing he was a Director-General of Education who used Education Department publications quite unmercifully in promoting his point of view. He wrote articles and refused to allow any replies from interested members in the division who wrote articles contrary to his views. This man was also on the WA Post Secondary Education Commission and was very much opposed to separation of the technical education division from the Education Department. He did not want a third of his castle going elsewhere.

What occurred? He was rolled on the commission. He lost the vote because he was not able to convince his fellow members that the division should not be separated. However, what happened when the matter went to Cabinet? There was no separation. There was a lot of talk from the Minister, but he did not cover the essential fact that the vast bulk—

Dr Dadour: You are doing a lot of talking. You prove it.

Mr PEARCE: Prove what?

Dr Dadour: What you are saying. Give it to us in writing.

Mr PEARCE: I shall send the honourable member the documents concerned with pleasure. I would have thought that anyone who had the temerity to place himself in this House without being aware—

Dr Dadour: There is no need to get nasty. You talk a lot about what is done in Cabinet. You prove it to me.

Mr PEARCE: I will send the honourable member the documents tomorrow. I will not bring them to him now and read through them with him. Every other member will understand that what I am saying is perfectly accurate.

Dr Dadour: I do not understand.

Mr PEARCE: I am sure the honourable member does not, but most others certainly do.

Dr Dadour: I think you are all water and wind.

Mr PEARCE: We can only speculate the reasons the Government failed to carry out the recommendation from the vast bulk of the educational experts. Why was it not done? The Minister might want to give us all sorts of reasons. I am not concerned about the motivation or the internal politicking involved. I am making the point that this was yet another chance for the decentralising Government to decentralise

a very centralised bureaucracy, but it chose not to do so against very heavy advice that it ought to. This demonstrates fairly conclusively how the Government is committed to decentralisation in this area.

Another interesting point should be made. While all the primary school staffing chaos, direction, and interference was going on, where was the responsible man at the commencement of the school year? Where was the Minister? He was in Canada and in England looking at post secondary education for reasons which perhaps he will tell us later. When he returned from his little jaunt, the first thing he did was to issue a statement on voluntary job sharing, a significant proposal which the Opposition advanced in a constructive way earlier in the year in an endeavour to alleviate the heavy unemployment among teachers. We received a remarkable response when we made the proposal. We were told it was educationally unsound and that it would be disruptive in schools. That was the first response. The next day the second response came from the Education Department which announced that it had in fact carried out a survey to ascertain who wanted to be involved in this voluntary job sharing and hardly anyone had replied.

I asked myself in that wondering way I have, why it was that the Education Department conducted a survey into voluntary job sharing when it considered it was educationally unsound. Obviously in those circumstances the Government should not want to carry out any survey of teachers to ascertain who wanted to be involved in the educationally unsound job-sharing proposal.

We had suggested that this job sharing had worked with success in some overseas countries and one of those countries was Canada. The Minister went there to study post secondary education and returned and said that job sharing was not a panacea. The following appeared in *The West Australian* on the 13th March—

JOB-SHARING NOT ANSWER—JONES

Job-sharing was not a panacea for solving teacher unemployment, the Minister for Education, Mr Jones, said yesterday.

Mr Tonkin: Who said it was?

Mr PEARCE: No-one. That is the point. We said that it might help to alleviate the unemployment situation among teachers. "Alleviate" was the word we used. Here is a Government which prides itself on its initiative and flexibility and obtaining progressive answers, but it has proved that in this area it is totally lacking in imagination and initiative.

Mr Laurance: It was a disastrous idea. It had no support among the teachers. It was a flop.

Mr PEARCE: We submitted this proposal as a suggestion. We were not attacking the Government. We were suggesting a constructive proposal to alleviate the unemployment among teachers.

Mr Laurance: It is back to the drawing board then.

Mr PEARCE: We said that the problem may be alleviated if some form of job sharing were tried.

The instantaneous, defensive reaction was that it is educationally unsound. That is the label put on anything to do with the education system which the Minister has not thought about. The next day he discovered that the department had thought it was sufficiently educationally sound to run a survey among teachers, and it found that only about 40 of the 20 per cent of the State's teachers surveyed were interested in the suggestion. It was enough to run a pilot project to see what the implications were, but to do so required too much initiative, flexibility, and creativity for the Government. So the Minister shot off overseas and the whole matter died. He came back and said it was not a panacea for unemployed teachers. We never said it was.

If the Government is serious about trying to solve unemployment problems, it must try original solutions. It cannot stick with the formula of last year and the year before that. In the four years the Government has been in office we have had increasing unemployment in every area, not only in the area of teachers. In the panaceas which the member for Mundaring and other members on that side of the House wave around after their unintelligible research, they come up with answers that do not make sense even to me. Even if they were right, the fact that each week more people are unemployed proves that irrespective of the research of the member for Mundaring solutions are not being found.

If we suggest a way in which the problem may be alleviated and a long-term solution, the Government will not be in it; it will not volunteer to run a pilot project to see how it operates. That is how concerned it is about teacher unemployment. The crocodile tears from the other side of the House about teacher unemployment cut no ice with me, when last year there was a lesser number of unemployed teachers and the Government left unsent \$7 million which had been allocated to teachers' salaries.

The Premier—I presume unwittingly—in an interjection on a subject about which he knows nothing, called across to the member for Yilgarn-Dundas that his Government had provided over 250 teachers more than were needed, as though

there were an absolute number of teachers needed in this State which the Premier perhaps alone knows.

Mr Tonkin: What are they doing? Sitting around drinking coffee?

Mr PEARCE: The Premier must think that in the school system there are 250 teachers just sitting around drinking coffee. Yet he is always on about how the education system is not providing people with abilities to read and seek jobs. Why are those teachers not employed in the specialist areas which are lacking and about which the Government complains? It complains that the system is not working but refuses to provide more money to employ teachers.

Dr Dadour: Where would the money come from?

Mr PEARCE: On precisely the question about where the money comes from, we ought to realise how much money the Government spends on the unemployed. This is one of the biggest areas of expenditure for State Governments, and particularly the Federal Government. Thousands of millions of dollars a year go out in straight cash payments to unemployed people, at rates which at times approach the minimum wage—not closely but near that level. The families of unemployed people qualify for other benefits which are funded by the Commonwealth and State Governments. If we took all the money going to unemployed people and their families and used it to provide jobs, we would just about cover the amount of money required for the Government to provide those jobs.

The Premier decides what is needed is a cut back in the Public Service, which in the end provides fewer jobs in the community and makes more people unemployed. This has certainly happened in Canberra and in this State. Those people still have to be paid by the Government. They are paid for being unemployed rather than for working.

Under the proposal my leader put up yesterday, about the Government giving a dollar-for-dollar subsidy to local government to provide jobs, the Government would be providing jobs for less money—50 per cent of the salary—than if it were paying straight unemployment benefits to those people. We need to take a much more creative and original approach to the problems of the unemployed and the way in which Governments fund jobs.

If we used the enormous amount of money going to the unemployed for providing jobs so that there were not so many unemployed, that would be to the social benefit of our nation and State and would not cost the Government a fantastic sum. Suggestions that the Government

has to find a complete salary for every person for whom it finds a job shows a misunderstanding of or failure to understand the way Government finance works and the financial responsibility Governments already have for the unemployed.

I should advert to the opening remarks of the member for Murdoch. In his brief economic analysis—which was not researched, as was that of the member for Mundaring—he suggested in separate paragraphs two problems which he saw. The first was that inflation had to be reduced, and that there should be no trade-off in reducing inflation and creating jobs. Reducing inflation was for the good of the country.

Mr MacKinnon: Who said that? I did not say that at all.

Mr PEARCE: Having said there should be no trade-off between inflation and unemployment—

Mr MacKinnon: Where did I say that? I did not say that. Quote *Hansard* correctly.

Dr Dadour: Wind him up, Tom.

Mr Laurance: They have lost the key.

Mr PEARCE: The member for Murdoch said on page 10 of *Hansard*—

Thirdly, it is important for us all to understand that there will be no meaningful recovery in employment until such time as inflation moderates on a permanent basis. We must not attempt, therefore, to solve our employment problems nationally, or in Western Australia, by spending our way out.

He did not use the term "trade-off" but he said we should reduce inflation and then look at the position of the unemployed. Those are his exact words.

After showing a considerable and callous lack of concern for the unemployed the member for Murdoch went on to say he was concerned about the problems of young people who are getting into drugs and vandalism. He made a brief incursion into my electorate to complain about the activities of a group of young people called the "Langford Rocks". He was concerned to see activity to solve the problems of these people.

The way to solve the problems of these people is to make it possible for them to get a job. One of the factors which leads people into depression and getting kicks from vandalism, drugs, and alcohol is that they have no normal social outlets for their natural drive. They are depressed and frustrated by their inability to get a job and feel they are socially useless. In that situation it is hardly surprising that young people get into difficulties. We do not find the

answer by providing more community clubs, as the member for Murdoch seems to think. The way to solve many of the problems is to provide these people with jobs, but the member for Murdoch seems to be more concerned about inflation.

I would also like to mention the legislation relating to student guilds which the Parliament passed last year and from which I dissented very strongly. In answer to my question yesterday the Minister for Education seemed to be saying that a close and careful watch had to be kept on the way in which student organisations spend their funds.

This relates particularly to the question of affiliation with the AUS. The Minister took some pride and pleasure from the fact that he thought three institutions out of the six in Western Australia affiliated with the AUS had been forced out of that body because of the legislation.

Mr P. V. Jones: I did not say that.

Mr PEARCE: The Minister had hopes that other institutions might find problems, because they deferred their decisions on funding.

Mr P. V. Jones: I did not say that. I said that was the situation as I understood it. Some of these institutions had been affiliated much longer than when the legislation was brought in. I indicated it was not a direct result at all.

Mr PEARCE: What the Minister did say was that the ways in which the student organisations funded their activities would be looked at closely, and that if they did not comply with the letter and the spirit of the Government legislation, amendments would have to be introduced to embrace the spirit of the legislation.

The Minister told the House that when we originally discussed the student guilds associations the legislation was not aimed at preventing these organisations from affiliation with the AUS, but was simply designed to make membership voluntary.

Mr P. V. Jones: And it dealt with the transmission of funds.

Mr PEARCE: The Minister said that essentially the legislation was aimed at making membership of the guild voluntary. In his terms membership had been made voluntary. It is a fact that every student in tertiary institutions this year will find that he must pay the same fee as he paid last year on a compulsory basis. Many students read the newspaper reports and the Minister's speeches, and they thought they would have a choice. In fact, they found that they had to pay exactly the same fee. They were given the option of joining or not joining but the fee was the same in each case.

Mr P. V. Jones: Do you want the Government to set the fee?

Mr PEARCE: I am saying the Government should have kept its nose right out. I said that at great length at the time, and for that I was nearly removed from the Chamber. The Government has set the fees, because it has legislated for fees. Its administration has set a compulsory fee.

Mr P. V. Jones: We left that to the institutions.

Mr PEARCE: Left them to set the level of fees, but fees were to be compulsory.

Mr P. V. Jones: Certainly we left it that all students should pay for services and amenities within their institution. However, the transmission of funds to outside bodies should not be forced on students.

Mr PEARCE: The fact is that the legislation provided for compulsory fees.

Mr P. V. Jones: A compulsory service and amenities fee as a condition of enrolment.

Mr PEARCE: That is right.

Mr P. V. Jones: I am talking about the level of fees.

Mr PEARCE: I am not talking about the level of fees, except to point out that the level of fees is the same under the new system as it was under the old system. No student has found it to be voluntary when he can say, "I am a member of the guild for the fees I pay" or "I am not a member of the guild for the fees I pay."

The Government insists on restricting the transmission of funds, because it does not want fees to be transmitted to the AUS. The suggestion of the Minister is not right. In fact, the Government is very concerned about affiliation with the AUS, and apparently it is prepared to pursue the guilds to make sure that they do not send their fees to their student colleagues in Melbourne. This year we have a Western Australian student elected as President of the AUS; I thought this election of national prominence would give the Government pleasure.

If the Government takes steps this year, next year, or the following year to effect further amendments to the student guilds legislation to make sure that Western Australian student bodies are not permitted to be affiliated with AUS, then its hypocrisy in introducing the legislation on the last occasion will be demonstrated very clearly. That was why I gave the Minister a chance to indicate whether amending legislation was in the pipeline. If the amending legislation comes forward we will know quite clearly what the Government is doing in this particular area.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.04 p.m.

Mr PEARCE: There are some matters relating to unemployment I would like to raise by way of concluding my initial contribution to this session of Parliament. I have spoken already to some degree of the problem of unemployment, but I should like to return to the theme that was raised so often, mostly by way of interjection from members opposite, during the course of yesterday's debate and earlier today; namely—to use the words of the member for Murdoch—"we cannot spend our way out of unemployment". It would seem to me that anyone coming into this place who is involved in whatever way with the governmental processes of this State ought to have a belief that the Government can take initiatives of a type that will solve the problems of the community.

We find ourselves at present in the community where unemployment is a big problem and a large proportion of that unemployment is brought about by cutbacks in government spending. I have spoken many times about the plight of unemployed teachers. I do not say their situation is any worse than other unemployed people; it is simply that I know a little bit about the subject and it is an excellent example to use because so much Government expenditure is involved in getting these people to the stage where they are employable. We put them through 12 years of primary and secondary education and three to five years of tertiary education and then, when they are ready to put their training into effect, we ask them to join the dole queue.

If we put so much money into educating people to the level of teachers or, in fact, to any other level of proficiency which requires an education and a public investment, we want to see some community return as a result of such massive expenditure.

I submit it is quite within the competence and, indeed, within the financial resources of the Government completely to wipe out the problem of teacher unemployment. However, it seems to me a Government which opts out of the economic system by cutting back on its own expenditure is one of the biggest causes of unemployment.

For example, when a Government saves money, it does not sound good to hear it say, "We have saved money. We have achieved a balanced Budget by cutting back on capital expenditure." Such a statement is no recommendation of any Government, because cutbacks in expenditure mean, for example, that the Government has not built a technical school which was required in a certain area, or it has deferred proposed extensions to a hospital, or it has failed to build a much-needed nursing home.

By the saving of \$500 000, \$1 million, or \$2 million, the Government is denying the State that many millions of dollars worth of employment. When we examine the cost structure of any public project we find that most of it goes one way or another in employment. If we break down building costs into labour and materials, it is clear that labour is much the greater cost. Therefore, a lot of the expenditure which goes towards public buildings and Government projects of one kind or another goes to provide employment for the building industry.

Even when we consider the materials used in constructing a building, we find they are mostly processed materials. For example, the bricks, roofing materials or metals are all processed by other workers, so the cost of materials in a building project is very significantly a labour cost. Therefore, Government spending in capital areas in fact provides employment.

Of course, the crunch has come in this country in recent years as a result of this attitude of Liberal Governments. As the Government has withdrawn from these areas and cut back on Government expenditure and said, "How responsible we are in cutting expenditure and in encouraging the private industry to take up the slack"—a term we have heard so many times before—we find that private industry is providing bricks, tiles and other materials for public buildings which are not being built.

For example, one of the reasons we have such a massive downturn in the building industry at the moment is that private industry cannot provide the jobs the Government hopes it will provide because the Government is not providing it with the opportunity to do so.

The Government likes to think in terms of massive projects, but we have not seen much of massive projects in recent years. I believe things must be done in small areas. In recent weeks, I have had a number of interviews with people involved in the building industry and I have come to the conclusion the industry is in a very bad way at the moment. That situation will get progressively worse, where finance is tight and where young people cannot obtain a loan to build or buy their own homes, and where the number of houses constructed falls off or their rate of progress diminishes. But as these things happen, the building work force does not simply go away. Buildings need to be built for these people to be employed. If the Government cuts back on its own capital programmes, we have reason to be worried.

One of my principal areas of concern is that the Governor's Speech contained little reference to the school building programme over the next financial year. Apart from two or three technical schools, there was no reference at all to the construction of new schools. If the Government cuts back on its school construction programme it will create problems not only in education but also in unemployment around the State in a very large number of ways. In fact, I hope there is going to be a considerable expansion of public building construction, including schools, in the current financial year.

Sir Charles Court: But there has been, and there is a very heavy expenditure on Government buildings. Did you not read the Budget?

Mr PEARCE: Yes, I read the Budget papers very well. I look forward to finding in the next Budget papers that the money which has been carried over for two years for capital expenditure in education will finally appear in the figures.

We will see a very substantial increase as that money that has not been there before suddenly finds its way into things other than answers to questions from the Minister for Education. I am not suggesting that in the current financial year the Government has made a tremendous cutback in the rate of school construction, but I am concerned that that may be the trend which is projected over this calendar year and into the next financial year. If that is not to be the case I shall be the first to welcome it.

I make one final point. In this economic downturn and the tightening up on Government expenditure, the areas which seem to suffer most are those developing areas such as my electorate of Gosnells covers. We find there that the State, Federal, and local governmental authorities are not able to keep up with the provision of facilities which are necessary such as roadworks, footpaths, and all the other parish pump things which are so important to the people who live in those communities. There is always a massive imbalance against local government authorities in these developing areas.

I cover two such areas, the Shire of Armadale-Kelmscott and the City of Gosnells. Both of those are very rapidly developing areas but they have no significantly greater access to funds than local government authorities in much more established and settled areas. I feel that local government, Federal, and State Governments should make special allocations of money to local government authorities—

Mr Rushton: Look at where the money goes and you will find the people get an appreciable increase on the central one per person.

Mr PEARCE: But it is insufficient.

Mr Rushton: It is never sufficient.

Mr PEARCE: We share an area of sorts in Armadale and the Minister could not pretend to me that that area is as adequately covered as it might be in the provision of footpaths, roads, and lights, to take the simplest of things. Areas in Gosnells are sadly lacking for sewerage and will be for umpteen years until another Federal Labor Government gets back to restore the sewerage programme.

Mr Spriggs: I think you will find that the older local government areas suffer a lot worse with regard to footpaths and roads because the developers have put them into the fast growing areas.

Mr PEARCE: The developers provide certain facilities at present, particularly with regard to roads and sometimes sewerage, but not footpaths in front of people's houses. People may drive along a council road to get to their houses but then they have to go along dirt tracks and even worse. People live in expensive new houses on expensive and well-kerbed roads but actually to get to their 50 feet of road they have to drive across dirt tracks, in one case past a school where they take the chance of knocking down a few children. It is not enough to say that that is the responsibility of local government because the State Government and the Federal Government also have a large responsibility in this area in terms of the provision of funds and the Minister has admitted that they do not provide enough funds for local government in this State.

Mr Rushton: I am not suggesting that. I am saying that local government can use all the funds it can possibly get.

Mr PEARCE: If more funds are provided for local government, not only facilities but also employment are provided; and that is my answer to the member for Murdoch who said that we cannot spend our way out of unemployment. By the proper provision of jobs in this way the Government would provide not only employment but also amenities and the savings on the expenditure that now goes to the unemployed would be tremendous.

Mr Rushton interjected.

Mr PEARCE: I can hardly go over the points again. I do not think the Minister was here when I had my previous dialogue with the member for Mundaring. If we subtract that massive expenditure that now goes to the unemployed and use it for providing employment, we would be much better off.

Mr Rushton: You are saying that people should earn that money?

Mr PEARCE: I have not got the time to continue a lengthy dialogue with the Minister for Local Government, but I give him some notice that the themes I have raised in this, my opening contribution to this session of Parliament, I shall certainly continue in some depth, and even perhaps with the degree of research in which the member for Mundaring seems to have indulged, during the term of this current session.

Debate adjourned until a later stage of the sitting, on motion by Sir Charles Court (Premier).

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION

Council Personnel

Message from the Council received and read notifying the personnel of sessional committees elected by that House.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: THIRD DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from an earlier stage of the sitting, on the following motion by Mr MacKinnon—

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

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

MR YOUNG (Scarborough) [5.00 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, at the outset of my remarks I want to say I support the motion for the adoption of the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency the Governor, and in doing so I pay my personal tribute and congratulations to His Excellency, Sir Wallace Kyle, and Lady Kyle, who since their appointment have shown themselves to be people of extremely high calibre for this important office. They have brought dignity and bearing to the office and have demonstrated by their manner that they can "walk with kings and yet not lose the common touch". It is hoped this son of Western Australia and his delightful wife will grace the office for many years to come.

I wish to speak on two subjects, one of which directly concerns only a few thousand people but indirectly concerns many thousands of people in Western Australia, while the other is of a national nature and has a direct bearing on the lives of millions of people.

The first subject is the Kimberley by-election on the 17th December, 1977. The events leading up to that by-election need no elaboration. They are over and done with and have become part of the electoral history of this State. The by-election itself is now also part of our electoral history, and nothing more need be said about it, except to draw some conclusions from our experience in it and to congratulate the Minister for Health on his re-election.

Following the decision of the Court of Disputed Returns and some conversations I had with some so-called experts on Aboriginal affairs during the course of the debate on the Electoral Act Amendment Bill which was before the House last year, I recalled a conversation I had had with a very eminent medico in this community whose contribution to military medicine in World War II was considerable. He related to me his experience when, as a young medical officer, he first went into the field. He asked his senior medical officer what he should do and how he would cope with an attack situation in which there were many casualties. His senior medical officer said to him, "The best thing you can do is go out and have a look". Obviously, if he had a look for himself some of the answers would become apparent and he would be into the job before he had time to wonder what he would do.

After all the tumult and the shouting had died, I had an approach from the Minister for Health to assist him in the Kimberley by-election. I decided I would do exactly what that young medical officer was told to do, and go out and "have a look" for myself, because some of the statements made during the course of debate on the Bill and the decision of the Court of Disputed Returns left me wondering what the Kimberley was like and what was going on up there.

I went to the Kimberley with a three-fold aim: firstly, to ensure the Minister was re-elected; secondly, to have a look at the situation and assess it myself; and thirdly, if it were humanly possible and I had anything to do with it, to ensure there would be no Court of Disputed Returns following the by-election on the 17th December.

In regard to the latter aspect, I want to pay tribute and offer my congratulations to the returning officer (Ross Monger), who I think

every candidate and both major parties would agree did an exceptionally fine job under very difficult circumstances; and also to the Chief Electoral Officer (Eric Foreman), who devoted all his time in the weeks before the by-election to ensuring things ran smoothly, and all the presiding officers who participated in that by-election. Of those, I want to single out one: Ross Camp, the presiding officer at Derby, who had an enlightened approach to the way the poll should be conducted, as I think would be accepted without argument by both major parties.

Mr Jamieson: He was extremely well versed. He had been a returning officer for some years. He is an exceptional man.

Mr YOUNG: The member for Welshpool is quite right. He is an outstanding man and had had considerable experience before he took on that position.

The first impression I gained of the Kimberley, never having been there before, was the paradoxical situation of acceptance and genuine co-operation which existed between the Europeans and the Aborigines, on one hand, where each was considered in the other's eyes to be making his contribution to the Kimberley way of life, as opposed to the suspicion and antipathy which seemed to exist between both races where the Aboriginal found himself in the state of a mendicant—that is, neither part of the European community into which he had drifted nor part of his original tribal surroundings. Other impressions were gained later which tended to complicate the issue for somebody who was inexperienced in the ways of the Kimberley and the nature of the district.

Among those impressions was the manner in which the missions I visited were conducted—Kalumburu, Beagle Bay, and Lombardina, to name a few. I am not singling out the Catholic missions for any particular reason; it just happens they were the only ones I had the opportunity to visit. The people running those missions had instilled into the Aborigines a sense of purpose and belonging which was in direct contrast to the lack of purpose of some—and I stress "some"—town Aborigines who found themselves in the cleft stick to which I previously referred.

A comparison of the Aborigines in the two sets of circumstances left me with the impression that in the couple of centuries we have been dealing with the Aborigines, during which we have tried everything from poisoning and shooting them to letting them drown in alcohol, we have completely failed to make a single mark on what

could develop into a real problem as the years go by. We as a community do not seem to have made any steps forward, and the Aborigines themselves do not seem to have made any steps forward. Therefore, at this stage each side could be considered to be still kneeling at the starting blocks waiting for someone to fire the starting pistol.

I say here and now that I am not experienced enough to offer any solutions, but I can say that neither the cause nor the solution lies in the expenditure of money. I do not believe the situation of the Aboriginal is caused by an excess of money, although many people in the community think it is—and I hope they will understand me when I say that.

Looking at the matter in purely economic terms, the only person who can receive an unfair share of the nation's wealth is the noncontributing consumer of the nation's productivity. Aboriginal families receive hundreds of millions of dollars a year, which unfortunately is often spent directly across the bar of a hotel; very little nutritious food is purchased with it. Much of that money passes back to the Commonwealth Government within a matter of weeks in excise and in wages, transport costs, sales tax, and the income tax of the people who serve them. So the actual consumption of the productivity of the country by the Aboriginal is not great, although in the eyes of some people he seems to be spending an undue proportion compared with what he contributes. Although it appears on the surface to be a problem, it is not the major problem.

Nor is it the solution—as some people in the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Department for Community Welfare seem to think—to spend endless amounts of money on the basis that if enough money is thrown at them they will learn to spend it properly. Neither the cause nor the solution seems to me to lie in the expenditure of money.

I do not know the answers but I do not think I am alone in that. To make any steps forward in the way of life of the Aborigines, and therefore their compatibility with the European community where they desire to be brought into the European community, it is obvious to me that it is necessary to embark upon a proper and meaningful course of training, inculcating into the Aborigines a sense of responsibility, born out of experience, through being under the control of people who know what they are doing, teaching them how to handle money and how to make their own lives through trade training, and providing the kind of assistance which will give them a sense of purpose.

If they do not want to do that, there is the crunch. This is where certain people leave it and do not go any further. If the Aboriginal leaders can get their people to accept that they must live in either their world or ours, they must be given the opportunity, under proper medical care conditions, to remain on their own tribal lands under circumstances in which they will be largely unfettered by us in their way of life or become part of our way of life.

Many people claim that the Aborigines want both sides of the coin and that they must opt for one side or the other.

Early in his career as Minister, I thought I detected in the remarks of the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs (Mr Viner) that his aim was towards the situation where the Aborigines would be given that choice; that they would be given that opportunity, and they would not be left in the situation where they wanted the best of both worlds and got the worst.

I have already said I do not know the answers. I do know the incorrect answer as far as the Kimberley is concerned is the use of Aborigines as political footfalls, cannon fodder, or however one wishes to refer to it.

There are two major culture groups in the Kimberley, and each group has its own right to occupy the land as it wishes to do. The Aborigines who have occupied this land for thousands of years, and the European people who went up there to carve their life out of the Kimberley are both entitled to stay there.

It is difficult for an Aboriginal to understand our political situation, the laws under which we live, and the ways in which we make them. The two groups do not have much affinity in political matters.

As far as the European community is concerned, I suppose the individuals within that community are much the same as in any other community in our State. Certainly not all these people will understand our ways and our laws, but they have a much greater chance of understanding them than do the Aborigines because they are part of the European culture.

The member for Kimberley—the Minister for Health—has had personal contact and ties with many people in the community for many years. When I visited the area, the Minister and I assessed the situation. We did not want what had happened in the past to continue—this concept of the Aboriginal people as a political football.

As far as we could during the course of that campaign, we treated every voter as a potential Liberal voter. It was for this reason that we were tremendously pleased to hear of the plan to educate the Aborigines in voting procedures. This crash programme was the idea of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and it was put into practice by the Education Department of Western Australia through the Aboriginal Adult Education Service. We believe that more benefit came from that education programme than anyone not connected with the campaign would ever know. It was said so often publicly—and stressed equally by some members of this Chamber and in another place—that the majority of the Aborigines were not capable of casting a vote without the assistance of a presiding officer or without simply handing over a how-to-vote card.

I congratulate most of the officers who took part in that programme. It seems now that the paternalism of the opponents of one particular section of the electoral legislation can now be seen in its true light.

If we accept that—firstly, there were no protests of any significance about the way in which the poll was conducted on the polling day, secondly there was recognition of the fairness of the poll by both major party candidates—Mr Bridge and Mr Ridge—and certainly by both parties, and thirdly, there appear to be no subsequent serious protests in regard to the poll—we can look at some of the figures that came out of the Kimberley by-election, and draw some conclusions. I know that my conclusions might not be the same as those of members of the Opposition and people close to them, but that does not concern me very much.

I would like members to look at the number of informal votes cast at the Kimberley by-election compared with the number of informal votes cast in February, 1977, and in March, 1974. In February, 1977, 297 informal votes were cast at the booths in this electorate. In December, 1977, 121 informal votes were cast, and if we adjust that figure in accordance with the percentage of votes recorded in February, 1977, it would be in the vicinity of 144 votes. In March, 1974, 157 informal votes were cast at the booths. There could possibly be some validity in the claim that the large number of informal votes at the February, 1977 election was caused by the harassment of Liberal Party scrutineers.

Mr Pearce: Largely by the harassment of Liberal Party scrutineers.

Mr YOUNG: I thought I should put that point of view.

Mr Pearce: I put it more generously than you did.

Mr YOUNG: On the evidence given before a judge, it might be proper to say that certain actions could be construed as harassment. Some Liberal Party scrutineers admitted something of this nature. However, we must accept also that many other things happened in the weeks leading up to that election which were designed specifically to assist the Labor Party candidate. I was not there at the time, but I discussed the matter with many people. To be honest most of these people were from my side of the political fence, but certain other people—one in particular who told me we would never get a vote out of him—said that certainly the Aborigines were confused and I believe this state of confusion led to the high incidence of informal votes in February, 1977.

On the other hand, in December, 1977, under circumstances where the presiding officers, of whom both sides of the major political fence said did such a good job, and did it intelligently and well, the informal vote was small. In the main the Aborigines were left alone to do their own thing in the polling place, as is anyone else in the community. I think it was the presiding officer at Derby (Mr Camp) who made the recommendation to the Chief Electoral Officer that the way in which a presiding officer ought to determine a person's ability to vote without assistance is to observe his actions in the booth.

This was also the advice given by the judge presiding over the Court of Disputed Returns. Camp said that a person should be permitted to enter a polling booth unmolested to see whether he could cast a valid vote without assistance. I can draw only upon my own experiences in this matter. I spent the first four hours after the booths opened at the Broome courthouse. I kept a note of what occurred during that period. Although I did a later stint in the courthouse, I did not keep a record at that time. During my early four hours at the courthouse, I know that more than 100 people merely proffered how-to-vote cards without any other instruction to the presiding officer.

Subsequently only 11 people were assisted. Initially they were all told to go to the polling booth with the how-to-vote card of their choice and to mark their ballot papers. They all did that except for 11 who were clearly seen by the presiding officer to be incapable of marking their ballot papers—that was his opinion—and they were assisted. Their how-to-vote cards were used as instructions for their assistance.

That means that of over 100 people who merely proffered a how-to-vote card, 11 were later assisted to vote. So of 89 people who initially simply proffered the how-to-vote card, possibly

under instruction or possibly because they were confused, at the most only 17 found it not possible validly to mark their ballot papers, because only 17 informal votes were cast at that booth on that day.

Therefore, it seems to me that if an Aboriginal or any other person is left alone to do his own thing and is given all the assistance to which he is entitled only after he has made a genuine and honest attempt to mark his ballot paper, then in the main he will come through.

Mr Jamieson: You didn't happen to be a scrutineer at Mt. House, did you?

Mr YOUNG: No, I did not.

Mr Hodge: How did the presiding officer know that the person in the booth was formally marking his paper?

Mr YOUNG: I drew my assumptions from the fact that only 17 informal votes were counted at that booth, out of a total of 627 votes.

Mr Hodge: But the presiding officer wouldn't know that until the end of the day.

Mr YOUNG: They have the opportunity to ask a presiding officer to give them the required assistance. They made it clear that they were not marking their ballot paper by peering around the edge of the booth. I think there is no question of the fact that they were all aware of their rights in that regard, and those who required assistance made it clear.

However, the point I am trying to make is that, left alone, the majority of those who simply proffered a how-to-vote card were able to cast a valid vote.

Mr Jamieson: It is a pity you were at Broome. That was the one place where there was no problem on the previous occasion, either. Broome, of course, is the one place where most of the coloured people would have an elementary education.

Mr YOUNG: Overall there were few informal votes. I admit I am making presumptions, but I think they are made on reasonable authority.

I want to complete my remarks on the situation in the Kimberley by saying I would hope that the judicial inquiry to which the Premier has referred will have close regard to the figures that came out of the December by-election and the reports which will no doubt be made by the officers connected with that election.

Mr Jamieson: I hope the Government will keep up the education programme.

Mr YOUNG: I would hope so, too.

Mr O'Neil: It is believed to have been effective.

Mr Jamieson: It was effective. I have discussed this with people up there.

Mr YOUNG: When he was in Opposition the Minister for Health at one stage described the Kimberley as a powder keg with a slow-burning fuse, and judging from some of the places I visited when I was up there during the by-election there is no question about the fact that certain elements in the community were determined to make that fuse as short as possible. I refer to the lack of community spirit that prevailed in Halls Creek and in particular Kununurra.

The situation in the Kimberley—and I have mentioned this to others, and I will say it now on the floor of this House—is not being assisted at all by certain of our State civil servants and by certain civil servants in the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and other Commonwealth departments. I am not prepared to name the individual officers concerned, but I can do so if necessary, and I would be happy to do so to the right people in the right circumstances.

I refer in particular to servants of the Department for Community Welfare, the Community Health Services, the Public Health Department and the Education Department. Some of those civil servants—and I stress the word "some"—have yet to learn that Aboriginals and the rest of the community with the utmost goodwill already have enough trouble trying to solve the problem of educating the Aboriginal and taking him from under a tree, from out of a bough shed or lean-to, or from out of the bar where appropriate, and into some form of decent accommodation within the society in which he has apparently chosen to live. Enough trouble is experienced already without the "assistance" of the people to whom I have referred.

I do not think the situation will be assisted whatsoever by a pseudo black power cult such as that which appears to be springing up in the Kununurra area in particular; nor do we need the manipulation of a whole race of people in or about that area for the political aggrandisement of a few.

When that lesson is learnt the Kimberley will be a better place to live in for black and white people alike.

The second matter I wish to discuss—and I regret I have not as much time as I hoped I would have—is a matter of concern to all members of this House but in particular to members opposite. I refer to statements made and events that have occurred in the last few days in respect of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. We have

in this Chamber the member for Fremantle, who publicly supported the Palestine Liberation Organisation in a letter to the *Daily News*, on the 1st March, 1978.

This followed a statement he made in respect of the visit by one Nabil Kaddoumi of Sydney, who came here apparently at his request. He has not disclaimed the fact that he organised a forum at the Fremantle Town Hall on the 12th March. While that little exercise in "democracy" was going on, on the very same day, the Palestine Liberation Organisation struck in Tel Aviv and killed 34 people, including the slaughter of passing men, women, and children.

Mr Jamieson: It happens in Ireland, too.

Mr YOUNG: The letter written to the *Daily News* by the member for Fremantle was in support of the PLO, and I will go through his letter in as much detail as I can in a moment.

In the meantime I want to say there is absolutely no sense in any attempt to separate the terrorist activities of the PLO from its political activities. The terrorist activities of that organisation cannot be separated from its political activities for reasons I will give in a moment. Its political aim is to destroy the State of Israel. It is basically and primarily a terrorist organisation.

Hitler had the Gestapo, and the Arab States have the PLO. The PLO is not an elected body. It was set up at the insistence of Egypt by the Arab Summit Conference of 1964. It is the terrorist arm of the political bodies in the Middle East. It is the roof-organisation of the Palestinian *fidayun* organisations, whose central activity and aim is the destruction of Israel.

That the PLO is a terrorist organisation is evidenced by the fact that of its executive committee of 14 members, seven are drawn from terrorist organisations, as follows—

Two from Fatah.

One from Sa'iga, a terrorist organisation founded to serve Syrian interests.

One from the Arab Liberation Front.

One from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is connected mainly with Iraq and Libya.

One from the Popular Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, an extreme organisation mostly connected with Iraq, South Yemen, and Syria.

One from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command, an organisation linked with Libya and Iraq.

Then there are seven independent members linked with one or other organisation. Three of the seven are members of the National Palestinian Front, which is linked with Fatah.

Mr T. J. Burke: Is that list current?

Mr YOUNG: No, but to the best of my knowledge the situation has not changed.

Mr T. J. Burke: It was made out in 1964, was it not?

Mr YOUNG: No, this is as late as 1975, and I understand it has not changed.

I turn now to the letter written to the *Daily News* by the member for Fremantle which concluded with the words—

I support the PLO.

I would love to quote the entire letter, but I am afraid I do not have sufficient time; it really should be written into the history of this Parliament. His letter stated—

The Palestinian people were brutally expelled from their homeland in 1948.

However, most Palestinians still live within the bounds of the territory which was under the British mandate—either according to the broad definition of 1920 or the narrower one of 1947.

Dr Troy: And the vast majority recognises the PLO as their legitimate organisation.

Mr YOUNG: Do they? Did they have a say in its establishment? When did the PLO ever have an election? In fact, only a minority of Palestinians actually live in refugee camps. Approximately three million Palestinians presently live outside Israel, while some 500 000 live in Israel. Some 500 000 of the three million live in camps.

The member for Fremantle made the following statement in his letter—

Since 1948 they have lived in abject poverty in camps scattered throughout the Middle East. The camps have been bombed and shelled and the inhabitants subjected to every conceivable terror.

Dr Troy: Which happens to be true.

Mr YOUNG: It may be true, but it is simply a reprisal for the sort of terrorism and murder carried out by the PLO and which will probably continue as long as we have supporters of murderers writing letters like this to the newspapers. The following is an extract from the report of the UN Secretary-General on the 16th August, 1967, to the General Assembly—

... it is quite misleading to assume that because the camps remained and, in fact,

grew in size and because the refugees continued to live in them, no progress was made towards the economic rehabilitation of the camp inhabitants . . . Some of the refugee camps, indeed, had developed into thriving communities . . .

The annual report of the Director of Health for 1962-63 describes the situation as follows—

Urbanization is most marked in the several camps which were originally sited adjacent to towns and which now, by a process of encroachment in the growth and expansion of the towns, have, for all practical purposes, become parts of those towns. The appearance of peripheral squatters eager for urban facilities inevitably hastens the process.

In addition, in those great camps which are becoming towns in their own right, the process of urbanization is going on.

The next statement made in the letter written by the member for Fremantle was as follows—

Thirteen years ago after 17 years of suffering the worst kind of barbarism, the Palestine Liberation Organisation was born.

He used the word "born" because it was not elected but simply sprang up in 1964 from the League of Arab States, at the instance of Egypt. At the Arab summit conference in Algiers in December, 1973, the PLO became the sole body representing the Palestinians. The Palestinians themselves, including the refugees, had no say in the matter; the Arab States simply said that that was the way it was going to be.

The Arab States now say they should be able to determine their own future. However, they have created their own Frankenstein monster.

Mr Jamieson: Does not the PLO have observer status at the UN?

Mr YOUNG: Yes, it does. The member for Fremantle continued—

The PLO demand is for a free and secular state where Christian, Jew and Muslim, whether Oriental or European, are treated as equal.

That is one of the great misnomers, of course. The plain fact of the matter is that up till 1967 the aims of the PLO were very clear, and in fact were stated worldwide. If possible, they were going to destroy Israel and everyone in it.

After the six-day war, of course, it was apparent they had lost face throughout the world and they decided to adopt a new stance. They produced this slogan, which was parroted by the member for Fremantle in his letter, "The PLO demand is for a free and secular State". However, the fact is that the slogan was fabricated

solely for external consumption, as was stated clearly in a discussion of the matter by representatives of the PLO and of the five main organisations within it, in Beirut in March, 1970. Details of the discussion were published on the 8th and 15th March, in the Lebanese newspaper *Al-Anwar*. The full text is available from the information division of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs or from any Israeli consulate.

Again, the fact is that the dispute is not a problem of religious conflict between the Arabs and the Jews; it is a matter of national identity. The PLO is unwilling to recognise that the Jews have their own language, culture, and history and their own place in the world, and that they are determined to keep hold of it.

The member for Fremantle went on in his letter with other tired old comments we have grown used to hearing. He referred to "Zionists, Falangists and imperialists". The only thing he left out was the "running dogs of American imperialist capitalists"! If he had mentioned them, he would have confused his Maoism with his Marxist-Leninism, and probably would have been shot at by somebody; certainly, it would not have been by a member of the Australian Labor Party.

This business about "Zionists, Falangists and imperialists" is a strange one. I would like to know whether the PLO are always careful to murder and butcher only those sorts of people. When they were about to murder women and children travelling in a bus on the highway, did they stop and ask, "Are you a Zionist, Falangist or imperialist?" When they were about to kill the 22 children at Maalot, did they line them up and ask about their political beliefs? What nonsense!

The member for Fremantle went on to say—

The Middle East is an area in the world where the fabulous wealth of the few is in sharp contrast to the abject poverty of the mass. The Palestine Liberation Organisation has demonstrated to the dispossessed and starving that it is possible to organise and to win a better way of life. Not surprisingly the wealthy few fear what the PLO stands for—redistribution of the wealth.

However, he did not mention oil. He did not mention the fact that the Arab Governments today are immensely rich as a result of oil, or that the Jews in that part of the world have no oil. He did not mention that the foreign currency reserves amassed by the Arab oil producers amounted to over \$50 billion during 1974 and now possibly are more than \$100 billion. Only a few per cent of that sum would suffice to solve

the refugee problem, if the Arab States which set up the murderous PLO were prepared to part with it.

Let us have a look at the organisation the member for Fremantle supports. I am in possession of a document which I am proud to admit comes from the Israel Information Library, and I seek permission to have the tables incorporated in *Hansard*. The seven or eight pages of tables set out the 61 instances of terrorism since 1974, the outcome of the act, the perpetrators and their treatment. I note that as at 1975, only three of the 204 terrorists apprehended were still in prison. That is an amazing fact; of 204 PLO terrorists and terrorists from other organisations, only three remained in prison as at 1975.

Dr Troy: Does it include—

Mr YOUNG: I will tell the honourable member what is not on the list.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Standing Orders make provision for a member to ask leave of the House to incorporate material. I suggest the member for Scarborough requests leave of the House at the conclusion of his remarks.

Mr YOUNG: Thank you, Mr Speaker. For the benefit of the member for Fremantle, I will tell the House what is not on the list. It does not contain the 1974 massacre at Maalot of 22 children and six adults, with 88 wounded; it does not include the 1975 attack on a hotel in Tel Aviv resulting in the deaths of eight civilians and three soldiers; nor does it include the 1976 incident at Entebbe, where one old lady was taken away by a friend of the PLO, a fellow named Idi Amin, and shot at his request. The incident on the 12th March, only a few days ago, is not in there either.

Dr Troy: March the 13th.

Mr YOUNG: All right, the 13th. There were 34 dead and 82 injured. I have already told the member for Fremantle that what followed on the 13th and 14th will follow every time an act of murder is committed, and everybody in the Middle East knows it.

The raid on the 12th March, 1978, was described by *Al-Fatah* as "our answer to Israeli arrogance" and in a statement the PLO made it quite clear that one of the chief aims of the operation was to torpedo Egypt's solo peace initiative towards Israel. That is the organisation which the member for Fremantle supports and is obviously quite happy to do so. He might look on the Israelis as being Zionist Falangist imperialists, and no doubt the Arab terrorists pick out the kids who are Zionist Falangist imperialists before they shoot

them! No doubt they also pick out the trade union members because in the latest incident a party of bus drivers on a holiday organised by their trade union were shot.

No matter what the member for Fremantle considers, and no matter what the PLO considers, there is no question that Israel will not be pushed into the sea by the butchers of the PLO and the people who support them. The State of Israel will not be driven into the sea because it does not bring up its kids with the knowledge that whenever they walk into a school room they could be murdered and may not go home, whether they be shot by the terrorists or in an attack to kill terrorists, for them to give in to people such as the PLO. Israelis have grown up for thousands of years knowing that they cannot give in to that sort of thing. If the member for Fremantle can justify his argument on the basis that retaliatory raids kill thousands or hundreds, then I am sorry for him.

It has been made clear throughout the entire Middle East that every time an act of terrorism is committed there will be reprisal raids. No matter what the Government of Israel says the raids are for—defensive or otherwise—they will be described as retaliatory raids; and there is no question that that is what they are. Every terrorist who comes out of southern Lebanon to murder a couple of school kids or bus drivers knows that he will not go back; and every time a terrorist leaves one of these so-called refugee camps, with the support of many and also the hatred of many in those refugee camps, everyone knows that if he kills men, women, and children, he will not come back and those people he has left are in serious trouble and under the threat of death. That is the way it is in the Middle East and that is not the choosing of Israel, no matter what the member for Fremantle says.

In view of the nature and seriousness of this matter, and by virtue of the fact that the member for Fremantle has transgressed every ethic that the ALP must surely have and has also brought dishonour on the standing of members of Parliament, it is my opinion that although he stood for election as a member of the Australian Labor Party he is quite clearly following Marxist, Leninist, and communist lines with regard to the Middle East and he ought to resign.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Scarborough has requested that certain tables be incorporated in *Hansard*. It will be necessary for leave of the House to be granted for that to occur. Is leave granted? Leave is granted.

Date	Act	Outcome	Perpetrators	... and their treatment
INCIDENT No. 1 23 July 1968	El Al plane hijacked on flight from Rome to Lod.	Plane forced to land at Algiers. 21 Israelis and 11 crew members detained for 5 weeks.	2 Palestinians, 1 Syrian. Apprehended by Algerian authorities.	Freed quickly.
INCIDENT No. 2 26 December 1968	El Al plane attacked at Athens airport.	1 Israeli passenger killed; 1 stewardess wounded.	2 Palestinians. Sentenced to 17 and 14 years imprisonment respectively.	Freed after the Olympic Airways hijacking in July 1970 (see Incident No. 14).
INCIDENT No. 3 18 February 1969	El Al plane attacked at Zurich airport.	Co-pilot killed; pilot wounded.	4 Palestinians. 1 killed and 3 (2 men and a woman) arrested. Woman freed quickly; the two men sentenced to 12 years imprisonment with hard labour.	1 woman freed quickly. 2 men freed after the Zerqa affair in September 1970 (see Incident No. 16).
INCIDENT No. 4 22 May 1969	Attempt to assassinate David Ben-Gurion in Copenhagen.	Forestalled.	2 Arabs (a man and a woman) and 1 Swede arrested.	Freed after 3 weeks on the grounds that "intent to kill" was not sufficient reason for charging them.
INCIDENT No. 5 23 August 1969	Attack on the Israel Commercial Fair at Izmir.	Abortive.	2 Jordanians. Both injured by the bomb used in the attack. 1 died from injuries; 1 arrested.	Unknown.
INCIDENT No. 6 29 August 1969	TWA plane hijacked from Los Angeles, forced to land at Damascus, where it was sabotaged.	6 Israeli passengers detained, 2 of whom held until 5 December 1969.	2 Palestinians.	Released.
INCIDENT No. 7 8 September 1969	Hand-grenade attack on El Al office in Brussels.	Damage to building.	3 Arabs, among them 2 boys, 1 of them 13 years old. Both recruited by <i>Al-Fatah</i> .	2 escaped; 1 boy arrested and handed over to the Libyan Embassy.
INCIDENT No. 8 8 September 1969	Hand-grenade attack on Israel Embassy, The Hague.	No damage.	1 Arab boy.	Handed over to Libyan Embassy.
INCIDENT No. 9 27 November 1969	Hand-grenade attack on El Al office in Athens.	1 Greek child killed; 13 persons wounded.	2 Arabs. Sentenced to 17 to 14 years imprisonment respectively.	Freed after the Olympic Airways hijacking in July 1970 (see Incident No. 14).
INCIDENT No. 10 5 December 1969	Attack planned on plane at London airport.	Forestalled.	4 terrorists arrested.	Unknown.
INCIDENT No. 11 21 December 1969	Attempt to hijack a TWA plane in Athens.	Abortive.	3 Lebanese arrested.	Freed after the Olympic Airways hijacking in July 1970 (see Incident No. 16).
INCIDENT No. 12 10 February 1970	Attack on airport bus headed for El Al plane at Munich airport.	1 Israeli passenger killed; 8 others wounded.	2 Jordanians, 1 Egyptian.	Freed after the Zerqa affair in September 1970 (see Incident No. 16).
INCIDENT No. 13 17 February 1970	Plan to hijack an El Al plane at Munich airport.	Abortive.	1 Jordanian and 2 Iraqis arrested aboard Yugoslav plane during stop-over at Munich airport.	Released after the Zerqa affair (see Incident No. 16).
INCIDENT No. 14 22 July 1970	Olympic Airlines plane hijacked from Beirut to Athens.	Greek authorities freed 7 convicted Arab terrorists (see Incidents 2, 9 and 11).	6 members of Palestine Popular Struggle Front.	Flew aboard hijacked plane to Cairo, where President Nasser congratulated them.
INCIDENT No. 15 6 September 1970	Attempt to hijack El Al plane from Amsterdam to New York.	Abortive, but 1 El Al stewardess wounded. Of the hijackers, 1 killed, and Leila Khaled wounded.	2 members of Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).	Leila Khaled freed after the Zerqa affair (see Incident No. 16).

Date	Act	Outcome	Perpetrators	... and their treatment
INCIDENT No. 16 6 September 1970	3 planes (Pan-Am, TWA and Swissair), with a total of 400 passengers, hijacked on flights to New York from Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Zurich respectively. The TWA and Swissair planes forced to land at Zerqa in Jordan, the Pan-Am plane at Cairo.	All three planes were blown up. Arab terrorists imprisoned in Britain, West Germany, Switzerland and Greece set free (see Incidents Nos. 3, 12, 15 and 17).	Members of PFLP.	None brought to justice.
INCIDENT No. 17 8 September 1970	Attacks planned on Israeli targets in Greece.	Forestalled.	2 Arabs arrested in Greece.	Freed in context of Zerqa affair (see Incidents Nos. 16 and 18).
INCIDENT No. 18 9 September 1970	BOAC plane hijacked on flight from Bombay to Rome, and forced to land at Zerqa in Jordan.	Plane blown up.	Members of PFLP.	None brought to justice (see Incident No. 16).
INCIDENT No. 19 29 December 1970	Attacks planned on targets in West Germany and Switzerland.	Forestalled.	2 terrorists arrested.	Unknown.
INCIDENT No. 20 19 April 1971	5 persons planning attacks on targets in Israel, arrested on arrival at Lod airport.	Forestalled.	1 German-born woman, 2 Moroccan-born sisters and an elderly French couple sent by PFLP.	All sentenced to varying lengths of imprisonment. French couple and one of the Moroccan sisters subsequently reprieved on grounds of health. Last 2 reprieved December 1974.
INCIDENT No. 21 16 September 1971	Attempt to hijack an Alia plane (Jordanian) in Beirut.	Abortive.	1 Palestinian arrested.	Unknown.
INCIDENT No. 22 28 November 1971	Prime Minister of Jordan, Wasfi Tal, attacked in Cairo.	Wasfi Tal murdered.	4 Palestinian terrorists (2 men and 2 women).	Freed in January 1973.
INCIDENT No. 23 6 February 1972	Attack on 2 natural gas processing plants near Rotterdam.	Plants blown up.	2 Palestinians, 1 Jordanian, 1 Belgian, 1 Algerian and 1 Frenchman.	All escaped. But in March 1974 Belgian caught and sentenced in April to 3 years imprisonment (30 months suspended).
INCIDENT No. 24 19 February 1972	Attempt to hijack an Alia plane (Jordanian) in Cairo.	Abortive.	1 Arab arrested.	Unknown.
INCIDENT No. 25 22 February 1972	Lufthansa plane on flight from India to West Germany hijacked to Aden.	Passengers freed quickly, but West Germany paid \$5 m ransom for crew and plane.	5 Palestinians.	Not brought to justice.
INCIDENT No. 26 8 May 1972	Sabena plane hijacked on flight from Brussels and forced to land at Lod.	Plane and passengers released by Israeli authorities.	4 Palestinian terrorists (2 men and 2 women).	2 men killed by security guards at Lod airport. The 2 women are serving life sentences.
INCIDENT No. 27 28 May 1972	Lebanese woman in possession of arms apprehended in Rome. Plans unknown.	Forestalled.	1 Lebanese woman.	Freed and expelled to Beirut.
INCIDENT No. 28 30 May 1972	3 Japanese terrorists machine-gunned pilgrims and other passengers at Lod airport.	27 persons killed, 80 wounded. Most of the victims were Puerto Rican pilgrims.	3 Japanese dispatched by PFLP.	2 Japanese killed by security guards at Lod airport. 1 serving life sentence in Israel.

Date	Act	Outcome	Perpetrators	... and their treatment
INCIDENT No. 29 16 August 1972	Booby-trapped gramophone placed on El Al plane on flight from Rome to Lod.	Explosion in luggage compartment, causing slight damage.	2 British girls, unaware that the gramophone given to them by 2 Arab acquaintances in Rome was booby-trapped. The 2 Arabs were arrested in Italy.	2 Arabs freed.
INCIDENT No. 30 5 September 1972	Israeli athletes seized in Olympic Village near Munich.	11 Israeli athletes murdered.	7 Arabs. 4 killed at airport near Munich and 3 arrested.	3 Arabs freed after hijacking of Lufthansa plane in October 1972 (see Incident No. 32).
INCIDENT No. 31 23 October 1972	Algerian "diplomatic courier" arrested in Amsterdam airport for carrying arms. Plans unknown.	Forestalled.	1 Palestinian (on Algerian diplomatic passport).	Freed.
INCIDENT No. 32 29 October 1972	Lufthansa plane on flight from Beirut to Ankara hijacked to Zagreb.	Plane released, after the Arab terrorists who had murdered 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics were set free (see Incident No. 30).	Members of <i>Al-Fatah</i> .	None brought to trial.
INCIDENT No. 33 24 December 1972	Palestinian arrested at London airport; planned attacks on Israeli Embassies in Scandinavia.	Forestalled.	1 Palestinian. Sentenced to 18 months imprisonment.	Released after 1 year.
INCIDENT No. 34 9 January 1973	Plan to attack targets in Haifa where group intended to arrive by ship.	Forestalled.	4 Arabs arrested in Cyprus.	Freed.
INCIDENT No. 35 19 January 1973	Attack planned on Austrian transit camp for Jewish emigrants from Russia.	Forestalled.	3 Arabs arrested in Vienna.	Given suspended prison sentences, and expelled from Austria.
INCIDENT No. 36 26 January 1973	Attack planned as in Incident No. 35	Forestalled.	3 Arabs arrested in Italy at border with Austria.	Handed over to Austria, and expelled from there.
INCIDENT No. 37 1 March 1973	Saudi-Arabian Embassy in Khartoum (Sudan) seized.	The American Ambassador, his Deputy Head of Mission, and the Belgian Charge d'Affaires, murdered.	8 Palestinians arrested. Sentenced to life imprisonment in June 1974	Sudanese President commuted their sentences to 7 years, and ordered them to be handed over to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Subsequently held in Egypt, and reported to have been put at disposal of PLO in November 1974 after Incident No. 65.
INCIDENT No. 38 14 March 1973	Attack planned on Israeli and Jordanian Embassies in Paris	Forestalled.	2 Arabs arrested by French police at French-Italian border, leading to the arrest of 1 Palestinian and 1 English doctor in Paris.	2 Arabs imprisoned for 6 months and then expelled from France. 2 others freed and expelled immediately.
INCIDENT No. 39 4 April 1973	Attempt to attack passengers of El Al plane at Rome airport.	Abortive.	2 Arabs arrested at airport.	Freed and expelled to Lebanon.
INCIDENT No. 40 9 April 1973	Separate attempts to attack Arkia plane (Israeli) at Nicosia airport, and Israeli Ambassador's residence in Nicosia.	Both abortive.	10 Arabs. 2 killed, 1 escaped, and 7 arrested and sentenced to 7 years imprisonment.	Freed in December 1973 after hijacking of KLM plane in November (see Incident No. 53).
INCIDENT No. 41 27 April 1973	Attack on an Italian clerk of the El Al office in Rome	Clerk murdered.	1 Palestinian.	Not yet brought to trial, on the grounds that he is unfit to stand trial.

Date	Act	Outcome	Perpetrators	... and their treatment
INCIDENT No. 42 27 April 1973	3 Arabs apprehended at Beirut airport carrying explosives on board plane bound for Nice. Plans unknown.	Forestalled.	3 Arabs.	Unknown.
INCIDENT No. 43 20 May 1973	2 Arabs arrested by British police. Plans unknown.	Forestalled.	2 Arabs.	Interrogated and expelled from Britain two days later.
INCIDENT No. 44 17 June 1973	Car parked near El Al office in Rome exploded and 2 Arabs injured in it.	Abortive.	2 Arabs arrested.	Freed without trial.
INCIDENT No. 45 19 July 1973	El Al office attacked in Athens.	Abortive.	1 Palestinian. Took 2 hostages in adjoining hotel, but released them after negotiations with police.	Freed and allowed to fly to Kuwait, whence he departed immediately for unknown destination.
INCIDENT No. 46 20 July 1973	Japanese Jumbo Jet hijacked on flight from Amsterdam to Tokyo.	Plane blown up at Benghazi airport (Libya).	5 terrorists. 1 of them, an Arab girl (apparently the leader), was killed by a grenade carried by her. Another was Japanese.	Freed in August 1974 and flown to Damascus, following pressure from the PLO.
INCIDENT No. 47 5 August 1973	Passengers attacked in lounge of Athens airport.	5 dead, 55 wounded.	2 Palestinians. Sentenced to death. Although their appeal was rejected, Greek authorities commuted their sentences after a Greek freighter was pirated at Karachi on 2 February 1974 by 3 Arabs, who were allowed to fly to Libya.	Freed and flown to Libya on 5 May 1974
INCIDENT No. 48 5 September 1973	Attack planned on El Al plane over Rome airport with ground-to-air rockets supplied by the Soviet Union to Egypt, Iraq and Syria.	Forestalled.	5 Palestinians arrested in Rome.	2 released quickly on bail. On 27 February, 1974, sentenced <i>in absentia</i> to 62 months imprisonment with the 3 others who, after terrorist threats against Italy, were released on bail on 1 March 1974.
INCIDENT No. 49 5 September 1973	Saudi-Arabian Embassy in Paris seized.	Perpetrators allowed to fly to Kuwait aboard a Syrian plane, with 6 Saudi diplomats as hostages.	5 Arabs arrested.	Handed over to the PLO on 11 October 1973.
INCIDENT No. 50 11 September 1973	Arab arrested by Australian authorities. Plans unknown.	Forestalled.	Member of <i>Al-Farah</i> .	Freed after interrogation.
INCIDENT No. 51 28 September 1973	3 Jewish emigrants from Russia taken hostage, aboard train bound for Vienna.	Hostages released after Austrian Government promised to close transit camp at Schonau for Jewish emigrants from Russia.	2 Palestinians arrested by Austrian authorities.	Freed and flown to an Arab country.
INCIDENT No. 52 18 October 1973	4 Arabs, in possession of explosives and planning to attack El Al office and other targets, arrested in West Berlin.	Forestalled.	4 members of Black September. 2 acquitted; 1 sentenced to 4 years imprisonment; and 1 (17 years old) to 3 years confinement as juvenile offender.	The 2 in detention released and deported to Cairo on 10 June 1974.
INCIDENT No. 53 25 November 1973	KLM Jumbo on flight to New Delhi hijacked to Abu Dhabi.	<i>En route</i> , perpetrators flew over Cyprus and negotiated release of 7 Arabs imprisoned in context of Incident No. 40. At Abu Dhabi they surrendered and released plane.	3 Arabs. Not known if arrested by Abu Dhabi authorities.	Unknown.

Date	Act	Outcome	Perpetrators	... and their treatment
INCIDENT No. 54 17 December 1973	Pan-Am and Lufthansa planes attacked at Rome airport.	32 passengers killed. Pan-Am plane badly damaged and Lufthansa plane hijacked with 13 hostages aboard, of whom 1 died before the plane reached Kuwait.	5 Arabs. Arrested in Kuwait.	Handed over to PLO on 27 February 1974, after Kuwait refused to extradite them to Italy. Subsequently held in Egypt, and freed in November 1974 in context of Incident No. 65.
INCIDENT No. 55 20 December 1973	Large quantities of weapons and explosives brought into France by car, leading to discovery of terrorist base near Paris.	Plans, shown on maps, forestalled.	10 Turks, 2 Palestinians and 1 Algerian arrested in Paris and environs.	4 freed on 15 March 1974; 9 others sentenced on 11 May to prison terms varying between 5 and 13 months.
INCIDENT No. 56 26 December 1973	2 Arabs arrested at London airport. Plans unknown.	Forestalled.	2 Arabs.	Expelled within days.
INCIDENT No. 57 29 December 1973	2 Arabs arrested at London airport, planning to attack Israeli targets.	Forestalled.	1 Jordanian and 1 Lebanese.	Expelled a week later.
INCIDENT No. 58 20 January 1974	Arab, possessing explosives and planning attacks on Israeli targets, arrested in London.	Forestalled.	1 Libyan. Sentenced to 2 years imprisonment.	Expelled in July 1974.
INCIDENT No. 59 31 January 1974	Oil installations attacked in Singapore.	Following unsuccessful attack, pirated ferry-boat at Singapore with 5 hostages aboard, 2 of whom escaped.	2 members of the Japanese "Red Army" and 2 members of PFLP	Freed in context of Incident No. 60.
INCIDENT No. 60 6 February 1974	Japanese Embassy in Kuwait seized with Japanese Ambassador and 15 others as hostages.	Following threats to kill all the hostages, Japanese authorities sent a plane to Kuwait via Singapore (see Incident No. 59).	5 members of PFLP.	Freed at Aden, together with terrorists brought from Singapore.
INCIDENT No. 61 3 March 1974	British Airlines plane on flight from Beirut hijacked to Amsterdam.	Having been refused permission to land in Athens (where they planned to seek release of 2 terrorists involved in Incident No. 47), landed at Amsterdam and blew up plane after freeing passengers and crew.	2 members of the Libyan-sponsored "National Youth Organisation for the Liberation of Palestine." Sentenced to 5 years imprisonment.	Freed on 24 November 1974 in context of Incident No. 65.
INCIDENT No. 62 14 March 1974	Attempt to smuggle arms and explosives aboard a KLM Jumbo at Beirut airport.	Abortive.	2 Palestinians, 2 Lebanese, and 1 Libyan, all members of the National Youth Organisation for the Liberation of Palestine. Apprehended in Beirut.	Unknown.
INCIDENT No. 63 10 June 1974	2 Arabs, apparently on way to Scandinavia, arrested in Hamburg.	Forestalled.	2 Palestinians.	Expelled from West Germany on 13 June 1974.
INCIDENT No. 64 11 October 1974	15 terrorists, planning to assassinate Heads of Arab States attending Rabat Summit, arrested in Morocco. 2 others involved in same plot arrested in Spain.	Forestalled.	17 Arabs.	All freed.
INCIDENT No. 65 22 November 1974	British Airways plane on flight from London to Singapore hijacked from Dubai to Tunis.	1 German killed. 5 terrorists held in Egypt and 2 imprisoned in Holland set free (see Incidents 54 and 61).	4 Members of the National Youth Organisation for the Liberation of Palestine.	Granted protection and safe passage by Tunisian authorities. Handed themselves over to PLO.

Date	Act	Outcome	Perpetrators	... and their treatment
INCIDENT No. 66 19 January 1975	EI A1 plane attacked at Orly airport, Paris, and hand-grenades thrown into airport crowds.	Attack on plane abortive, but 20 bystanders injured, 8 seriously.	1 Palestinian, 1 Algerian, and 1 Lebanese, belonging to PFLP but using cover-name of "Muhammad Boudia Group."	After holding 10 hostages in airport washroom for 18 hours, flown out aboard French plane. Eventually landed at Baghdad and held by authorities.

MR TAYLOR (Cockburn) [5.44 p.m.]: I have sat in this place now for 10 years and the speech I have just heard from the member for Scarborough is the most reprehensible that I have heard any member make in this place. It beats by only a small margin the action of the Government in condoning it because there is nothing surer, at this time on a Thursday afternoon with no time for the member for Fremantle to marshal evidence and reply, that this matter was brought forward at this time for a purpose. That is why it is so reprehensible. The member for Scarborough has been doing his job and he did it very well and very effectively. At this time and in this way it is a very disturbing action and I hope it is going to stick with the member for Scarborough for a long time.

This place is the State Parliament and each of us has his own views on matters pertaining to actions outside the State but we keep them out of this place; we are obliged to.

Several members interjected.

Mr TAYLOR: All right then, I withdraw the last few words. We are allowed to use this place as a forum but we do not use it as that kind of a forum.

Mr Sibson: Is it too embarrassing for you?

Mr TAYLOR: Not at all. I shall explain why I believe it was reprehensible. Each of us has his own opinions on most political activities but we do not denigrate each other personally in this place because of them. When a member of Parliament raises a matter in this place it is usual that he air the subject in general debate and in general terms, but the member for Scarborough did not do that. He brought this matter forward in this way for a particular reason. I am not going to take up the content of the subject matter of the issue that was raised because that is a matter for others who may desire to do so, but I wish to make the point that the member for Scarborough only raised this issue in order to personally denigrate another member.

In Northern Ireland not so long ago about half as many people were killed by a bomb in a restaurant and in that incident women were killed

and children were maimed. Not one member of the Government has raised his voice about that. This sort of thing is happening in any number of countries throughout the world. It is happening in South Africa. We all have our views on apartheid one way or another but they are not aired in this place. Rhodesia is another area. If we can recall the Vietnam situation, when did a member personally attack another member for his views during that period?

This matter has been brought up at this time for a particular reason; that is, to denigrate the member for Fremantle and in so doing, through him, to attack the Opposition. Last night we were debating unemployment. We have problems in health, education, and Aborigines. All are matters with which this State has to show concern. But the member for Scarborough is not concerned with the activities of this State because he talks about foreign affairs. There is only one utterance which was a little less relevant to the needs of the people of this State than this and that was when the member for Whitford debated quarter-horses.

At no time have I heard a member speak in such a way in this place, and above all on a Thursday afternoon. If the electorate of Scarborough has so few problems that the member for Scarborough has to speak on foreign affairs and make a personal attack on a member in a manner that I have not heard in my 10 years in this place, I can only conclude that the proposition came not only from him but also from the Government. I shall not repeat myself any further except to indicate my disgust and the disgust of this side of the House.

Mr Young: The matter was raised by the member for Fremantle in the Press and it deserved answering in this place.

Mr TAYLOR: No, it deserved answering in the Press. Alternatively, it deserved answering in the Fremantle Town Hall. A third alternative would be to hold a meeting in the Perth Town Hall or elsewhere when the member for Scarborough could speak; and that is the way it would normally have been done.

Mr Blaikie: If you were dinkum you would let the member for Fremantle have two tob's worth right now, but you will not.

Mr TAYLOR: If Standing Orders and the Premier will allow me to take my seat and resume my remarks at a later date to allow another member to speak, I shall do so. I was on the list of speakers and I certainly did not get up to protect any other member. I rose to take my turn in the debate.

I am not going to try to solve world problems. I want to come right down to some real problems in my electorate.

Last night I was speaking about unemployment in the Cockburn area and I hope one way or another the Government has taken note of the two points I made. One concerned unemployed youth and the other, unemployed middle-aged people; that is, people about 45 years of age and older. To emphasise this problem I think I should take a minute or two to mention other cases that will help members to appreciate the problem in the area.

I mentioned yesterday the problems of companies standing down people who were good workers and able to carry out their jobs satisfactorily only because there are other people available who are younger and fitter. I instanced the case of a man being declared fit by his doctor for work, but the company then deciding not to take him on.

Another of my constituents had an accident at his place of employment. Three years ago he injured his back. After a month or two off he returned to work and was able to hold down his job, although he did experience pain. He was trying to do the right thing. The stage was reached where he felt he was unable to cope with any overtime. He saw a doctor who declared that his back injury was such that while he was able to stand on his feet for an eight-hour shift lifting and moving objects around, it was unwise for him to continue past the eight hours in order to do overtime. The doctor said it was undesirable that he work the overtime shift. The company took that as an indication the worker was unable to work satisfactorily, even though he had been working for the last three years.

Mr Speaker, the Chamber seems to have emptied, indicating perhaps that some members are more interested in debating foreign affairs instead of affairs affecting this State.

Mr Shalders: *Hansard* is still here.

Mr TAYLOR: The constituent is perfectly able to handle his job and as I explained, the company had been satisfied with his work over the

past three years. Nonetheless he was stood down because the company thought there might be a time when he would be required to work overtime and would be unable to do so. As his doctor had indicated he was unable to work overtime, the company considered he was not suitable. At 45 years of age he is out of work because the company stood him down.

There is another group of people, a small number at the moment but with signs of increasing, who have a similar problem. They are market gardeners. There is a group of two or three who recently found that their land in the Cockburn area was included in a certain land subdivision scheme. In at least one instance one person has found that his land is to be subdivided and he will receive a lump sum in return. They will do reasonably well from this, but the sum they receive will be no more than three or four years' income to them. It must be remembered that these people are unskilled technically; they are very skilled as market gardeners but they have no trade skills. They now find themselves unemployed. They have a lump sum but it looks as though this will be used up in keeping their families together. In a year or two they will be in real bother.

I put it to the Minister for Labour and Industry that there may be some possibility of establishing schemes for these people so they can be taught a trade by means of some sort of crash course. This would allow them to fill a position in the work force. I know this is usually a Commonwealth responsibility but I recall earlier schemes established to help bricklayers.

Mr Grayden: In 1977.

Mr TAYLOR: Such a scheme would be of advantage to such small groups. The market gardeners are in a difficult situation in that they have some property and collateral. They have cash in hand but unless they have some other way of employing themselves the money will be used purely for living expenses. They will not be able to receive social welfare and their future looks bleak. They are good people who can work hard and long hours but their skill is no longer appropriate. I hope some thought can be given to assist them, even to a small extent.

The subject of migration was raised in the House last night when it was indicated that if any tradesmen wanted to come to Western Australia one ought to see the State Immigration Department. I have had some cases in the last month or two involving an electrician, an auto spray painter, and a market gardener.

Mr Grayden: There is a list indicating what trades are in short supply.

Mr TAYLOR: Yes, and it is a very short list. The matter of the market gardener is a strange one. It is unique and perhaps the Minister can make an appeal to his Federal counterpart to see whether an exception can be made.

Mr Grayden: We have already achieved flexibility and we will make exceptions in special circumstances.

Mr TAYLOR: I have a case, and I know there have been others, involving a man working as a market gardener who is unable to continue in this occupation. His wife is affected by the chemicals used and she is not allowed to participate in the gardening operations. His family is not old enough to help and the man is unable to maintain the garden by himself at a level to provide an income. It is not easy to find people who are prepared to work the type of hours required to run a market garden.

The Minister will be aware that the gardeners have to be up early to tend to certain crops. It is very hard work that cannot be handled by most people. In the past it has been possible for these people, who are usually Yugoslavs or Italians, to bring their families to Australia. The members of the families who come out are, in our terminology, unskilled, but because they are related they have the heart and the will to work in a co-operative way with the families who bring them out. It is a tradition which has been in evidence for years but has been stopped recently by the Government taking the attitude that if a relative is unskilled he may therefore take a position elsewhere in the work force.

Mr Grayden: We would regard that as a special case and would be prepared to make representations to the Commonwealth.

Mr TAYLOR: That is the co-operation I am looking for and the Minister will have the information on his table either tomorrow or Monday. I know he accepts my point that it is a special problem and is not covered by the broad categories usually encompassed by immigration policies.

Mr Nanovich: Who brought the current policy in?

Mr TAYLOR: Over the last three years it has been administered by the present Government.

Mr Nanovich: Who implemented the present policy?

Mr TAYLOR: I cannot understand the member's point. For three years a Government has carried out a policy—

Mr Grayden: It is Commonwealth policy.

Mr TAYLOR: —and it has been implemented by a Commonwealth Government.

Mr Nanovich: Which one?

Mr TAYLOR: It is a Liberal Government. My time is running short. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning to another matter. It relates to a particular set of circumstances involving a particular group of people. The Minister would be aware of the situation; but I believe it should be aired in the House. It relates to rural subdivisions, and particularly to the manner in which they apply to families. Under most circumstances it is not possible to subdivide a property to enable the issue of a separate title deed. The criterion which is used in rural areas which are in close proximity to metropolitan regions is that the area to be subdivided must be economically viable. From time to time that reason is given in rejecting subdivisions.

When one is looking at a gentleman farmer or a St. George's Terrace farmer one can accept that criterion; but there are a number of other people affected, people who live in the outer metropolitan areas and have resided there for many years. They have made a reasonable living during those years. In the past the present problem has not existed as the son or a close member of the family has been able to erect a house and reside on the property. However, at the present time the lending institutions—and that has been debated quite adequately in the last couple of days—usually require a separate title deed before money can be loaned.

Mr Rushton: This matter is being reviewed at the present time.

Mr TAYLOR: Certainly, if something is being done I am grateful for that. However, I suggest the Minister should take the lead and I hope that people who approach him in the future will be treated in the same way.

Mr Rushton: The policy on these small holdings is being reviewed fully and I am hopeful it will be modified in the near future.

Mr TAYLOR: I do not wish to be too hard on the Minister. I have already let off enough steam tonight. I only hope that the review covers market gardeners who, in order to keep their families close to them so that they can work in the garden all hours of the day and night and during the weekend, when necessary, may by some means or other be provided with an appropriate form of documentation which will be acceptable to a lending institution and will enable the member of the family to stay on the block.

In the Mandogalup area in Kwinana there are two families who have resided there for 50 years or more. The properties are viable but unless the sons can remain on the properties they will be viable no longer. The properties will have to be broken up. Therefore, something should be done so that the sons can obtain funds which will enable them to live on the property and that, of course, will mean subdividing.

I wish to return to a matter which I raised in the House some time ago but which has now arrived at the crunch point. I am referring to the imminent destruction of houses at Naval Base. I am sorry the Minister for Lands is not present; but I feel I must raise this matter. As members may be aware, the land at Naval Base, owned by the State and owned formerly by the Commonwealth, is under lease to the occupiers and the lease on one-third of the lots terminates on the 31st of this month. Approximately 80 to 90 houses will have to be moved or demolished prior to the 31st of this month.

During the last six to eight months efforts have been made in an endeavour to persuade the Government to change its attitude with respect to the leaseholds. However, these efforts have been to no avail. The immediate problem concerns the 30 residents who lease and occupy the houses in which they live. I do not have the same degree of sympathy for those who lease the land but live elsewhere and rent out the houses to others. However, at the same time, those houses are occupied by people who, at the moment, have nowhere else to go. Approximately 30 people at this moment are wondering where they will go on the 31st March. The Minister for Lands and the Government have indicated that perhaps the State Housing Commission will assist; but time is getting very short and some action needs to be taken to assist these people, particularly the pensioners who at the present time are waiting to find out whether the houses they occupy will be bulldozed over their heads. They have nowhere else to go.

In two instances which I can recall people have approached the State Housing Commission. I have taken the matter up with the commission. However, they have been told that they are adequately housed. Of course they are adequately housed; but one Government department when saying this should know and does know that another Government department will have the right within two weeks to bulldoze the houses in which these people are residing. Something needs to be done to assist these people within the next fortnight.

There is another matter which I would like to raise in connection with these houses. Presumably I will need to contact the Minister later because she is not present and, therefore, cannot reply by way of interjection. I would like an undertaking from the Lands Department that it will not bulldoze those houses on the 31st March in the cases where the occupants are making a real effort to move the houses to other areas or to demolish the houses themselves. In two instances approaches have been made to the Murray Shire in order that these people may take the houses down to that area on jinkers. Yesterday the council rejected both applications for particular reasons which can be remedied.

The people concerned are trying to comply with the extra conditions required by the Shire of Murray; but this means the approval of the shire will be postponed for at least a month. As a result, the buildings will not be able to be shifted during that period. One hopes the Government will not move in and destroy houses when real efforts are being made to have them removed.

In a third instance a nursery is involved and, as with the previous two instances, land has been purchased. The documents to have the houses removed are with the local authorities; but there has been no indication from the Lands Department that it will allow the present dwelling to remain in the interim.

There is another point on which I would like a reply from the Lands Department and that is in respect of the cost of demolition of some houses. In some instances pensioners are involved and they have been able to obtain accommodation elsewhere, usually with relatives, but they do not have the wherewithal to pay for the demolition of the houses.

These would cost between \$200 and \$300 to demolish and, as pensioners, they do not have that money. They have made the effort to move out of the houses and although one officer of the department has advised verbally that it will be the department's responsibility to demolish those houses which will be deserted, there is a need for an official statement to give people confidence so that they know they can take the action they propose, this being to move out to alternative accommodation they have been able to obtain, and leave the houses standing on the lots.

I would like the Government to look at those three points, bearing in mind that there are only 2½ weeks to go. Firstly, certain occupants need accommodation with the State Housing Commission, and at this time there has been no move to assist them, the claim being that they are adequately housed which is an absurdity. Secondly,

the people want permission to leave some of the houses on the site when an effort is being made to have them removed. The third item which needs clarification is the remark said to be made by a member of the staff of the Lands Department; that is, that the department would meet the cost of demolition if those involved are unable to comply with the requirement themselves. It is hoped that the Lands Department will pick up the cost.

Sir Charles Court: To which properties are you referring?

Mr TAYLOR: The ones at Naval Base on the northern boundary of Alcoa.

Sir Charles Court: I thought it was.

Mr TAYLOR: The Minister will be aware of the ones.

Sir Charles Court: I will take the matter up with the Minister.

Mr TAYLOR: I have one or two other matters I wish to raise, but time is running short.

Sir Charles Court: You may seek leave to resume your remarks.

Leave to Continue Speech

Mr TAYLOR: In view of the time, I now move—

That I be given leave to continue my speech at the next sitting of the House.

Motion put and passed.

Debate thus adjourned.

House adjourned at 6.10 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

RAILWAYS

Fuel Cost

50. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

Of the total cost of Westrail's operations, what percentage of that figure is for fuel?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

On the basis that the question refers to distillate and petrol—2.37 per cent for year ended 30th June, 1977.

PARKING

Morley Court

51. Mr TONKIN, to the Minister for Works:

(1) Is he aware that tenants are prevented from parking at Morley Court, where Mr R. McLean, MHR, and myself have office space, due to the incursions of shoppers?

(2) Is he aware there are no markings for parking bays so that far fewer cars can park than would otherwise be the case?

(3) Will he, as the Government is a tenant, use his influence to see to it that—

(a) signs are erected indicating that this is a private car park;

(b) parking bays are marked out; and

(c) name boards are erected so that specific parking bays will be reserved for specific tenants?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

(1) No.

(2) Yes.

(3) An endeavour will be made to have the position rectified. However, as the building is registered in multiple ownership, resolution of the problem could prove difficult.

YANCHEP SUN CITY

Japanese Interests

52. Mr HARMAN, to the Premier:

(1) Is he aware that the Bond Corporation may sell its interest in the Yanchep Sun City project to Japanese interests?

(2) Has the Bond Corporation sought Government assistance to acquire the 49 per cent Japanese interest already involved in the Yanchep Sun City project?

(3) If the project becomes wholly owned by Japanese interests what are the implications for Western Australians?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) to (3) It would not be proper of me at this stage to disclose the information available to the Government on the matter covered by the questions.

However, the member can be assured that both the Commonwealth and State Governments are conscious of the need to see that Australian and Western Australian interests are properly safeguarded.

The Western Australian Government has no intention of investing in the project to acquire either the Japanese or the Bond interests in the project, as we have other more appropriate and pressing uses for any funds which would be involved.

The important thing, whilst having full regard for future Australian interests, is to ensure the stability and continuity of the project. This is well covered in proposals currently before us.

EDUCATION

School Holidays

53. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has his Government considered a proposal to stagger school holidays both within the State and with other States?
- (2) What decision has been made?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) To make no changes to existing pattern.

FISHERIES

Mooring at Two Rocks Marina

54. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) Has the Minister the authority to approve of mooring rentals within the Two Rocks Marina for professional fishermen?
- (2) If so, what is the source of this authority?
- (3) If not, who determines the rentals paid?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Yanchep Sun City Pty. Ltd.

DRAINAGE

Black Adder Creek

55. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Are talks being held with the Shire of Swan regarding the upgrading of the Woodbridge Black Adder drainage system?
- (2) If "Yes", will he outline in detail the present position arising out of these talks?
- (3) Is he at this stage able to advise—
 - (a) commencing date of overall plan;
 - (b) cost of the project; and
 - (c) finishing date?
- (4) If answer to (1) is "No", can he advise when the Government will upgrade the Woodbridge Black Adder drainage system, and thus provide urgently needed relief from flooding for hundreds of residents in the immediate area?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Metropolitan Water Board is awaiting a letter from the Shire of Swan.
- (3) No. Further negotiations are still required.
- (4) Not applicable.

HEALTH

Paediatric Clinics

56. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has any action been taken to establish whether it is feasible to provide paediatric out-patient clinics in the metropolitan area?
- (2) If so, where and when will such clinics be established?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr RIDGE) replied:

- (1) Discussions have not suggested that it is feasible to provide paediatric out-patient clinics in the metropolitan area.
- (2) There are no proposals to establish any clinics at the moment, but the matter will be kept under review.

FLOODING IN SOUTHERN CROSS AREA

Financial Assistance

57. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) Will the townspeople affected by flooding in the Southern Cross area and surrounding regions be eligible for assistance within the guidelines of the Commonwealth Government's natural disaster assistance arrangements?
- (2) What action has the Government taken or does it intend to take to assist people in these flood-affected areas?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) As previously announced, people in needy circumstances will be assisted with grants for the relief of personal hardship and distress, such as replacement of floor coverings, and action to make septic tanks operative. At our request the Commonwealth Government has agreed to accept the flooding as coming within the guidelines of the natural disaster assistance arrangements.

Applications for assistance have been invited, and committees have been appointed in the towns of Southern Cross, Naremburn, and Merredin, to assess claims and determine the grants to be made.

**METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY,
SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE
BOARD**

Income and Rating System

58. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What is the total estimated income of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board this financial year?
- (2) What percentage of this income is estimated to come from the central business district of Perth?
- (3) Has any major water supply authority in Australia yet adopted a "pay as you use" system of water rating?
- (4) If so, which authorities are they, and is there yet any available information as to the success of such a system?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) \$57 064 000.
- (2) 12 per cent from the city wards.
- (3) No State capital city has adopted a "pay as you use" system of water rating.
- (4) The Public Works Department has supplied water to country areas on a "pay as you use" system since 1st January, 1965. Consumer reaction has been good, principally because they pay only for water used.

The escalating scale of charges adopted by the department has also helped to reduce water usage.

WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE

Programme: Federal Funds and All-party Committee

59. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Will he give consideration to expanding the water education programme into schools?
- (2) Will he also give consideration to providing incentives such as subsidies for householders installing rainwater tanks?
- (3) Will he move to speed up the programme to install deep sewerage in the metropolitan area to prevent pollution of underground water?
- (4) Will he also ask the Federal Government for funds allocated to Western Australia in the 1976-77 budget for recurrent sewerage works which were not spent?

- (5) Will he also give consideration to establishing an all-party Parliamentary standing committee to monitor and review water resources and plans to harness them?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes. This matter is under continual review, and additional material has recently been prepared for use in all schools.
- (2) No.
- (3) No. All public water supply areas are also proclaimed underground water pollution control areas to ensure that all public health requirements are observed.
- (4) All funds allocated were spent.
- (5) There is a Water Resources Council, which is investigating all aspects of water in Western Australia, and I would not be prepared to duplicate its work, and would not propose taking any action along the lines suggested. The report should be completed towards the end of this year.

60. *This question was postponed.*

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND LIGHTS

Manning Road-Leach Highway

61. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

Referring to my questions 1186 and 1254 of 1977 and the Minister's letter to me of 22nd December, 1977 on the same subject—

- (1) Has the analysis of the accident pattern at the intersection of Manning Road and Leach Highway now been completed?
- (2) What were the findings of the analysis?
- (3) Has any remedial action been taken or is any planned?
- (4) If "Yes" to (3), what is to be done, at what cost and when?
- (5) If "No" to (3), why not?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Southbound drivers turning right out of Leach Highway were failing to appreciate the speed of opposing northbound traffic.
- (3) Yes.

- (4) Separate traffic signal phases have been assigned to north and south bound Leach Highway traffic. This was carried out on 26th January, 1978, at a cost of \$600.

(5) Answered by (3).

PASTORALISTS

Drought Relief Loans and Transport Subsidies

62. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Lands:

Now that the State has successfully applied to the Federal Government for drought relief loans and transport subsidies for pastoralists would she—

- (a) establish a liaison officer within her department to handle all enquiries relating to assistance available to pastoralists and points to which applications should be directed;
- (b) publish an information sheet outlining details of this liaison officer and the types and extent of assistance available to pastoralists so that the full range of State and Federal Government initiatives to assist in overcoming drought and associated problems can be clearly outlined to pastoralists and their advisers?

Mr O'Connor (for Mrs CRAIG) replied:

- (a) A liaison officer already exists within the Department of Lands and Surveys. He is Mr L. M. Kelly, Co-ordinating Officer, Pastoral Appraisal Board. His duties include the responsibility of answering all enquiries pertaining to pastoral matters affecting the department and the Pastoral Appraisal Board.
- (b) The extent of assistance available to pastoralists has already been tabulated and is shown on the attachment submitted. I will be pleased to arrange for distribution of this information sheet through the Pastoralists and Graziers' Association and also make available copies to interested members representing pastoral areas.

The attachment was tabled (see paper No. 93).

LAND

Building and Industrial Blocks

63. Mr TUBBY, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) When is it anticipated new subdivision residential and light industrial blocks will be available at Kalbarri in the Northampton Shire?
- (2) When will there be a further release of residential blocks in the Dongara-Denison area in the Irwin Shire?

Mr O'Connor (for Mrs CRAIG) replied:

- (1) Release of residential lots out of a new subdivision will be made after completion of suitable roads by the local authority.
Survey of proposed light industrial subdivision is imminent. Release is dependent on provision of services.
- (2) 21 Port Denison lots are to be offered for sale by public auction at the Shire Hall, Dongara, at 10.00 a.m. on Saturday, 22nd April, 1978.

CHAPMAN VALLEY SHIRE

Aerial Photographs and Contour Maps

64. Mr TUBBY, to the Minister for Lands:

Following an aerial survey of the Chapman Valley Shire in mid-1977:

- (1) Are aerial photographs and contour maps available?
- (2) If not, when is it anticipated they will be?

Mr O'Connor (for Mrs CRAIG) replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.

CROSSWALK

East Maddington School

65. Mr BATEMAN to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

In view of the near accidents to children crossing Westfield Street, who attend the East Maddington Primary School, will he—

- (1) Have an urgent investigation made for the purpose of providing a crosswalk?
- (2) If "Yes", when will such action take place?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Probably sometime next week.
- (3) Not applicable.

ROAD

Gosnells-Beechboro Freeway

66. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) In view of the extensive traffic build-up in the through roads between Gosnells and Forrestfield and the extensive amount of damage being done to these roads by heavy haulage trucks, will the Minister make the construction of the Gosnells-Beechboro Highway a top priority?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If (1) is "Yes", when can it be expected construction will begin?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) The Government is heavily committed for some years to the Kwinana Freeway extension project so with the current financial constraints the Gosnells-Beechboro Highway cannot be given a top priority. However, its importance as a future route is recognised and its construction will be considered along with other competing projects when the freeway extension is completed.

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD

Minimum Wager

67. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Is he aware that the Queensland Government has approved of a minimum win and place wager on the Queensland Totalisator Agency Board of \$1?
- (2) Is it contemplated that similar action will occur in Western Australia?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) This matter is not under consideration at the present time.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ACT

Osborn v Courtney Case

68. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

With reference to the recent case in which Michael George Osborn as complainant, an officer of the Fisheries and Wildlife Department, and Kenneth Jack Courtney as defendant was charged under Regulations 30(3)(A) and

30(1)(D)(i) of the Wildlife Conservation Act 1950-1975, if he is able to do so would he indicate:

- (a) the nature of the charge;
- (b) the outcome of the case;
- (c) the amounts of costs awarded and to whom; and
- (d) the reasons for the Magistrate's findings?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (a) There were two charges:
 - (i) keeping birds in an unsuitable cage for a period of longer than 48 hours;
 - (ii) on a different occasion keeping birds in a cage in which containers for food and water were not kept filled.
- (b) Both complaints were dismissed.
- (c) Costs of \$165 were awarded to the defendant.
- (d) No evidence was presented by the prosecution. An omission within the Crown Law Department to record the hearing date resulted in no appearance being made by Counsel for the complainant at the hearing.

DONKEYS

Destruction at Whim Creek

69. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) With reference to the Whim Creek donkeys referred to in the *Sunday Times* on 12th March as Stomper and Heehaw, will he indicate whether Agriculture Protection Board officers did in fact tender the reason for destroying the animals as being that neighbours had complained about them roaming wild?
- (2) If "Yes", would he indicate the distance from Whim Creek where these neighbours reside?
- (3) If (1) is "No", would he indicate why the animals were killed bearing in mind an earlier reprieve granted by the Agriculture Protection Board?

Mr P. V. Jones (for Mr OLD) replied:

- (1) and (3) The animals were destroyed because the owners failed to comply with the conditions of a permit under which they were allowed to be kept.
- (2) The complaints had been made by residents living within 500 metres of the hotel.

TELEVISION

Interference by CB Radios

70. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

In view of the many complaints received by householders that their television sets are being disturbed by citizen band radio users, on channels 7 and 9, will he advise what action they can take to have their complaints investigated?

Mr O'NEIL replied:-

Radio and television transmissions are subject to control by Commonwealth authorities. Complaints should be addressed to Telecom Australia.

WATER SUPPLIES

Serpentine and South Dandalup Dams

71. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) Is it a fact that permission has been given to a person or persons to take marron from the Serpentine Dam?
- (2) Is it also a fact that permission has been given to a person or persons to use a power boat on the dam?
- (3) Is it further a fact that a fisheries inspector from Mandurah supervises the taking of these marron?
- (4) As this area is a water catchment area to be used by metropolitan consumers, will the Minister advise why permission has been given for marron to be taken from this particular dam?
- (5) If (1), (2), (3) and (4) are correct, will the Minister further advise if the South Dandalup Dam is also going to be used to catch marron?
- (6) If (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) are correct, in the interests of health, will the Minister have this operation stopped forthwith?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes, to departmental employees to collect stock for the commercialisation of marron.

- (2) A power boat is not being used.
- (3) It is a fact that officers of the inspection section will supervise the taking—but not the Mandurah inspector.
- (4) After close consultation with officers of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board permission was granted because there are considerable stocks of marron of value to the development of a commercial marron fish farming industry and taking them will not affect the sport fishery stocks.
- (5) Marron will not be taken from the South Dandalup Dam controlled by the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board but will be from the pipe head dam controlled by Public Works Department.
- (6) The taking has been made subject to special precautions in the interests of health and other concerns.

HOUSING

Koondoola and Girrawheen

72. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Can he say whether the State Housing Commission still intends to go ahead with proposals to build 191 rental units in Koondoola?
- (2) If "No" can he say—
 - (a) what use will be made of the blocks of land originally set aside for this purpose;
 - (b) who will be responsible for any alternative development; and
 - (c) when such development is likely to begin?
- (3) Can he also provide equivalent information with regard to the commission's plans for lots 653 and 679 in Girrawheen?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The commission would hope to proceed with the proposal to build 191 rental units in Koondoola, and has submitted this to the Shire of Wanneroo. In the near future, the proposals will be open for public comment, as required under town planning and zoning statutes, after which decisions will be made by the local authority and the commission.
- (2) Not applicable.

- (3) Subject to the same public advertising procedure as indicated in answer to Part (1), the proposals are:—

Lot 653—after resubdivision, to construct six single detached houses.

Lot 679—after resubdivision, to construct—

one single detached house,
four duplex units,
three single storey town houses.

LAND

Tuscany Way

73. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Works:
- (1) Does he control the land situated in Tuscany Way directly opposite to the front of Churchlands Senior High School?
 - (2) If "No", which Minister does?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) Land on the western side of Tuscany Way and Lucca Street is controlled by me as Minister for Housing. Land immediately south of Churchlands High School is under the control of the Minister for Lands.

HEALTH

Narcotics

74. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Health:
- (1) Is it a fact that in comparable countries heroin and other narcotics are used to ameliorate the pain of patients suffering from terminal conditions?
 - (2) If "Yes", is this procedure permitted and/or carried out in Australia?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr RIDGE) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A variety of narcotics are used in Australia but there are restrictions on the use of heroin. Heroin is a prohibited import under Commonwealth legislation and its use is restricted in most States by legislation.

PREMIER

Canadian Visit

75. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:
- What value to this State was gained from his visit to Canada last year?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

My brief visit was to honour an undertaking to the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth that the Government of the host State in 1979 (the

150th Anniversary Year) would participate in the 1977 biennial conference, held in Regina, Canada, in 1977.

The 1979 Perth meetings by the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth, and other activities of the delegates of many countries, will be important in the rural industry activities of our State and our 150th Anniversary Celebrations.

It is a basic requirement of the Royal Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth that the host State for the next biennial conference must participate in a meaningful way in the preceding conference.

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND

Balance

76. Mr BERTRAM, to the Treasurer:
- (1) Are there any reasons why the State's Consolidated Revenue Fund should not balance as at 30th June, 1978?
 - (2) If "Yes", what are they?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) As I stated following the completion of the mid-year budget review, notwithstanding a number of variations to earlier estimates of revenue and expenditure, the Government still hopes that transactions on the Consolidated Revenue Fund will be in balance at 30th June, 1978.

At this stage of the year there is no apparent reason why that aim should not be achieved although it must be emphasised that current trends can change and new circumstances can arise in the remaining months of the year.

STREET PERFORMERS

Payment

77. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:
- (1) Will he take steps to have the law amended so as to allow street musicians to receive payment for their activities?
 - (2) If "No", why?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

In view of a question on notice from the Hon. R. F. Cloughton in the Legislative Council requesting a different course of action in this matter, including a condition that performers should not solicit funds, it is respectfully suggested

that he discuss this matter with his colleague so that the Government might have an informed opinion as to where the Opposition stands on this issue.

Mr Davies: We want to know the Government's position.

PETROL

New Variety

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

- (1) Is it a fact that recently a new variety of petrol has been introduced in this State which causes increased pollution by exhaust fumes which are noisome and deleterious to health?
- (2) Was his permission sought and/or given for this petrol to be sold in this State?
- (3) Will the Minister take steps to ensure that sales of this new variety of petrol is discontinued?
- (4) If "No", why?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) The Minister is not aware of the introduction of a new variety of petrol which presents a hazard to health.
- (2) No, and it is not so required.
- (3) and (4) No complaints have been received, so far as the Minister is aware, and no action is proposed.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Government Policy

79. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) What is the Government's policy towards the imposition of capital punishment?
- (2) Has the Government considered or is it considering legislation to abolish capital punishment?
- (3) If "Yes", what is the result of any such consideration?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Capital punishment is imposed by the courts under the provisions of current Statute and not by the Government.
- (2) and (3) The Government has considered the matter and believes that the current situation should obtain.

STATE HOUSING COMMISSION ADVANCE

Interest Rate and Term

80. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Housing:

At what rate of interest and over what term was the advance of \$3 000 000 recently made to the State Housing Commission?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The term of the loan is over 53 years, with the interest rate determined year to year by the Treasurer and is currently at 6.5 per cent per annum.

TEACHERS

Cadet Training

81. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Education:

Who is responsible for the payment of those teachers employed in training cadets in schools for the period during which they are occupied in such training duties?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

The Department of Defence.

PRISON

Canning Vale

82. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) When does the Government expect to decide whether Canning Vale Prison will be a maximum security gaol?
- (2) Was the report in *The West Australian* of 28th January, 1978 substantially correct in regard to the statement:
"The W.A. Government has decided to go ahead with the first three stages of the Canning Vale Prison as quickly as possible—if it can find the money"?
- (3) If the statement is correct, when does the Government expect it will find the money and where does it intend to find it?
- (4) When is it now estimated that the first three stages of the five stage project will commence?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) A news release, (tabled) issued on 17th January, 1978, clearly outlines the Government's decisions in this matter.
- (2) See news release tabled.
- (3) Plans have proceeded to the stage of preparation of working drawings and the allocation of money from the General Loan Fund will be considered in the preparation of the 1978-79 Budget.

- (4) Subject to the allocation of funds it is estimated that the construction of the complex will commence in September, 1978.

The news release was tabled (see paper No. 94).

INTEREST RATES AND FINANCE

Federal Policy

83. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Premier:

- (1) Will he make representations to the Federal Government seeking a substantial across-the-board cut in interest rates in areas other than housing?
- (2) Will he also urge the Federal Government to loosen its tight rein on the money supply, as suggested by the President of the Western Australian Building Societies Association?
- (3) Is he aware that the Building Societies Association's view is that damage could be done if the Federal Government persists with its declared intention to bring selected interest rates down without a balancing release of sufficient funds?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) I have consistently advocated a general reduction in interest rates to the Federal Government. Because of the influence of official bond rates on the Australian financial market it was imperative for these rates to come back as a lead to other sections of the finance industry. It is pleasing to note that official rates have been reduced progressively since July, 1977.

For example, the medium term bond rate has been reduced from 10.4 per cent in July, 1977, to 9.2 per cent in February, 1978, and the rate on Australian savings bonds has fallen from 10 per cent to 9 per cent over approximately the same period. Further reductions will take place in the rates when the financial climate is appropriate. Other financial institutions have also reduced their interest rates in recent months.

- (2) and (3) I have conferred with the Prime Minister on the question of monetary liquidity. It is, of course, a normal phenomenon that markets tighten seasonally in the June quarter as company tax and non-personal income tax payments are made. However, in response to my representations on the broader

question of fears about a credit squeeze the Prime Minister teleaxed me the following assurance on 2nd February: "I reaffirm that the stance of monetary policy remains to have monetary growth such as to underpin the recovery under-way in the private sector while at the same time bearing down on inflation. A credit squeeze would not be consistent with this broad aim and, let me assure you, is not in prospect".

MEAT

Western Australian Meat Commission

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

- (1) What loss is it anticipated that the Western Australian Meat Commission will sustain in the 1977-78 year?
- (2) What are the items and the amounts which comprise this anticipated loss?

Mr P. V. Jones (for Mr OLD) replied:

- (1) and (2) It is anticipated that the commission's operating loss in 1977-78 will be higher than that sustained during 1976-77 due to the reduction in live-stock numbers in the agricultural areas and the consequent low level of throughput at both works.

SHEEP

Numbers

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

- (1) What has been the number of th's State's sheep flock in each of the past five years?
- (2) What is the expected level of sheep numbers in Western Australia in 1978?
- (3) What are the projected sheep numbers for Western Australia in each of the next three years?

Mr P. V. Jones (for Mr OLD) replied:

- (1) 1973 30.9 million,
1974 32.5 million,
1975 34.5 million,
1976 34.8 million,
1977 31.2 million.
- (2) 30.4 million.
- (3) 1979 31.0 million,
1980 31.7 million,
1981 33.0 million.

MEAT

Marketing Referendum Results

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

Following the meat marketing referendum held last year, precisely what action has been taken to implement the referendum results?

Mr P. V. Jones (for Mr OLD) replied:

Subsequent to the results of the referendum on livestock marketing the Government formed a Livestock Marketing Working Party to investigate ways in which a weight and classification meat marketing system could be implemented in Western Australia in conjunction with price scheduling.

The working party subsequently met on four occasions and has now submitted a report which is currently being considered.

SHEEP

Export

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

- (1) Was a limit placed on the export of live sheep from Western Australia in 1977 and, if so, what figure was set?
- (2) How many live sheep were exported from Western Australia in 1977?
- (3) Has the ratio of one live sheep exported for every three sheep or lambs slaughtered been maintained in Western Australia in 1977 and, if not, what was the actual ratio?
- (4) Has the committee controlling the export of live sheep in Western Australia met in 1978 and, if so, what are its recommendations with regard to the export of live sheep in 1978?

Mr P. V. Jones (for Mr OLD) replied:

- (1) The 1977 agreement was that one live sheep would be exported to the Middle East area for every three sheep or lambs slaughtered at export abattoirs—and based on an expected throughput of 4.95 million sheep/lambs at export abattoirs the total exported would be limited to 1.65 million sheep.
- (2) 1 643 729 to the Middle East area. A further 132 427 sheep were shipped to Singapore, Malaysia, and Mauritius, these markets being excluded from the agreement.

- (3) The ratio of live sheep exported to sheep/lambs slaughtered was 2.44 to 1.
- (4) The Live Sheep Exports Committee met on 11th November, 1977, 15th December, 1977, and 26th January, 1978, to discuss the export of live sheep from Western Australia during 1978. The committee was unable to reach any consensus at these meetings.

BAUXITE MINING

Alcoa

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

Further to her reply to parts (2) and (3) of question 1179 of 1977, has any Government department or instrumentality carried out an environmental study on the impact of expanded bauxite mining on the Darling Scarp, or is Alcoa of Australia Ltd. the only body doing so?

Mr O'Connor (for Mrs CRAIG) replied:

No. Alcoa of Australia is required to submit to Government for approval a detailed environmental review and management programme relating to its proposed activity. Prior to approval this environmental review and management programme will be examined, and if necessary amended, in the light of the results of the extensive environmental studies being conducted by Government.

STATE FORESTS

Bauxite Mining: Area Involved

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

- (1) What was the area of land in State forests which were mined for bauxite in each of the years 1976 and 1977?
- (2) What additional area of land required for roads, storage power lines, dumping of overburden or any other purpose in connection with bauxite mining, was cleared or utilised in any other way in each of the years 1976 and 1977?
- (3) What is the total area of State forests which is expected will be mined for bauxite or used in any way in connection with bauxite mining operations in each of the next ten years?

Mr O'Connor (for Mrs CRAIG) replied:

- (1) The area mined in 1976 was 122 hectares.
The area mined in 1977 was 140 hectares.

- (2) The area mined each year cannot be related directly to the area cleared. Past experience indicates that the total area mined represents approximately 60 per cent to 80 per cent of the area cleared for all purposes.
- (3) It is not possible to provide a detailed reply to this question as the total area to be mined or used in connection with bauxite mining in each of the next ten years will depend on the dates of completion of the refineries, location of the areas to be mined and the amount of access ways and service areas required.

PORTS

Harbour and Light Department

90. Dr TROY, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Who is the public service head at the Harbour and Light Department?
- (2) What are his qualifications?
- (3) Has he any qualifications in the area of marine navigation?
- (4) Who is the surveyor for the Harbour and Light Department?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Mr C. J. Gordon.
- (2) Associate of Public Administration Association.
Associate of the Australian Institute of Management.
Diploma in Public Administration.
- (3) No. Management is advised by qualified professional marine staff available within the department.
- (4) Senior Engineer Shipwright Surveyor, Mr A. McAllister.

PERTH

Restriction of Expansion

91. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) What proposals does the State Government have to limit the growth of commercial development within the central business district of Perth?
- (2) Does the Government have any plans to limit the building of new Government office blocks in the central business district and to relocate existing and new Government offices outside the central business district?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) The Perth City Council city planning scheme, currently on exhibition and on which submissions may now be made, proposes to reduce the density of commercial development in certain areas of the central business district. This will have the effect of reducing the total amount of commercial development permitted under the present by-laws.

The Government is looking to the development of sub-regional centres to encourage commercial development in those areas. The importance of providing job opportunity within reasonable proximity of living areas and the overall advantages have been stressed in Government philosophy on planning and development.

- (2) The Government supports the principle of locating suitable departments and agencies outside the central business district of Perth. I understand that the Public Service Board is currently reviewing accommodation requirements with a view to rationalization and is examining suitable sites for future development.

TOURISM

Tax Concessions

92. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Tourism:

Will the Minister press the Australian Government to grant tax concessions to the tourist industry similar to those granted to other industries, to help offset the cost of what is of necessity a labour intensive industry?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

Western Australia, through the Tourist Ministers' Council, and directly in appropriate instances will continue its efforts to ensure taxation concessions granted by the Commonwealth Government apply to the tourist industry.

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

Singapore Office

93. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Tourism:

Will the Minister give consideration to establishing an office of the Department of Tourism in Singapore to encourage people of the region to visit Western Australia?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

The establishment of a Department of Tourism office in Singapore will be considered following the opening of Western Australian Government Travel Centres in Brisbane and Canberra to meet the demands of the Australian market.

WATER SALINITY

Control Techniques of Mr Whittington

94. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is he aware of the successful salinity control techniques implemented by Mr H. S. Whittington on his farm at Bodington?
- (2) Are there any broader implications in respect of salinity control arising from the techniques adopted by Mr Whittington?

Mr P. V. Jones (for Mr OLD) replied:

- (1) Yes. I have visited Mr Whittington's property at Brookton and discussed with him the techniques he is using and his claims for their effectiveness.
- (2) By arrangement with Mr Whittington, a monitoring programme is being established to compare results of these techniques with those recommended by the Department of Agriculture.

Departmental officers are currently conducting a series of seminars and field days to explain to farmers the nature and origin of the main types of salinity problems and recommended methods of treatment.

SHIPPING

Marine Inquiry Recommendations

95. Dr TROY, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) Is he aware that a court of Marine Inquiry sat on 11th, 12th, 13th and 30th May, 1977 in Fremantle to investigate the capsizing of a landing barge *Perentie* in which three men were drowned?
- (2) Is he aware also that the inquiry brought down five recommendations, they being—
 - (a) the department should examine its survey requirements for small cargo-carrying craft and, in particular, it should consider the feasibility of leaving stability matters in the hands

of one expert in this field and of including an inclining experiment in all cases;

- (b) the department should consider the desirability of having the 1972 load line legislation proclaimed or of the enactment of comparable legislation;
 - (c) the department and WAPET should closely examine all aspects of cargo handling at Barrow Island, in particular the use of landing craft and the installation of a means of weighing cargo before shipment;
 - (d) the department should examine the methods of securing cargo in these craft and if necessary promulgate detailed rules for the same. We consider particular attention should be paid to the use of lever-type load binders on sea going craft; and
 - (e) radio procedures should be examined with a view to ensuring the early advice of disaster and distress?
- (3) (a) Have any of the five recommendations been implemented;
 - (b) are they going to be implemented;
 - (c) if so, when; and
 - (d) is anything going to be done?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

(1) and (2) Yes.

(3) (a) to (d)

All of the five recommendations have been examined and the necessary action is being taken.

In respect of question (2) (a)—

It is not practicable to leave stability matters in the hands of one expert. A vessel's stability is calculated by the naval designer. However, the department examines all stability data before a survey certificate is issued.

An inclining experiment is conducted by the department on all vessels unless they are identical in all respects to vessels for which the stability has previously been approved.

In respect of question (2) (b)—

Load line regulations are in course of preparation by the Crown Law Department.

In respect of (2) (c)—

Having regard to the particular operation at Barrow Island, it is impracticable to weigh each item of cargo. However, a load line has been assigned to the vessel which is now working out of Barrow Island.

In respect of question (2) (d)—

The method of securing cargo has been examined and the new securing equipment which has been examined and found satisfactory is in use.

In respect of (2) (e)—

Radio procedures are clearly laid down in the radio-telephony regulations. The company has been directed to ensure that these procedures are strictly adhered to.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Geraldton Committee

96. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Regional Administration and the North West:

With reference to the Geraldton regional development committee, announced by him last week:

- (1) Why was not a representative of the trade union movement included?
- (2) Does he agree that future development of the region would benefit from a continuation of the good industrial relations record experienced in this area?
- (3) Is he aware that the secretary of the Geraldton Trades and Labor Council, Mr Jack Newman, has been a constructive member of the mid-west regional liaison group which was the forerunner of the development committee?
- (4) As working people will have a major part to play in any future development, will he consider adding at least one representative of the Trades and Labor Council to the development committee?

Mr Pearce: Make it up. Your department probably did.

Mr O'NEIL replied:

No statement was made by me to any newspaper, including *The Geraldton Guardian*, regarding the establishment of

this particular committee. However, inquiries revealed that apparently a Press reporter was present at a meeting of the local authority when a letter was read.

This letter was written by the Coordinator General of the Department of Industrial Development. It indicated that I, as the Acting Minister, was pleased to announce the appointment of a committee. However, the matter of the appointment of these regional development committees is essentially one for my colleague, the Minister for Industrial Development, and I suggest that any questions relating to them be directed to that Minister.

FISHERIES

Rock Lobster Advisory Committee

97. Mr CARR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) On how many occasions in the last 12 months has the rock lobster advisory committee met rock lobster fishermen in the Geraldton region and discussed a reduced fishing effort?
- (2) Will the Minister please give details of these meetings?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Once.
- (2) The committee met fishermen at the Abrolhos on 4th and 5th April, 1977. However, a research seminar to which all fishermen were invited, was held at Geraldton on 13th October, 1977.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

All-night Street Lighting

98. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Local Government:

Will the Government provide assistance to local authorities to provide all-night street lighting in the metropolitan area and in major regional centres?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

No.

There has been no submission of evidence to indicate that this expenditure should be the subject of a special purpose grant.

The State Energy Commission is a trading organisation and any benefits passed on to one section of its customers cost, automatically increase the price to the remainder.

The present all-night street lighting charges are arrived at by adding only the additional energy cost at off peak rates to the standard street lighting charges. This means that about 70 per cent more hours of lighting can be obtained for about 25 per cent additional cost.

HEALTH

Sun Screening Lotions

99. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Health:

(1) Did the Acting Minister for Health undertake to approach the Federal Minister for Health concerning the impost of sales tax on effective sun screening lotions?

(2) When was this action taken?

(3) What has been the response from the Federal Minister?

(4) Will he table the correspondence?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr RIDGE) replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) 12th January, 1978.

(3) The Federal Minister has written that he has raised the matter with the Treasurer.

(4) The correspondence has been tabled.

I do have two copies of the correspondence. I am not sure whether my colleague has tabled it. In case he has not, I seek permission to do so.

The papers were tabled (see paper No. 95).

RAILWAYS

Meekatharra-Mullewa Line

100. Mr McIVER, to the Premier:

Will the Premier advise me whether the Government will bring to Parliament the Bill to ratify the closure of the Mullewa-Meekatharra railway before the actual closure date?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

It is not intended to introduce legislation when the line is closed to traffic because the Government has promised that the line will remain *in situ* for at least 12 months after this time.

MINING

Sodium Nitrate Stockpiling

101. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Mines:

(1) Further to my question 6 of 1978 would he advise if it is the intention of the Mines Department to allow stockpiling

of ammonia nitrate at Dalwallinu, having regard that the Government has decided to close the Mullewa-Meekatharra railway?

(2) If "Yes", would he advise where in Dalwallinu stockpiling will take place and when it will commence?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

(1) and (2) The Department of Mines has recommended that there be no bulk storage of ammonium nitrate at the presently proposed transshipment site at Dalwallinu.

TRANSPORT

Owner-drivers: Concrete Industry

102. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

(1) Is it the Minister's intention to introduce legislation this session to control entry of owner-drivers into the concrete industry, having regard for the deputations presented to him by representatives of owner-drivers?

(2) If "Yes", when will the legislation be introduced?

(3) If (1) is "No", would the Minister state his reasons?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

(1) and (2) No.

(3) It is felt that to exercise restraint over competition by road hauliers would not be in the best interests of the community.

It is still under consideration but it has been found that the proposed South Australian legislation which is not accepted in that State would have created an artificial barrier against competition and unduly protected the inefficient operator. It would also tend to inhibit manufacturers' freedom to compete with each other, which would not be in the best interests of the building industry.

MINING

Diamond Exploration in the Kimberley

103. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Mines:

(1) Is the Mines Department aware of unofficial prospecting upon Aboriginal reserves in the Kimberley?

(2) If so, what action has been taken?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) and (2) The Mines Department yesterday became aware of unofficial prospecting on an Aboriginal reserve in the Kimberley. The matter is being studied.

Since the answer to this question on notice was prepared I have ascertained that the company concerned had entered its temporary reserve which is within the bounds of an Aboriginal reserve. That was contrary to the conditions which accompanied the granting of the temporary reserves; namely that an entry permit must be obtained before entry can be made. Having established the breach of the conditions, I gave instructions to the department to set in motion the cancelling of the temporary reserve and its transfer to Ministerial temporary reserve.

MINING

Diamond Exploration in the Kimberley

104. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Is he presently empowered to approve applications for entry to Aboriginal reserves?
- (2) Has he received applications to obtain permits to enter certain Aboriginal reserves to prospect for diamonds?
- (3) What action is proposed?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr RIDGE) replied:

- (1) Under current legislation the Minister is empowered to approve reserve entry applications only if recommended by the Commissioner for Aboriginal Planning.
- (2) Not directly, although three such applications have been brought to my attention.
- (3) One permit has already been issued by the Aboriginal Lands Trust under delegated authority and the Government proposes to issue the other two after amending regulation 8 of the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act to give the responsible Minister power to issue such permits.

MINING

Diamond Exploration in the Kimberley

105. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Has the Aboriginal Lands Trust considered applications to prospect for diamonds on certain Aboriginal reserves?

- (2) What reserves are involved?
- (3) From whom were the applications received?
- (4) What decisions did the trust make in respect of these applications?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr RIDGE) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Aboriginal Reserve 13 873.
- (3) CRA Exploration Pty. Ltd., Stockdale Prospecting Pty. Ltd. and Dampier Mining Ltd.
- (4) CRA Exploration Pty. Ltd. be granted a permit, but that the other two be declined.

106. *This question was postponed.*

HEALTH

Radioactive Waste Material: Safe Disposal

107. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it correct that State Health Ministers had a meeting on 9th February this year to urge the Federal Government to draft a national policy for the safe disposal of radioactive waste material?
- (2) Is it correct that most of the Ministers were firmly opposed to any attempts by the Federal Government to dump radioactive waste in the sea or to make any one State a dumping ground?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr RIDGE) replied:

- (1) No. The inference is incorrect. At a regular meeting of the Health Ministers' Conference on 9th February, this year, at the request of the New South Wales Minister for Health, an agenda item, "Disposal of Radioactive Waste", was discussed.
- (2) There was no proposal by the Federal Government to dump radioactive waste in the sea or to make any one State a dumping ground.

HEALTH

Radioactive Waste Material: Safe Disposal

108. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health: In view of the Premier's statement on 8th September last year—page 1241, *Hansard* No. 6, "that the capacity to master uranium's power peacefully for the benefit of man is proven beyond doubt", why has he found it necessary to urge the Federal Government to draft a national policy for the safe disposal of radioactive waste material?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr RIDGE) replied:

I fail to see why any explanation is necessary or why the member should see any contradiction in a statement that implies knowledge about the problem, and a further statement urging a national policy for the application of that knowledge.

STATE FORESTS

Bauxite Mining: Wagerup and Alwest

109. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Forests:

What is the estimated number of hectares that will be mined annually if the Wagerup and Alwest proposals are linked with the Pinjarra and Kwinana operations?

Mr O'Connor (for Mrs CRAIG) replied:

Assuming a refinery capacity of 1 000 000 tonnes per year of alumina for Alwest, an initial output of 200 000 tonnes per year at Wagerup in addition to the present level of operations at Kwinana and Pinjarra, it is estimated that the combined area to be mined for bauxite will be 353 hectares per year.

HEALTH

Tailings Dam at Baldvis

110. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health: Would he please detail dates and results of readings taken from bores surrounding Western Mining's tailings dam at Baldvis, which relate to radioactive levels?

Mr O'Neil (for Mr RIDGE) replied:

The water samples from bores near the Western Mining Corporation tailings dam at Baldvis were taken in August 1977 and analysed for radioactivity. The results were:

Upper Limit of Radium from Total-Gamma Activity	
	Picocurie per litre
1. Lake Richmond (Rockingham)	9.2
2. Knight Bore	16.8
3. Travers Bore	11.8
4. Malaxos Bore	8.0
5. Thompsons Bore	9.1
6. Lake Cooloongup	9.7
7. W.M.C. House	8.2
8. W.M.C. Well No. 2	9.7

The levels represent an upper limit of radium 226 assuming all gamma activity in the sample is radium.

VAPECH HOUSE

Ceilings

111. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Works:

(1) Further to questions in the last Parliament relating to ceiling material at Vapech House, has a decision to replace or cover the ceilings been made?

(2) If "Yes", when will work be undertaken?

(3) If "No", on what studies has this decision been taken?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) Work will be undertaken as soon as a suitable area is available in which present occupants may be housed whilst works proceed.

(3) Not applicable.

LAND

Warnbro Area

112. Mr BARNETT, to the Premier:

(1) Is it correctly reported in *The West Australian* that he will be approaching the Prime Minister in an effort to have the Army clear land in the Warnbro area?

(2) (a) Has this approach been made; if so when, and

(b) if not, when is it proposed that the approach will be made?

(3) If (2) (a) is "Yes", has the Prime Minister given a reply as yet?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) and (3) Informal approaches to Commonwealth departments involved have been made, and discussions held. A formal approach by me to the Prime Minister is in the process of being sent.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Computer Equipment

1. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

In view of the controversy on computers in Canberra I thought the Premier might appreciate a question to use the House as a forum to explain how contracts for computer equipment—for purchase or lease—are arranged by the Government.

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

As I understand the position, if a department has any requirement it makes a submission to the Western Australian Government Computer Committee which is deputed to examine all computer proposals and installations for the Government.

This is a logical process to avoid duplication because these days everyone seems to want to have a computer in the same way that developing countries want an oil refinery, a steel mill, and an airline.

To avoid this empire building and what could be an extravagant use and installation of computers, this committee examines all applications.

Mr Jamieson: You have not had any resignations?

Sir CHARLES COURT: Once that hurdle has been surmounted the matter goes to the State Contract Board which calls tenders in the normal way.

Again I am speaking off the cuff, but I understand that when it calls tenders it normally does so on the basis of straightout purchase or lease and then—and only then—is the evaluation made on which course to follow. Sometimes it would be cheaper and better in the final analysis to have a lease arrangement while at others it would be better to make a straightout purchase, particularly when the piece of equipment would have a reasonably long life and expectancy of use and therefore it would be a better economic proposition to obtain it on a straightout purchase rather than on a lease arrangement.

The short answer is that if they get through the committee which is examining all computer requests, it is then a matter entirely for the Tender Board—with one proviso. The proviso is that if it is a very large piece of equipment then the request has to go to the Treasurer for approval before tenders are called. That is to avoid the problems of duplication and excessive installations without having full regard for other existing facilities already installed, and back-up facilities available.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Contributory Extension Scheme

2. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Does he concur with the comments and recommendations of the committee of Government back-benchers on the 100 per cent increase in charges for connecting rural properties to power supplies?
- (2) Does he propose to implement the committee's recommendations, including the recommendation that the increases should be removed?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) I personally do not agree, and the advice given to me by the State Energy Commission tallies with my opinion.
- (2) The matter will be discussed by the Government and, of course, due consideration will be taken of the recommendations.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Contributory Extension Scheme

3. Mr TAYLOR, to the Premier:

In view of his overall responsibility for co-ordinating Ministerial activity, is he in accord with the finding of the Government back-bench committee on increased SEC rural connection charges that the Minister for Fuel and Energy is deserving of strong criticism for not telling members of Parliament about the new charges before they came into force last year?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I think I am entitled to assume that the question posed without notice by the member for Cockburn is frivolous, and I propose to treat it as such.

SHIPPING

Marine Inquiry Recommendations

4. Dr TROY, to the Minister for Works:

My question is related to the answer the Minister gave to question 95 on today's notice paper.

The Minister stated that load line regulations are in course of preparation by the Crown Law Department.

Would the Minister be a little more explicit in relation to the direction he gave to the Crown Law Department? Secondly, when might one expect to see something brought before this House?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I thought the member for Fremantle would have understood that I gave no direction. This matter comes under the jurisdiction of a Minister in another place.

However, if the member gives me some details of what he wants to find out, I will obtain the information for him.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Contributory Extension Scheme

5. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

Is the Government back-bench committee on increased SEC rural connection charges correct in claiming that the decision to increase connection charges was based solely on economic factors without full consideration of the capacity of potential consumers to pay?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

My interpretation is that the statement does not take into consideration all the circumstances. Therefore, I cannot see that it is quite correct.

However, the question asked by the member for Welshpool is rather a matter of opinion and not a matter of fact, and should be treated as such.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Contributory Extension Scheme

6. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Does the Government's approval of the 100 per cent increase in SEC connection charges for economic reasons mean that the Government has adopted a policy that the user must pay?
- (2) How does the Government relate this increase to its stated aims of supporting decentralisation?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) This policy—or alleged policy—about the user having to pay did not receive consideration primarily when this question was considered by the SEC. The result of the consideration was simply that

there is a limit beyond which it is, by virtually all measures, uneconomical to connect outlying country areas. It has been suggested—and this is being studied now—that these people would be much better off—and so would the State Energy Commission and its other customers—if they were supplied with individual generating units which would be dealt with on a uniform basis by the SEC.

- (2) I do not think this is a fair question to ask. What the Government, and the Minister ultimately responsible for the State Energy Commission, have done over the past few years has been very much in the interests of country areas, and in the interests of decentralisation. The honourable member might recall that some years ago there were differing charges in the country and the metropolitan areas with country tariffs being much higher. They have been equalised and consequently the great bulk of metropolitan customers carry the burden of what might be called a subsidy to country areas.

Presently, the tariff is the same for country and metropolitan areas. Therefore, I do not think it would be reasonable of the Government to go to the opposite extreme.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLIES

Contributory Extension Scheme

7. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

The SEC brochure, "The Contributory Extension Scheme" states "A limit of \$3 000 has been placed on the Basic Capital Cost allowed under the scheme. Extensions requiring a B.C.C. in excess of this amount will not normally be undertaken unless special arrangements are made." As a result I ask the following questions—

- (1) What type of special arrangements are relevant for allowing a connection to be undertaken costing more than \$3 000?
- (2) How does the Government justify not allowing people to pay for their own connection even when they are financially able to do so?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) and (2) The special arrangements would depend on the individual case. The Government does not allow this simply because of the installation costs, even if they are paid for by the customer because, in total, this figure does not represent all the costs on which the SEC embarks when the installation is made. An

extremely remote connection could mean the building of additional transformers, additional transmission lines, and the generation of higher voltage power. Therefore, it is not only the physical installation of the line in the first instance, but also the considerable load of other expenses which are necessary in order to supply power.

