

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, 31 May 1990

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 2.30 pm, and read prayers.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Chairman - Election Failure

HON BARRY HOUSE (South West) [2.36 pm]: I have been directed to report that the Standing Committee on Government Agencies has been unable to elect a chairman. I move -

That the report do lie upon the Table.

Question put and passed.

[See paper No 294.]

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY - NINTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from 30 May.

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral) [2.42 pm]: I join with other members in congratulating Sir Francis Burt on his appointment as Governor of Western Australia. I have no doubt that he will do an excellent job as Governor, as he has done an excellent job in the past as a Judge of the Supreme Court and Chief Justice of Western Australia. I do not know Sir Francis very well but I met him on one occasion in his capacity as Chairman of the Electoral Boundaries Commission. I was putting forward a proposition that the name of a certain electorate should not be changed. I argued very strongly that anybody who thought the old Gascoyne seat should be renamed Northern Rivers had no idea about the geography of Western Australia. He looked at me in a somewhat whimsical way, and I am fairly sure that it was he who had decided it was the appropriate name for that electorate. My earlier description of the situation meant that I had no hope of achieving my aim. As a consequence, the electorate is now called Northern Rivers, although I still believe it should be called Gascoyne because that is the most appropriate name for it.

I will draw to the attention of the House some areas of grave concern I have in respect of voting procedures in the Federal seat of Kalgoorlie, and the Mining and Pastoral Region in the State election. In the recent Federal election the same sort of situation arose with respect to voting figures in some booths which arose during the last State election. At that time I commented on the apparently extraordinary results. One could be forgiven for not expecting those extraordinary results to occur on a regular basis. Of course, the situation has not changed and I shall give the House some examples of results posted at some polling booths in the Federal electorate of Kalgoorlie. During the Federal election there were six candidates for the seat of Kalgoorlie. With that number of candidates one would expect a reasonably high level of informal votes.

Hon Tom Stephens: Is that what you campaign for? Do you have a lot of candidates and hope for a higher informal vote?

Hon N.F. MOORE: That was a stupid thing for Hon Tom Stephens to say; I think he has left his brain somewhere else. When six candidates stand in an election the level of informal votes is always higher because voters must put a number in every square to cast a valid vote. If only two candidates are on the ballot paper, it is necessary for voters to put their mark in only one square. In the Kimberley seat during the last State election when only two candidates stood, the informal vote was 1.79 per cent. That was much lower than in other electorates, and an extraordinary result, bearing in mind that many of the voting population in that seat are illiterate.

At the same State election in 1989 the informal vote in Floreat was four per cent, in Fremantle it was 10.4 per cent, in Geraldton six per cent, Glendalough 9.8 per cent, Ashburton 6.9 per cent, Eyre 7.7 per cent, Pilbara 9.1 per cent and in the Kimberley 1.7 per cent. It is an extraordinary result but I am prepared to accept that the informal vote

would be low on that occasion because there were only two candidates. It is certainly very low compared to the other electorates I have referred to.

Hon Tom Stephens: Would you accept that many are assisted votes?

Hon N.F. MOORE: Yes and that is exactly the point I shall talk about as I explain these rather unusual circumstances.

Hon Tom Stephens interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon N.F. MOORE: I know that Hon Tom Stephens has already made his speech.

Hon Max Evans: It was not much of a speech either.

Hon N.F. MOORE: That is correct; it was one of the worst I have heard.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I ask Hon Norman Moore to direct his comments to the Chair and to ignore the interjections.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I will direct my comments to the Chair, but I hope Hon Tom Stephens will take note of them because he will know better than most the circumstances to which I refer.

I shall detail some of the polling booth figures in the recent Federal election for the Kalgoorlie seat. At Balgo 141 votes were cast, Labor gained 107, which is 75 per cent, with one informal vote, representing 0.7 per cent. At Looma 145 votes were cast, Labor gained 133, which is 91.77 per cent, with one informal vote, representing 0.7 per cent. At Mowanjum 82 votes were cast, Labor gained 76, which is 92 per cent, with four informal votes representing 4.8 per cent; that is about average for informal votes. At Yandeyarra 80 votes were cast, Labor gained 78, which is 97.5 per cent, and no informal votes were cast. That is quite extraordinary because in a normal polling booth, even if it is the strongest Labor or Liberal seat, each of the major parties usually gets 20 to 30 per cent of the vote. At Noonkanbah 140 votes were cast, the Labor Party gained 132, which is 94.2 per cent, and four informal votes were cast, representing 2.8 per cent. At Turkey Creek 140 votes were cast, of which Labor gained 124.

Hon Tom Helm: Have you got the message yet?

Hon N.F. MOORE: Hon Tom Helm will get the message soon, although it may take him longer than others because he is thicker than most.

In Turkey Creek 140 votes were cast, of which 124 were for the Labor Party, or 88 per cent. There were six informals, which is 4.3 per cent. At Wunkajungka 106 votes were cast, of which Labor received 97, or 91 per cent of the votes, and three were informal, which is 2.8 per cent.

Listed in the results sheet is a booth called Remote Area One. I am not sure where that is but I believe it to be in the Kimberley. It is a remote booth which travels around, usually followed by Labor Party members of Parliament at taxpayers' expense.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Doug Wenn): Order! I ask honourable members on both sides not to interrupt while Hon Norman Moore is speaking.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I feel I am the only member on this side of the House interjecting. In Remote Area One, 164 votes were cast, of which the Labor Party got 150, which is 91 per cent. There were eight informals, which is 4.8 per cent - about average. Remote Area Two had 428 votes cast, of which the Labor Party got 387, which represents 90 per cent of the vote, and there were three informal, which is 0.7 per cent.

Hon Tom Stephens: How many greens?

Hon N.F. MOORE: I do not think there were any of them left. In the Gibb River mobile booth 156 votes were cast of which Labor got 144, which is 92 per cent, and there were two informals, which represents 1.2 per cent. Finally, the most outrageous of the whole lot was Oombulgurri, where 71 votes were cast of which Labor received 70, which represents 98.5 per cent. The Democrats got the other vote. There were no informals.

Several members interjected.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Those figures represent what I consider to be a rather unusual state of affairs. It is most unusual for one party or the other to get virtually all the votes. It does not matter whether the member has been there or not; it makes no difference. In most polling booths, regardless of how right or left of the political spectrum, the major parties always get a minimum of 20 to 30 per cent. Here, in booth after booth in remote parts of the Kimberley and other parts of Western Australia, we see the Labor Party consistently getting over 90 per cent of the vote, and in some cases up to 98 per cent; and there are virtually no informals.

The reason is not that the Labor Party has such brilliant policies for Aboriginal people or the Liberal Party has such bad policies for them.

Hon Tom Helm: We do have policies.

Hon N.F. MOORE: So do we.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon Graham Edwards: Your policies are 44 gallon drums.

Hon N.F. MOORE: That remark by the Minister is typical of what we have come to expect from him. That event had nothing to do with the Liberal Party. It happened at Turkey Creek. For the benefit of the Minister, who was not here at the time, the Liberal Party brought in legislation to make those sorts of things illegal. With the so-called legal system we have had since this Government has been in power, we have had results such as those I have just read out where virtually every person has voted Labor and virtually nobody has voted informally. Most of those people are illiterate, so it is an absurd and quite extraordinary situation which arises as a result of the assistance provided to people when they vote.

Hon Tom Stephens: Do you want them to assist voters to vote informally?

Hon N.F. MOORE: May I make my speech? Let us imagine a polling booth in a remote location in Western Australia. People come in to vote.

Several members interjected.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The member should not be so stupid; he should make a sensible interjection. That inane rubbish is very annoying, and it is not true.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! Honourable members should let the member on his feet speak; other members should cease interjecting.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Aboriginal people are brought in and cajoled into going to the polling booth. When they get there they are told, in some cases in their own language, that if they vote Liberal they will lose their pensions and any finances provided for them by Government departments or agencies. At a previous election in the central desert they were told they would even lose their children if they voted Liberal. This sort of nonsense was shoved into their minds as they walked into the polling booths. They were given a Labor Party how-to-vote card, and told to get rid of the Liberal Party how-to-vote card if they had one in their hands.

In many cases the Liberal Party was not able to get people to polling booths. For some reason known only to the Federal Electoral Commission virtually every Aboriginal settlement across Western Australia had a polling booth. These people did not have to use postal votes as did those in white mining settlements. A week before the election all these aeroplanes, which cost the Federal Government thousands of dollars, flew around with these polling booths and they opened up at every little Aboriginal settlement they could find. Following behind them at taxpayers' expense were half a dozen Labor Party members of Parliament with how-to-vote cards acting as scrutineers for the Labor Party.

Unfortunately, in this whole area the State has only two Liberal Party members; we do not have the resources to go to anything like the same number of places as the Labor Party does. That does not mean that people vote only because they are given a how-to-vote card. These

people go into the polling booth with a Labor Party how-to-vote card and they say virtually nothing. The presiding officer asks them if they want assistance and they indicate that they do. They hand the how-to-vote card to the presiding officer who fills in the ballot paper and they go out. That is it.

Hon Tom Helm: Who told you that?

Several members interjected.

Hon N.F. MOORE: These people are being given assistance to vote because they claim that they need that assistance because they are illiterate. If one is illiterate, by definition he cannot read or write. If he cannot read, how does he know what is on the ballot paper or on the how-to-vote card?

Hon Tom Stephens: Do you know my answer to the question?

Hon N.F. MOORE: No doubt the member will tell us when he makes his speech.

Hon Tom Helm: The presiding officer says, "This is a how-to-vote card; is this the way you want to vote."

Hon N.F. MOORE: That is not true in every case. The member knows that as well as I do.

Hon Tom Helm: It is true in every case I have ever seen.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The law should be changed and the person should say who he wants to vote for. If he cannot write or read he has no idea what a how-to-vote card says or what information it contains. He should be required to tell the presiding officer who he wants to vote for; he should be able to give the person's name.

Hon Tom Helm: And they do.

Hon N.F. MOORE: If they do I have no complaints. The reason I am complaining is that so often the how-to-vote card is taken by the presiding officer and he fills in the ballot paper.

Several members interjected.

Hon N.F. MOORE: This applies to both the upper House and the lower House. The result is the figures I read out a moment ago. I suggest these people do not know at the end of the day what they did, but we know what they did; they voted Labor - virtually to a man.

There are several reasons for this happening. One is the intimidation which goes on before they get into the polling booth.

Several members interjected.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I did not interject on the honourable member's speech.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable member should stop interjecting. Hon Norman Moore will make his speech so he might as well make it in silence.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I lost track of what I was saying because I was trying to understand what Hon Tom Helm said. It is difficult to understand two different languages at once.

The results I read out demonstrate the correctness of what I am saying. Firstly, people in a number of remote Aboriginal communities are being intimidated and, secondly, they must vote using a system which does not elicit from them how they wish to vote. In my view individuals should be required to designate for whom they wish to vote. It is not adequate for a person to say he wishes to vote Labor. People in this country still vote for individuals, thank goodness. In this country, people - not political parties - nominate for election. If the names of six people are listed on a ballot paper, the voter must vote for one of those six people. As a result of the preferential system, about which the Labor Party is so pleased at present, voters are required to know whom they wish to elect first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth, depending on how many names are listed on the ballot paper. It is not good enough to walk into a polling booth and say, "I want to vote for Ernie Bridge" or "I want to vote for Labor." Voters should designate for whom they wish to vote all the way down the ballot paper.

Hon Tom Stephens: Why?

Hon N.F. MOORE: They must do so because we have a preferential voting system. Hon Tom Stephens should understand that by now because the Labor Party has taken advantage

of the preferential voting system in the past two elections. Hon Tom Stephens declared how wonderful the preferential voting system was and said, in effect, that it was all right that in last weekend's by-election the Fremantle electorate voted for someone other than the Labor candidate because the Labor Party won the election by preferences. Hon Tom Stephens espouses the virtues of the preferential system when it suits him. However I believe that if people do not nominate for whom they wish to vote in every position on the ballot paper they are not voting correctly.

Hon Tom Helm: Bring in a Bill to change it.

Hon N.F. MOORE: That difficulty arises because instructions given by returning officers to presiding officers are not adequately spelt out. They give some presiding officers who have a particular point of view a lot of discretion in respect of how they accept or reject a person's vote.

Hon Tom Helm: Are you saying they are breaking the law?

Hon N.F. MOORE: Hon Tom Helm can draw his own conclusions about what I am saying. Instructions given by returning officers to presiding officers are not specific enough. Those instructions should be spelt out. As a result of the preferential voting system voters should say, "I want to vote for Tom Stephens first, Tom Helm second and Mark Nevill third" and so on, because that is the way our voting system works, whether members opposite like it or not. It is not good enough to walk in and say, "I want to vote Labor." It is all right in the upper House because people can do that now. I argued against that move at the time but now one can designate the political party and fill in one box. That is accepted for the upper House, but not for the lower House. The figures I cited are for the lower House electorates.

Hon Garry Kelly: You cited lower House figures but upper House members.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I was using them as examples of people's names listed on a ballot paper. I hope one day the names of those members appear on a lower House ballot paper because that will save us from having to put up with them here.

It was obvious in the last State election that some funny things have been going on in the Kimberley. That situation was repeated in the Federal election, when it was probably worse than in the State election. It is time we did something about it. It is time an end was put to a system which allows people to vote the way they do at present.

I hope one day the Labor Party will decide to be more generous in respect of Aboriginal people, instead of intimidating them outside polling booths, for example, and continuing to spread the message that if the Liberal Party were ever elected the Aboriginal people would lose their money and would never get another cent from the Government. Hon Tom Stephens knows that is not true, but he allowed that message to be spread. The biggest complaint Aboriginal people in the desert have about the Liberal Party is that it will cut off their pensions.

Hon Tom Stephens: They watch television. They heard what Mr Peacock said.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Mr Peacock did not say anything about cutting off pensions to Aboriginal people.

Hon Tom Stephens: He said he would cut back on the money going to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs; the Aboriginal people knew it and they told us they would vote for Labor.

Hon N.F. MOORE: At present the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in Canberra has a budget of \$1 billion. The Liberal Party said it would cut expenditure by \$100 million in that department because it was time this country spent less money. The Aboriginal people were not the only people who were to have expenditure cuts. That \$100 million expenditure cut was lower than the increase in the previous budget. Through the Department of Aboriginal Affairs the Federal Labor Government is now spending \$6 250 for every Aboriginal person in Australia. That does not take into account unemployment benefits, supporting mothers' benefits and all the other welfare payments to which people are entitled; it does not include money going to Aboriginal people through the education, health and legal systems and every other system which has special Aboriginal grants. That sum of \$6 250 for every Aboriginal person provided through the Department of Aboriginal Affairs works out roughly at \$25 000 per average family. If the Government gave the Aboriginal people the money and cut out the

huge white bureaucracy which runs the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, the Aboriginal people might not be in such dire straits. Andrew Peacock said that the Liberal Party would cut expenditure in the Department of Aboriginal Affairs by \$100 million; that might take the figure down to \$6 000 per person. Hon Tom Stephens took great delight in telling me that the Aboriginal people knew what the Liberal Party proposed to do about them - cut off their funds. The reality is that the Liberal Party would have reduced funds to the Department of Aboriginal Affairs by one tenth.

Hon Tom Stephens: I will circulate your speech among them.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I am sure Hon Tom Stephens will, because he works on the basis of the cargo cult in respect of Aboriginal affairs. As he well knows, that is causing most of the problems faced by the Aboriginal people. When a race of people are continually told that the Government will give them more and more every time they open their mouths to ask for something, they develop a cargo cult. They will become a mendicant race of people who will never have any need to be responsible. However, Hon Tom Stephens says he will tell the Aboriginal people I suggested they should do something for their money, and he will win votes because of it. If he wins votes because of that, so be it. But he will contribute to the decline of a race of people. No improvement has been made in Aboriginal affairs over the past 20 years; it is getting worse. It seems that the circumstances under which the Aboriginal people live decline as the amount of money pumped into the system increases. Every year the Federal Government expunges its guilty conscience by whacking another \$200 million or \$300 million on the Aboriginal Affairs budget. That keeps another stack of white bureaucrats happy; they wander around the countryside doing nothing for the people who need assistance. I do not mind saying that the money should be cut; it should be cut. We should be saying to the Aboriginal people, "We will help you but you must be responsible for some of the things you do."

Hon Tom Stephens: Then you must understand why they punish you at the ballot box.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I do understand. It is because Hon Tom Stephens and people like him have created a cargo cult. Although people like Hon Tom Stephens might still be in Parliament and might still get 100 per cent of the votes, they will contribute directly to the devastation of a race of people. If Hon Tom Stephens finds that satisfying, I cannot understand his motivation or attitude towards people.

Hon Tom Stephens: You know that is unfair.

Hon N.F. MOORE: It is not unfair. Hon Tom Stephens has just admitted that he is quite happy to get votes from Aboriginal people by saying, "We will give you more money. Don't vote for that man Moore because he wants you to have less." I am saying the money should go somewhere useful. I could work out how to spend half the budget of the Department of Aboriginal Affairs for 10 times the result. I would have to sack a few white and half caste advisers who fill up the bureaucracies of the State and Federal Governments, but at the end of the day the people who really need assistance - the Aboriginal people - would then get something out of it. However, the money now starts at the top, filters its way down through the system and a little bit drops out the bottom. The Aboriginal people also wonder where the money goes. One billion dollars is consumed by these bureaucracies every year and they are growing at a rate faster than any other I can find, apart from the Prime Minister's department.

Hon Tom Stephens: Do you support the Federal Government's initiatives in this area to cut back that white bureaucracy with the ATSIC proposal?

Hon N.F. MOORE: All they are doing is taking out a white bureaucracy and replacing it with a black bureaucracy.

Hon Tom Stephens: Do you support that?

Hon N.F. MOORE: I do not support the way it has been put in place. I do not support the idea of a black Parliament for that matter. I do not support replacing one bureaucracy with another one, either. Many Aboriginal people are on the gravy train, the same as many white people; they have a wonderful time at taxpayers' expense. Hon Tom Stephens has a wonderful time telling these people they will receive a lot more. He says, "If you keep voting for us, you will receive more money. If you vote for the Liberals they will chop this money out." That is the tragedy of the whole problem.

I would have thought that \$6 250 per person would be just about enough. Maybe the time has come for someone to say, "We have gone too far; let's find out where the money has gone." Hon Tom Stephens should have enough common sense and enough respect for the taxpayers' dollar to suggest that idea himself, instead of abusing me when I put forward a proposition. He should do that instead of taking a great delight in ensuring that every Aboriginal voter is aware of Andrew Peacock's decision to cut \$100 million from the Aboriginal Affairs budget. What Hon Tom Stephens forgets to say is that sort of expenditure cut may eventually assist the economy, in which case Aboriginal people might find employment and have the opportunity to do something worthwhile with their time instead of sitting around under trees doing nothing.

Hon Tom Stephens: The member chaired a Select Committee on the issue. That committee did not come up with one worthwhile proposal. That is how useful the member has been.

Hon N.F. MOORE: That is interesting. Mr President, is it not extraordinary that I can be accused - having been a chairman of a committee of Parliament - of not doing anything when I have served on this side of the House for seven years and watched people on the Government side, as well as their colleagues in Canberra, with all the resources available to Government, do absolutely nothing. In fact not only have they done nothing but also they have created a set of circumstances for Aboriginal people in Western Australia which is worse than ever. I suggest to any member who does not believe me to move out into the countryside and take a look.

Hon Fred McKenzie: Remember the fellow who took a keg of wine to Aboriginal people and got them all drunk; that does not happen now. I think that person's name was Metcalf.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Does the member know why that does not happen now? A Liberal Government passed legislation to prevent that from happening. I explained that a while ago but the member was not listening. We have nothing to do with that sort of thing, which shows the absurdity of the comment.

Hon Tom Stephens: Whose cousin was it?

Hon N.F. MOORE: I do not know who did that. That is beside the point.

The point is that it is absurd for an upper House member who has no resources and no money to be accused of doing nothing to solve the Aboriginal problem while Government members have funds available and the Federal Government has \$1 billion to work with. Members know full well what I say about Aboriginal people is true: Their circumstances are worsening in direct proportion to the increase in the amount of money spent. I am sorry that the question of money was raised by Hon Tom Stephens because that is exactly the problem.

I turn now to the gold tax.

Hon Garry Kelly: I understand that your Federal colleagues support that tax.

Hon N.F. MOORE: The feeling in some quarters, particularly political quarters in the Eastern States, is that the gold tax issue is dead and buried following the decision by the Federal Opposition not to rescind the Labor Government's gold tax. From my point of view the issue is not dead; it has a long way to go yet. The tax does not come into effect until January next year. I note the laughter of Hon Tom Helm from the north. At one time I tried to provoke that member to admit that he supported the gold tax. I suspect that somewhere in *Hansard* that member has stated as much.

Hon Tom Helm: Yesterday's debate; yesterday's man.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I hope that people in the goldfields will note the member's comment. I am sure they will because the Federal Government is expecting to take from the goldfields of Western Australia something like \$300 million a year; that is, take that amount from an industry which is starting to feel the chilly winds of recession. If Hon Tom Helm were to travel to all parts of his electorate he would realise that. The gold industry is heading for difficult times.

Several members interjected.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Does the member support the gold tax?

Hon Tom Helm: I support the gold tax, of course.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Hon Tom Helm says that he supports the gold tax.

Hon J.M. Brown: So do I.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I wonder whether Hon Tom Stephens also supports the gold tax.

Hon Tom Stephens: I support a selective gold tax. I would want to ensure that companies like Telfer pay the tax in Australia, not in America.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I would be agreeable to that.

Hon Tom Helm: What is wrong with an Australian or even a British gold tax?

Hon N.F. MOORE: It is not impossible for human beings to work out a system which states that if money is expatriated overseas it should be taxed in Australia beforehand. That is not beyond the realms of possibility. The member's solution is to tax everybody, through the Federal Government, and Hon Tom Helm and Hon Jim Brown agree. I wonder what Hon Mark Nevill says about that. The people of Kalgoorlie would be very interested to read in the newspaper tomorrow which Labor Party members support the gold tax and which do not.

The city of Kalgoorlie-Boulder is experiencing the chilly winds of a recession.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon N.F. MOORE: I am a person who believes that the tax system should be used in a flexible way to allow industries to develop and grow and create jobs. Under the current system the gold tax is paid at the end of the deal from the profits of shareholders, not from the profits of the company.

Hon Tom Helm: What about a consumption tax?

Hon N.F. MOORE: Come on! Tax is paid by the gold mining industry at a time which does not discourage the use of profits for future exploration and development. That sort of taxation regime is sensible for an industry like gold because the fluctuations in the price are such that advantage needs to be taken of the good times to make up for the bad times. Bad times are approaching. Gold mining companies are taking the best and leaving the rest. Therefore the large potential mines with low grade deposits will not be developed; some very important underground and decline proposals will not go ahead because the costs are too great. The gold tax is taking the cream off the industry. It goes beyond that -

Hon Tom Helm: And leaving Australia!

Hon N.F. MOORE: - to be spent, you silly person, over east where most of the tax dollars are spent. Hon Tom Helm supports the idea of taking \$300 million from the industry. Most of that revenue will go out of Western Australia, where most gold is produced, and will be spent in the Eastern States because that is always where most of the tax dollars are spent.

Hon Tom Helm: This is Australian money!

Hon N.F. MOORE: The member is arguing contrary to his leadership that Western Australia ought not to be disadvantaged in this way.

The Association of Mining and Exploration Companies Inc commissioned a report on the industry, and a document entitled "How Paul Keating & Bob Hawke will destroy 6000 jobs in Western Australia" was released. The report outlines its key results, the first of which reads -

The introduction of the tax seems likely to lead to a reduction in gold output of approximately 20 per cent, a net loss of around 6,000 jobs in the State, and to a sustained loss of State income in the vicinity of \$300m - which would equate to a lump sum capital loss of about \$3.7 billion.

That is what Hon Tom Helm supports. He comes to this place and carries on about jobs, how we need to hang on to jobs in the Pilbara, how we cannot have one person driving a train - all the same arguments we have heard from that member in the past. The member states that we should protect the jobs of the Australian workers. I agree with that. The member supports a tax which is estimated to cost 6 000 Western Australian jobs. Maybe those people will follow the tax to the Eastern States and apply for the dole. Is that what the member wants?

Hon Tom Helm: Maybe they could go to America and go on the dole.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I have stated that I agree with Hon Tom Stephens that the American company which runs Telfer ought to be taxed in Australia. That is a rare example. The rest of the companies that pay tax in Australia are Australian companies.

The next key result states -

Western Australia is far more vulnerable to the economic impact of the tax than are other States, and can expect to lose resources and jobs to other States and overseas.

That is another thing that Hon Tom Helm and Hon J.M. Brown support. The next key result states -

The announced introduction of a tax on goldmining activities has accentuated an existing trend towards lower levels of exploration, concentrated on higher prospectivity sites.

As a result, the industry appears likely to run down its capital base, by not replenishing known commercial reserves being mined. This would be reflected in lower levels of production activity and in withdrawals from the industry.

Smaller companies are likely to be particularly affected by the tax because of the way in which it discriminates against risktaking and raises the minimum ore grade levels required for project viability.

Those predictions were made in July 1989, nearly a year ago, and most of those predictions are coming true. The Mt Magnet Hill 50 mine was closed the other day, putting 26 miners out of work. Hon Tom Helm will be happy to know that those people may have to go on the dole or east where the money has gone. People were also put off in Kalgoorlie recently. The effects predicted by that report are coming to fruition.

At a time when this country needs export income, the Federal Government puts a tax on one of the few industries that has been successful. In this morning's *The West Australian* we read about the way in which the mineral industry has saved Australia from a severe recession. Without the iron ore industry, the gold industry and the gas industry -

Hon Tom Helm: They are taxed.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I know they are taxed. They were set up and operate on the basis that they pay tax. The gold industry was set up and operated on the basis that it did not pay tax. The Labor Government in Canberra has changed the ground rules.

Hon Tom Helm: You don't get taxed, is that what you are saying?

Hon N.F. MOORE: If I told the member that we were to change the ground rules in relation to the gas industry by doubling the tax it pays, the member would be the first to scream.

Hon T.G. Butler: With that argument, trains would all still be steam.

Hon Tom Stephens interjected.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Hon Tom Stephens has advised me that he sends copies of my speeches to the Aboriginal communities. I can assure him that his interjections in my speech will be widely read in the mining industry in the next day or two because I have no doubt that those people who are investing their hard earned cash in that industry and who work in the remote areas of this State attempting to make a living for themselves, their families and for the State would want to know the attitude of members opposite about their endeavours. They would like to know the attitude of former painters who represent nice cosy little city electorates, who do not go to the bush, who do not know what it is like to put up with the hardships of living in remote areas of Western Australia and who sit here and make stupid statements like he makes. I am sure the people who live in the remote parts of Western Australia would be delighted to hear that.

We need export earnings in this country more than anything else. Our national debt totals \$120 billion, yet we are to tax an industry that is succeeding and which produces a product which people want to buy. Members have referred to the iron ore industry. There was a time when people did not want to buy iron ore or nickel or gas. However, we can sell gold any time.

Hon Tom Helm: Is that why the price is dropping - because people want to buy it?

Hon N.F. MOORE: The price is dropping for a number of reasons as the member well knows. The fact remains that, under the current regime, we can sell gold and make money for Australia.

Hon Tom Helm: Like South Africa.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon N.F. MOORE: I agree with Senator Cook who said today, "Thank God for the quarry of Western Australia". He told the Eastern States that they could not rely on Western Australia forever, and that they had to do something for themselves. I agree with him. However, this Government is taxing an industry that is successful; that is what is wrong with the politics of the Government. It cannot stand anybody doing anything well. It has to bring everybody down to some silly common denominator and put everybody on the same playing field to bring about the equity that it keeps talking about. It does not care what that drive for equity does.

We should use our taxation system in a flexible way to ensure that industries keep going. We should be proposing some sort of a tax holiday for a period to keep them going. We should have done it with the nickel industry.

Hon Tom Helm: And iron ore and nickel and diamonds.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon N.F. MOORE: I agree. When the hard times arise, it is better to keep those industries going than to let them die and hope that sometime in the future they will be reactivated.

My side of politics in Western Australia will not let this issue die. We will fight until we reverse the decision made by the Hawke Government and regrettably supported by our side of politics in Canberra. We have put forward a motion in the Kalgoorlie Division of the Liberal Party recommending that the Federal Liberal Party in Government institute another inquiry into the gold tax issue and that that inquiry not be conducted by one person who may or may not have had a particular point of view about the matter before the inquiry began and who will produce a report which is largely expected. We want another inquiry held into the current state of the industry to see whether a gold tax is sustainable. It is my view and the view of many of my colleagues in the goldfields that the circumstances are now different and that even Mr Guttman may come down with a different result after considering current circumstances.

Hon Tom Stephens: What is the annual value of the gold tax?

Hon N.F. MOORE: Keating talks about a figure of \$300 million.

Hon Tom Stephens: Is it not an ironical juxtaposition of figures when you support taking \$100 million off the blacks and giving \$300 million back to the gold companies? That is ironical. I happen to support the notion of a selective gold tax but I would oppose it in most instances.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Regrettably, that is the approach that the other side takes. Members opposite work on cutting up the cake with no comprehension about how to make a big cake in the first place. Until the Government gets people investing money in industry and creating wealth, there will be no cake to cut up. While it allows industries like the goldmining industry to go down the tube, there will be no money for Aboriginal people. Can members opposite not work that out? That is the bottom line. I thought that, when I listened to people like David Parker, Peter Dowding and Peter Cook from time to time, they had actually worked it out - that we have to have a big cake. Even Meecham from the Trades and Labor Council said on the radio the other day that we have to have a big cake before we can start dividing it up. Obviously, some members in this House have not worked out that that is the way to go. Unless we have industry and wealth, we cannot give money to people who are in need because we do not have it.

Hon Tom Helm: What do you tax then?

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon N.F. MOORE: We in our party will be fighting for a further inquiry, as I said, into the gold industry.

Hon Kay Hallahan: We know you fight in your party.

Hon N.F. MOORE: We know that we can reverse the decision and that when we get into office federally, the Labor Party's gold tax will be removed.

Hon Tom Helm interjected.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I assure the House that the gold industry will support that proposition and so will the people who depend on the gold industry.

Hon Tom Helm: I can guarantee that.

Hon N.F. MOORE: So will the 6 000 people who it is estimated will lose their jobs because of a gold tax and whom Mr Helm claims to represent.

Hon Tom Helm: Quite right.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Mr Helm does not represent them. He sits here and laughs his head off when somebody suggests that we should save the goldmining industry.

Hon Tom Helm interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I have been fairly patient with Hon Tom Helm. Normally he does not ignore the Chair persistently or wilfully. However, he appears to be doing that today. In order to stop him from doing it for at least a couple of seconds, I recommend that he reads Standing Order No 106(a) and (e) because he might be on the receiving end of them in a minute.

Hon N.F. MOORE: In conclusion, I wish to comment on the pawnbroking industry which I believe is a growing industry in the current economy. We need to examine very closely the laws controlling that industry.

Last year my house was burgled on a Friday afternoon and some valuable jewellery worth about \$6 000 or \$7 000 was stolen. In rather interesting circumstances, my mother-in-law happened to discover the jewellery in a pawnbroker's shop. Of all the pawnbroking shops in Perth, it was extraordinary that she should look in this particular one on the following Monday. My mother-in-law described the type of jewellery she wanted to see and the pawnbroker showed her the stolen jewellery, which he said had arrived on the weekend. My mother-in-law recognised it as my wife's wedding ring and a ring that had come from her grandmother. She had the presence of mind not to say anything and, after leaving the shop she told the police that she had seen the jewellery. The police visited the shop and impounded the jewellery. They subsequently advised my wife that they knew one of the men who had pawned the jewellery.

From subsequent inquiries, it seems that three young men broke into several houses in our suburb. They then went to the pawnbroker's shop, said something to the effect that they needed \$200 to go to the Bindoon rock festival and that they wanted to sell three rings, plus a gold watch which I understand they stole from somebody else's house. The pawnbroker took their names and addresses and gave them \$200. That was quite extraordinary. A pawnbroker should be compelled to take some action when people - in this case young people - who would not normally be pawning a diamond ring, try to dispose of one through his shop. In this case, the sellers were young people and they had asked for \$200 for jewellery which was obviously worth much more than that. A pawnbroker will know roughly the value of a piece of jewellery because he is in that sort of business.

I wrote to the Commissioner of Police to ask him what action had been taken and whether the pawnbroker had committed an offence. It seems to me that he was acting as a fence and receiving stolen goods.

Hon Garry Kelly: What is the name of the pawnbroker?

Hon N.F. MOORE: I will not name him here as he has not committed an offence. The commissioner replied that the pawnbroker had followed correct procedure in taking the youths' names and addresses, he was satisfied that the youngsters were who they said they were and that their reason for selling the jewellery was acceptable. As far as the pawnbroker and the commissioner were concerned the pawnbroker had abided by the Act. That may be the case. However, that Act needs to be looked at very closely. In this case some young people went to a pawnbroker, offered to sell him some jewellery worth thousands of dollars,

were given \$200 for it and went on their way. No suggestion was made by the pawnbroker that he report the matter to the police. By pure good luck my wife's mother discovered the stolen pieces of jewellery.

In Western Australia, people steal jewellery from people's houses - we know how much of that goes on these days - head off to a pawnbroker's shop and sell it. The chances of people ever retrieving it are virtually nil.

Hon Garry Kelly: Very few stolen goods end up in pawnbrokers' shops.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I have just cited an example of stolen goods being sold to a pawnbroker not far from where I live. One would normally expect them to be sold at a pawnbroker's as far away as possible.

Hon B.L. Jones: Don't lists of stolen goods get circulated by police to pawnbrokers?

Hon N.F. MOORE: In this case my mother-in-law went to the pawnbroker's shop on the Monday after the Friday when the goods had been stolen and said that she was looking for a particular type of ring. The pawnbroker then showed her one which fitted the description. Had that ring not been my wife's stolen jewellery she would have bought it and gone away. It would not then have been traced. It is too easy for people to dispose of stolen goods in that way.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: Do you remember who was going to amend the Pawnbrokers Act? It was Peter Dowding.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I recall that. Hon Peter Wells spent some time telling us about the Pawnbrokers Act and how it was amended here some years ago. It needs to be looked at again and investigations made to see whether the situation I have just described happens regularly. That may not be the case, but it made me angry to learn that a pawnbroker would pay \$200 for jewellery worth much more than that.

Hon Kay Hallahan: What was the proprietor going to charge for it? Was he charging a good price for the jewellery?

Hon N.F. MOORE: The jewellery had not been placed on the shelf for sale at that stage. The pawnbroker was going to have it valued first. It may have been valued at \$4 000 or \$5 000 and he would have been pleased to have made a big profit. I doubt that he would have rushed off to the police complaining that he had been conned! He would hardly have said that he paid \$200 for some jewellery which was worth a lot more and offered to pay the balance. I wonder how often this situation occurs in the pawnbrokers' shops in Western Australia. The number of pawnbroker shops has increased because people need to use them these days to obtain money in this depressed economy. By relating this personal issue I emphasise that we ought to be looking at this issue to see whether it is the problem I think it is. When people can steal goods and know they can dispose of them easily with very little chance of apprehension, that situation must contribute to the regularity of people breaking into houses and businesses. People would be discouraged from stealing goods if they had difficulty disposing of them.

Hon Tom Stephens: The circumstances you outlined are in breach of section 24 of the Pawnbrokers Act.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I will provide the member with a copy of the commissioner's letter shortly which describes his view that no law was broken. I have to accept that he knew who stole the jewellery. I am not sure if the culprits were apprehended and I have been waiting for over 12 months to find out.

I support the motion.

HON BARRY HOUSE (South West) [3.38 pm]: I join with other members in congratulating the Governor on his appointment to the Governorship and wish him well as a successor to Professor Gordon Reid who, we all agree, was one of the most popular and respected Governors this State has seen. The Governor's Speech outlined the Labor Government's program for this parliamentary session. I searched almost in vain for any reference to areas relating directly to my shadow ministerial responsibilities on land and regional development. I sincerely hope this does not reflect the Government's very low priority for these areas. I was desperately looking for some sign that the Government would

introduce a Bill to amend the Land Act in relation to tenure to assist pastoralists in Western Australia. However, no mention was made of it. This is very disappointing in view of past commitments made by the Burke-Dowding-Lawrence Governments to pastoralists in Western Australia about land tenure. I remind the House of some of those commitments: In 1983, the Premier, Brian Burke, promised land tenure to pastoralists in exchange for their cooperation on land rights. The pastoralists delivered but Mr Burke did not. In 1987 a Bill to amend the Land Act to give pastoralists security of tenure was introduced by the then Minister for Lands, Mr Wilson. That Bill was read a second time but did not proceed any further. In 1988 this procedure was repeated when Mrs Henderson, the then Minister for Lands, introduced into the other place a Bill which received a second reading but did not go any further.

Hon Kay Hallahan: What do you mean?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: It did not proceed any further.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Yes, on request from the Pastoralists and Graziers Association, which I understand some of its members now regret.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I understand there was agreement in principle but there were a couple of minor sticking points. The Government did not make much of an effort, and perhaps the PGA did not make much of an attempt either, to resolve that.

Hon Kay Hallahan: That is an unfair assumption. The PGA did not want the Bill to proceed because it thought there would be a change of Government. That is what it was all about. The PGA now regrets that it did not take advantage of a good Bill.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: In 1989 the present Minister for Lands, Hon Kay Hallahan, promised land tenure to pastoralists in many places throughout the State. At one meeting in particular - I believe at Gascoyne Junction - she made an unequivocal promise that land tenure was on her program and would soon be introduced -

Hon Kay Hallahan: That is right.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: - but nothing happened. Earlier this year I attended the PGA conference at Observation City in Scarborough, where the Minister for Agriculture, Mr Bridge, in response to questions from the PGA, assured it that he would act as a conduit or broker - I think those were his words - to establish a direct line of communication to Cabinet and to the Premier at that time, Mr Dowding.

Hon E.J. Charlton: A lot has changed!

Hon BARRY HOUSE: It certainly has. Many of the faces have changed, and it seems the intentions have changed because the pastoralists in this State are still waiting in vain for any form of communication.

At the beginning of this session I addressed questions to the Minister for Lands, as did Hon Phil Lockyer, about her intention to introduce land tenure legislation. It seemed to me that her answers were very noncommittal, and they indicated a very slight likelihood that we will see such legislation.

Hon Kay Hallahan: This session.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Yes.

Hon Kay Hallahan: That is right.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: That was a bit surprising, in view of the history, and it was very disappointing that the Government did not see fit to address this problem. The pastoral industry is a most important industry historically, and is one of Western Australia's most economically important industries. Pastoralists want some security of tenure so that they can plan ahead with confidence, and can go to their bank managers and convince them they have something to offer as collateral. Pastoralists need security of tenure in order to initiate improved land conservation strategies. At the moment there is absolutely no incentive for pastoralists to look after their land because they have no security of tenure.

Hon J.M. Brown: Are they the same people who support a drop in the wool price?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I was about to mention that. The current crisis facing the wool industry will probably affect the pastoral industry more than any other industry. The very

least this Parliament can do for the pastoralists is give them some security of tenure over their existing leaseholds. We are not talking about fly-by-night operators or temporary residents but about families which have been on pastoral properties for four or five generations. Those families have very strong historical and psychological ties to the land and merely want some security of tenure so they can continue in that occupation.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I will leave the Chair until the ringing of the bells and I recommend to some honourable members that while they are having a cup of tea they read Standing Order No 68.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.00 pm

[Questions without notice taken.]

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT - BY THE MINISTER FOR POLICE

Telecommunications (Interception) (Western Australia)

Bill 1990 - Ombudsman's Inspection Role

HON GRAHAM EDWARDS (North Metropolitan - Minister for Police) [4.14 pm] - by leave: Earlier today I met with the Ombudsman in connection with his letter of 15 May 1990 to the President, tabled in this House, which sets out his views in relation to the role proposed for him in the Telecommunications (Interception) (Western Australia) Bill 1990, which is presently before the House. While the Ombudsman supports the need for the legislation, he holds the view that the role of inspection authority proposed for him sits uneasily with his function as Ombudsman.

In his letter to the President the Ombudsman has reinforced that view following recent information concerning the use of computerised records in connection with telecommunications interceptions, and information that the Commonwealth Ombudsman has made a submission to the Commonwealth Attorney General's office that, having regard to the computerising of records, the role should no longer be performed by his office due to the level of expertise required to conduct an audit of the integrity of computerised police records.

It is clear to the Government, and I believe to the Opposition, that police require an ability to intercept certain telecommunications. It is equally clear that there must be effective safeguards; indeed, the Commonwealth Government insists on such safeguards. The Government has had a preference for the Ombudsman to perform the role of inspecting officer but also notes his concerns and recognises that the role could be undertaken by the Auditor General.

If telephone interception powers are to be made available to our police it is necessary for Parliament to decide which of those two officers, the Ombudsman or the Auditor General, is to undertake the inspection role. The decision is not a political one, it is a practical and philosophical one which I am sure can be dealt with on a bipartisan basis, recognising that the Ombudsman and Auditor General are officers of the Parliament. It is my intention to form a small informal committee to pursue this issue in order to assist the House in its deliberations. Accordingly, I invite the Opposition to participate in this committee.

I have discussed this matter with Hon George Cash and Hon Eric Charlton and I thank them for indicating their support of this proposed course of action.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY - NINTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

HON BARRY HOUSE (South West) [4.18 pm]: The Opposition is strongly committed to establishing security for land tenure over pastoral leases. This may well occur in one or two months' time if Carmen Lawrence does not see fit to appoint a Royal Commission. I offer the Minister for Lands the bipartisan support of the Opposition to help secure land tenure for pastoral leases throughout Western Australia in order to clear up any uncertainty on the issue. It is a pity the Minister is not in the Chamber at the moment because I would welcome a firm commitment from her to introduce legislation.

Another area of interest to me in the Governor's Speech was the issue of regional development. Unfortunately, the only mention of regional development in his Speech was confined to a commitment to introduce legislation to establish a Goldfields-Esperance development authority. More will be said on that matter when the legislation is introduced and debated in this House. The problem is that the Government seems to believe that only regional development authorities can deliver regional development. The Government does not seem to consider real regional development at all unless it is delivered via a cheque book through authorities such as the South West Development Authority, the Great Southern Development Authority, the Geraldton Mid-West Authority and now the proposed Goldfields-Esperance development authority.

The Government does not seem to consider regional development at all. Development authorities, and there will soon be four in the State, are very rapidly losing credibility as they are seen by more and more people as political mouthpieces of the Labor Party. The Opposition supports the general concept of development authorities as community driven organisations which can play a vital role as facilitators for local initiatives and ideas. However, the political use of development authorities throughout Western Australia has become totally transparent even to Blind Freddy. The South West Development Authority has its own Minister, Hon David Smith; the Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority has its own Minister, Hon Jeff Carr; and the proposed Goldfields-Esperance development authority will have its own Minister, Hon Ian Taylor, who happens to be the member for Kalgoorlie. Regional development authorities have become an extension of Labor re-election campaigns for Bunbury, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie. The local members of Parliament for those areas just happen to be the responsible Ministers and, as a result, they have access to a large staff, very adequate facilities, and in many cases funds to pork barrel every local group with even a tenuous claim to regional development. Development authorities have taken blatantly political roles; for example, the development authorities' news briefs. I have yet to see any Liberal or National Party member of Parliament featured in any news brief, yet every local Labor member of Parliament is getting extensive exposure handing out cheques to this and that organisation, or putting his arm around someone.

Hon E.J. Charlton: You could call that indecent exposure.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Almost, yes. One could be excused for thinking that only Labor members of Parliament represented those areas. However, a close look at the country electorate regions of Western Australia reveals that Labor members are in the minority rather than the majority.

Hon Graham Edwards: Which grants are you talking about?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I am talking about general handouts to all sorts of groups which claim a tenuous association with any definition of regional development.

Hon Graham Edwards: A lot of Labor members give these community groups strong support and when it comes time to produce a cheque they are automatically invited because of that involvement.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: That is a good argument, but I do not believe it. The development authorities have duplicated responsibilities and overridden many of the responsibilities of local government in country areas. They have also crossed the boundaries of responsibilities of many Government departments such as the Department for Community Services, the Department of Local Government, the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, the Small Business Development Corporation, the Department for Sport and Recreation, the Tourism Commission and the Department for the Arts, and I could probably list other organisations. Very good people work for those departments and they are getting very cheesed off with the encroachment of the development authorities. Another area in which the development authorities have fallen into disrepute is in the Auditor General's report which criticised the South West Development Authority.

Hon B.L. Jones: You always knock the South West Development Authority.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Because it keeps losing money.

Hon B.L. Jones: It has nothing to do with losing money.

Hon Max Evans: How will it repay the \$6 million borrowed from CRF?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I am pleased that Hon Beryl Jones has made a comment on the South West Development Authority.

Several Opposition members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon J.M. Brown): Order! I will not allow any remarks that reflect on a member.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Hon Beryl Jones and I represent the same region, but she obviously sees the authority from a different perspective.

Hon B.L. Jones: The authority does an excellent job.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I invite Hon Beryl Jones to look more closely at and to analyse what happens in the South West Development Authority and other regional development authorities; she might then start asking a few questions.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Don't bet on it.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The other problem that arose in the Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority last year was the crossover of boundaries for ministerial responsibility and ministerial direction. The member for Geraldton had that problem with the Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority and it led to a resignation. The glaring omission and hypocrisy in the Government's regional development policy is that funds are channelled only through the authorities. I will mention a couple of other points to illustrate that fact. The south west has its own Minister; the mid-west has its own Minister; and the Goldfields will have its own Minister. It is very convenient that the local members for those areas are all Ministers.

Hon Doug Wenn: What a stupid thing to say; of course they would be the local members.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I invite anybody in the Government to explain why the Great Southern Development Authority does not have its own Minister in the Cabinet. One does not have to be a Rhodes Scholar to work out that Mr Leon Watt and Mr Monty House are the lower House members with responsibility for those areas. They do an excellent job.

Hon B.L. JONES: Has the authority asked for one?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I am sure it has. Perhaps Hon Beryl Jones would tell me why the Government, if it is to be consistent, has not appointed a Minister for the Great Southern Development Authority?

Hon B.L. Jones: They didn't all get them straight away; it is a gradual process.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The proposed Goldfields-Esperance development authority has a Minister before it is a legitimate development authority.

Hon Tom Stephens: What are you talking about?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I am responding to Hon Beryl Jones' comment that it takes a while before the development authorities get their own Ministers. The Government lacks consistency.

Hon Graham Edwards: Your argument is inconsistent: On the one hand the member is saying there should not be a Minister, and on the other hand he wants a Minister.

Hon Tom Stephens: Will Hon Barry House accept that the great southern region has a Minister?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: It is covered under the portfolio of Regional Development, but it does not have its own Minister.

Hon E.J. Charlton: In all the other instances the Government has given the local member a ministry.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon BARRY HOUSE: If one looks at a map of Western Australia one sees that many of the areas in the south west of the State are covered by regional development authorities, but a glaring omission is the central wheatbelt area - the Narrogin and Northam area. This area is represented very ably by, among others, the Deputy President (Hon J.M. Brown), who will be familiar with an organisation called the Avon Community Development Foundation. It is

a locally based, community driven group which has come together to promote the Avon district.

They are very concerned, and rightly so, at the decline in the population and the number of job opportunities in the Avon area and they have decided to do something about it at a local level. Approaches have been made to the Government over several years, and the most recent approach was made to the Premier, Dr Lawrence, with a well researched and reasonable submission. I will read from the document presented to the Premier to provide the House with some background about the Avon Community Development Foundation. It was headed "Delegation to the Premier of Western Australia, the Honourable Carmen Lawrence Ph.D., by members of the community of the 'City of Avon'" and stated -

1. The Avon community has decided to take action to reverse the effects of rural decline by the formation of the Avon Community Development Foundation. This foundation represents the 11 municipalities that form the Avon region.
2. This foundation aims to raise funds to address the major symptom of rural decline, lack of quality employment opportunities for our children.
3. We come here today not in search of a handout, but with the offer of a partnership. The A.C.D.F. asks the Government of Western Australia to become a partner in Rural Revitalisation by matching our contributions to regional development on a dollar for dollar basis.
4. Our first project, of a programme that we fully expect to take 30 years, is to construct a non-residential industrial park at Meenaar. We ask that the Government of Western Australia make us an immediate grant of \$1 million to allow the purchase of the land. We, the A.C.D.F., will match this grant over the next five years by providing \$1 million which will be used to develop the area.
5. We further request an annual recurrent grant of \$50,000 for the next 5 years toward the cost of staff and operating expenses that will be needed to make our concept a reality. We will also match this amount dollar for dollar.
6. The A.C.D.F. believes that our concept of a low population density alternative to conventional cities, which we call the "City of Avon", may be one of the ways that we can assist our environment to survive. To become a reality our concept needs these non-residential industrial parks that belong to the community and are not forced on the community by governments.
7. This is a "grass roots" initiative by the people of the Avon region that could become a model for future regional development. We ask that you give this offer careful consideration

The response, with which I am sure you, Mr Deputy President (Hon J.M. Brown), are familiar, was disappointing to say the least. I will quote a paragraph from the letter dated 15 May from the Premier to Mr J. Lee, the President of the Avon Community Development Foundation -

While acknowledging the Foundation's initiative it is not possible to consider support at this stage beyond that offered through the Industrial Lands Development Authority to extend the terms of reference of its heavy industry study of the Northam region to include a preliminary assessment of the Meenaar site location.

That is an example of another good initiative that has been fobbed off to a Government committee, and which will get nowhere. Those people approached the Government with a request for \$1 million. I remind members opposite that \$1 million expenditure on regional development is equivalent to the annual budgets of the Great Southern Development Authority and Geraldton Mid-West Development Authority, and is a quarter of the budget of the South West Development Authority; it can be seen that this group has not asked for the earth. It has been given no support.

Hon E.J. Charlton: At the same time that the Northam Regional Hospital is closing down beds, the Government gave the Fremantle Hospital \$1.5 million just prior to the by-election.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I think the amount given to Fremantle Hospital was \$2.5 million. The hospitals at Northam, Narrogin, Bunbury and Geraldton are in terrible shape and I will refer to that situation later.

The problem with regional development in this State is that the Government considers its commitments should be delivered only through the development authorities. It can gain political mileage by using those authorities and it is not interested in any other method of assisting regional development. One of the reasons for the Government's rejection of the approach made by the Avon Community Development Foundation must be the lack of political will to offer support to this group. I do not want to be cynical but it may have something to do with the fact that there are no Labor seats in the vicinity.

Hon Tom Stephens: The upper House seat is held by a Labor member.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I am aware that Hon Jim Brown was a member of the delegation to the Premier and I am sure he was as disappointed as everybody else in that delegation at the Government's decision.

Hon Tom Helm: If \$1 million were presented to that group in the Budget, you would want to block Supply anyway so what would be the use of allocating it?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I am having some difficulty understanding that interjection. If the Government did not lack the political will, it must have lacked the money to assist that group. We know that the Government is strapped for funds because of its disastrous financial management of this State. This is a very deserving cause in regional development and it has been neglected because of other political priorities. It deserves better treatment. If the Government is hesitant about handing over cash to assist the foundation, it could be done in other ways. I remind the Government that a few months ago it went to great lengths to achieve cooperation between itself and the Federal Government to provide some tax incentives for the consortium involved in the Goodwyn gas platform. I applaud the Government for that excellent arrangement. Of course, the initiative did not come from the Government, it was forced on the Government by the Trades and Labor Council. I cannot understand why that principle cannot be extended to the industrial lands project at Meenaar.

One person who has been very heavily involved in the State Government's regional development program, through the South West Development Authority, is the Mayor of Bunbury, Dr Ernie Manea, who is a respected community figure. He commented recently on Bunbury 2000, the cornerstone of the regional development program of the Government in the south west corner of this State. I quote from an article which appeared in the *South Western Times* on Tuesday, 27 March under the heading "Bunbury 2000 dead - Mayor". The article referred to the hospital situation and stated -

Bunbury Mayor Dr Ern Manea claimed yesterday that the WA Government's commitment to develop Bunbury as the State's major regional city was dead, following the announcement of major cost-cutting measures at Bunbury Regional Hospital.

He said that the Government had failed to provide facilities to match the big population growth in Bunbury and the South West.

He is reported as saying also that the problem was caused by poor forward planning.

Hon Doug Wenn: He was chairman of the board for five years, but he did not make these comments until he left the board.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: He is obviously sick of banging his head against a brick wall and getting nowhere.

Hon Doug Wenn: You know better than that.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I know very well how people feel. I am sure that Hon Doug Wenn was in the Chamber yesterday when I presented a petition containing 1 080 signatures, collected in one week in Bunbury, of people who are concerned about the Bunbury Regional Hospital.

Hon Doug Wenn: We are all concerned about that and about all the other hospitals around the nation.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I will refer to that in a moment and also to the Government's response which has been pathetic, to say the least. I continue with the quote from Dr Manea -

The commitment that started in 1983 under former Premier Brian Burke was "dead", he said.

The State Government's inadequate funding system was "compounded by Federal Government policies which have led to a falloff in people in private health insurance".

"They are all now trying to get into the regional hospital, which has changed the very well balanced mix of public and private patients."

I will say more about the health crisis later.

Another reason why the Government must analyse closely its commitment to regional development is the critical situation with power, with some industries leaving Western Australia and others thinking about setting up operations in Western Australia running a mile. For many years the proposal to establish an aluminium smelter in Western Australia has been thrown around like a rubber ball. The latest position indicates that an aluminium smelter is more likely to be established in the north of the State than in the south west.

Hon Doug Wenn: What about Richard Court's statement that a new power station should be built up north?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: We have not made any statements about the site for a power station; nor has the Government, and that is the problem.

Hon Doug Wenn: You did not put the south west on your list. You wiped it off, and said nothing.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The Government has let the crisis go far beyond the point that it should have. An announcement about the power situation should have been made a long time ago.

Hon Doug Wenn: Put in another pipeline! We are still paying \$11 million a year for that debt.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: At least we have got a pipeline to show for it. What does the Government have to show for its expenditure on the petrochemical project?

An example of the Government's lack of commitment to regional development is that Rhone-Poulenc in Pinjarra has not only closed down the existing stage of its development but has cancelled its proposed second stage. That is a serious blow to this State. The Government's failure to make long term plans, and its lack of coordination, is compounding the problems in the south west. Another example is the tannery proposal, which has been widely discussed in this House and in the community. A site for the tannery was plucked out of somewhere, amid dubious promotion by the former Minister for Economic Development and Trade, without any planning or coordination.

The community in the south west has been crying out for a long term plan for a noxious industries estate, but nothing was forthcoming from the Government until we were finally able to convince it that something should be done. I am pleased that a committee has now been appointed, under the auspices of the South West Development Authority, to consider possible sites for a noxious industries estate in the south west. I am sure that committee only came into existence because of our insistence. Even then, it was born in very confusing circumstances because at the same time as the Chairman of the South West Development Authority was making statements about the committee he was setting up, the other Ministers who had their fingers in the pie down there - Mr Parker and Mr Grill at the time, as well as Mr David Smith, the Minister for South-West - were making conflicting statements, so no-one really knew which committee would end up doing what. There is too much duplication in respect of regional development. There is little point in having a local Minister who is responsible for the south west, the north west, or whatever, if his or her voice will not be heard in Cabinet.

Another example of a lack of planning in the south west is the mineral sands industry. The deposits at Beenup and Jangardup have been in the pipeline for a long time. The most contentious issue surrounding the development of those deposits is the transportation of the mineral sands from the deposit site to the Port of Bunbury. The Government has left the community totally rudderless in this instance.

Hon Doug Wenn: The Government and the Port of Bunbury were very keen on rail, but they saw that was not feasible, so they looked at trucking, and they outlined a route, particularly from Beenup, which satisfied everyone.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Is the member saying the Government has dismissed rail as an option?

Hon Doug Wenn: Not at all. I would not let it.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I am glad about that. I hope rail will be put back on the list of options and given a high priority because the transportation of heavy minerals from the deep south west is better done by rail than on the existing roads because the existing road network is not good enough, and even if it were upgraded there would still be huge problems, which would affect tourism and other industries in that area.

The result of the lack of long term planning is that the mining companies, the conservationists, local government, the tourist orientated industries, and just about everybody else, are very confused.

I refer now to the tender process for surplus Department of Conservation and Land Management houses in the south west. I am sure members will be aware that last week two former employees of CALM were convicted of corruption and forgery in respect of the sale of surplus CALM houses. I fear that those two people represent just the tip of the iceberg within CALM and that they could be the scapegoats for something far bigger. I will outline some of the history of the situation and then invite the Minister responsible for CALM to initiate an inquiry which will go a lot deeper than the present investigation has gone.

On 4 April 1989 I asked a question on notice to the Minister representing the then Minister for Conservation and Land Management, Mr Taylor. This question was in response to a question from a constituent about a CALM house in Nannup. I asked the Minister -

- (1) Is the Minister aware that a Department of Conservation and Land Management owned house at 14 Carey Street, Nannup was recently sold to a CALM employee for \$1 500?
- (2) Is the Minister also aware that \$6 000 was recently spent on the reconstruction of this house?
- (3) Is the Minister also aware that there were other people prepared to pay in the vicinity of \$6 000 to \$8 000 for the house but they had no notice of the sale of the house?
- (4) Was the sale of the house put to public tender?
- (5) If not, why not?

In asking that question, perhaps a bit innocently at the time, I seem to have opened up a Pandora's box because I was approached a few days later by Mr Taylor, who explained that he would not answer my question then but would answer it in writing at a later time. He explained to me that an investigation was necessary as a result of that question. He mentioned also that Mr Parker, the former Deputy Premier, was involved in some way, and wanted to see me.

I went to see Mr Parker and he explained that a consortium with which he was involved had agreed to buy two houses from CALM employees, but when they heard of the inquiry they backed off at a very rapid rate. This consortium intended to buy these houses at a bargain basement price and put them on a property near Moses Rock which Mr Parker owns in partnership with several other people. I know that area very well because as a kid I used to go fishing there with my father.

I received this answer to a question on 12 April. Hon Graham Edwards, representing the Minister for Conservation and Land Management, said this -

I am advised that the Minister for Department of Conservation and Land Management is having this matter investigated. I will arrange for a written reply to be provided to the member as soon as those inquiries are completed.

That was fine, but I did not receive any reply for quite a while, so I started to make a few further inquiries. On 30 May 1989, I again wrote to the Minister for Conservation and Land

Management because I had not yet received a reply. On 18 July - so things did not move very quickly - my secretary was contacted by Mr Alex Errington from CALM, who explained a few things. I finally received a reply from the Minister on 22 July 1989. That reply stated what I had found out already. It said that the matter had been investigated and as a result two departmental officers had been dismissed. They had also been charged with these offences under the Criminal Code, and these charges were now before the court. There was a little more about the fact that these houses would subsequently be tendered for correctly. My point is that these questions and their responses made me very suspicious; they made me think that perhaps the matter went a lot deeper than I initially had any inkling of.

During the year I have been approached by many people concerned that the matter did indeed go deeper. Two former employees of the Department of Conservation and Land Management were charged, and the feeling was that they were being made scapegoats for other people. I did not, or perhaps I could not, say very much about the situation at that time. In fact I prepared a couple of Press releases which, on advice, I did not issue because I did not fancy copping a writ. It culminated in a court case last week, and convictions were recorded against those employees.

Mr Parker's involvement in this incident was very unusual, to say the least. It may have been perfectly innocent, but it may also have been one factor which made Mr Parker decide to opt to resign from the Parliament before this session started.

Several members interjected.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: He knew perfectly well -

Hon Sam Piantadosi: Was he found innocent or guilty?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: He was not charged.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: Why are you defaming his character?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Mr Parker would have known perfectly well that the court case was coming up at this time and his name would have been very prominently bandied about.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: Why do you not say that outside this House?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I am not making any accusations against Mr Parker.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: Make them outside the House.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I am not making any accusations against Mr Parker.

Hon T.G. Butler: Insinuations.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: It would have added to his embarrassment at the time, and perhaps it would have further damaged his credibility.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: That is the problem with you people opposite; you make these accusations, but you do not have the courage to make them outside the Chamber.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: This is very similar to what happened the other night during the adjournment debate. This case reflects very poorly on the executive of the Department of Conservation and Land Management. It seemed to be general knowledge among the population of Nannup and various other employees of CALM that the tender process in these cases was very shonky, and a politician - in fact Mr Parker's name was freely bandied about - was involved.

Hon Graham Edwards: In fairness to those executives, did anyone draw it to their attention?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: At the time?

Hon Graham Edwards: Yes.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I am not aware of that, but I find it very hard to believe that something which was common knowledge in the area would not have been known to the more senior executives of the Department of Conservation and Land Management. If all the Nannup residents knew of the suspicions, it is very difficult to believe that executives of the Department of Conservation and Land Management did not know as well. Perhaps there is a case for some sort of investigation by the Minister for the Environment, and I hope that he

will come to this Parliament and assure us that there was no such professional negligence or other sort of involvement.

Turning to the health situation in regional hospitals, I shall concentrate particularly on the Bunbury Regional Hospital. I presented a petition yesterday containing 1 080 signatures of people concerned about the Bunbury Regional Hospital. It directed the attention of this Parliament to the closure of wards, the resignations by surgeons, the closure of operating theatres, and a range of other problems, including lengthening queues for elective surgery. It also expressed disappointment at the Government's response. There is a very deep feeling among the people of the south west - not only Bunbury - and the same argument could apply to any other regional hospital, including Geraldton, Northam and Narrogin. People are disturbed about the decline in the standard of medical services being provided.

If we can believe the rhetoric, this decline is a result of an overrun of about \$400 000 at Bunbury Regional Hospital. In other years budget overruns have been accommodated by the Government and hospital services have not been interrupted, but this year we all know that the Government is broke and that is the reason why it has not been forthcoming in providing extra finance to keep the essential health services going in the regional areas.

The response from our Labor representatives in that area has been pretty staggering, to say the least; they have blamed everyone except themselves. The Government has blamed local medical practitioners for using the public hospital system too much. It has blamed the hospital administration for poor administration and poor budgetary skills which have led to the problem. The Government has blamed the Federal Government for not allocating sufficient money from Medicare, and it has blamed the sick people for creating too great a demand. Ridiculous accusations were made, but I think members opposite can gauge from the community's reaction that no-one has swallowed that line of rhetoric.

We must look at the real reason, and it is that a very large shift away from private insurance has occurred in Western Australia. In Bunbury the St John of God Hospital, which was recently refurbished and redeveloped, is almost half empty. A little further along the road the regional hospital is overcrowded and the Government is cutting back on services such as operating theatres and beds. This situation is absolutely crazy and is due to the Federal Labor Government's policy on Medicare.

Hon T.G. Butler: What a load of rubbish.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: That is a fact. It has also failed to take into account the rapid growth in the south west. There has been a lack of forward planning, which I mentioned before. No money of any significance has been spent on Bunbury Regional Hospital for 23 years. People in Bunbury are a little tired of being at the lower end of the pecking order. Prior to the last election the money went to Geraldton because the Government's political gurus tossed a coin and decided that Geraldton was slightly more marginal than Bunbury. This time around the money was allocated to Fremantle Hospital, amazingly, just two weeks before a by-election.

Hon Max Evans: Like the Busselton jetty.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Margaret River finally received a very nice new hospital as a result of the political pressure applied at the time of the South West Region by-election. I am sure no money would have been allocated to the Margaret River Hospital had a by-election not been about to take place.

Hon Max Evans: The Busselton jetty was fixed too.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I am very pleased about that. It is an amazing coincidence that Mr Burke, the Premier at that time, who travelled around the countryside saying that no assistance would be available for the Busselton jetty, allocated half a million dollars to it four days before my election date.

Hon T.G. Butler: Due to very strong representation from Hon Doug Wenn.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: He and I are both involved in the committee assigned to oversee the rehabilitation of the Busselton jetty. A magnificent job has been done with half a million dollars. However, only about half the length of the jetty has been restored. Repairs to the jetty present an ongoing problem and an injection of more than another half million dollars is needed. However, in the present climate I cannot see where that will come from.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: What about the \$18 million spent on upgrading the water supply for country towns throughout the south west and great southern regions?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Hon Sam Piantadosi has made a legitimate point.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: They are not Labor-held seats.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I am also pleased to see that a water supply will be put into the Yallingup town in the near future.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: Something like 17 towns throughout the lower south west have received attention because past conservative Governments did not service the electorates involved.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Many regional areas are experiencing serious housing development problems. The headworks funds allocated under the Water Resources portfolio are not available.

Hon Sam Piantadosi interjected.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: That is correct. The situation has become more and more critical in the last few years.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: If you are going to point a finger you should look in-house first.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The Murray Shire, caught in a Catch 22 situation, is an example. It desperately wants to develop residential areas and cannot do so because its proximity to the estuaries requires deep sewerage, and no money is available for that.

The regional hospital crisis does not stop at the Bunbury Regional Hospital. Other hospitals in my region are in a critical situation. Cutbacks have been made at the Busselton Hospital because of a budget overrun of \$55 000. If I had time I could quote media releases by the Busselton District Hospital medical advisory committee, which is disgusted about the hospital's theatre being closed down and about its being blamed for budget overruns. The committee also mentions in the media releases that it is not fooled by the Government's response, that it is well aware that the cutbacks are due to the Government's budgetary problems and that it has run out of money. The response of the Minister for Health to the Bunbury Regional Hospital's problems was almost non-existent. He has attempted to shift the blame to everybody else; he will not accept the blame. The two local Labor members have also made pathetic responses. Mr David Smith, Minister for South-West, has suggested that in the long term Bunbury Regional Hospital must accept a system similar to the metropolitan hospital system of full time staff. In reality that will mean interns with no experience will be running our major regional hospital. That will lead to a serious decline in our health care and it reveals the true socialist attitude of Mr Smith in that he is more interested in the nanny State, which suggests that the Government knows best and is all things to all people.

Hon Garry Kelly: Are you saying the Perth hospitals have untrained doctors?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I am saying that some doctors in Perth hospitals are inexperienced. Mr Phil Smith also made some statements recently, which were pretty damning, about the Bunbury Regional Hospital. He commented in the *Leschenault Reporter* - a new paper in Bunbury - on 30 May 1990. The article was headed "Medicare hike warning" and reads as follows -

Making private health funds tax deductible is not an option to solve Australia's health crisis, according to Bunbury MLA Phil Smith.

Mr Smith has warned that the Medicare levy may have to be raised in a bid to boost funding for the public health system.

"Whatever happens the money will have to come from the taxpayers' pockets," he said.

Here we go, dipping into the taxpayers' pockets again. The article goes on -

Mr Smith believes the lifting of restrictions on services at the Bunbury Regional Hospital on July 1 will only temporarily ease the Bunbury health crisis.

He dismisses out of hand the possibility of the Government offering any tax incentives to encourage people to take out private insurance. Further on in the article he has the hide to

suggest a bipartisan approach to solving the health care problem. There is no possibility of a bipartisan approach to this topic because the Government's attitude clearly highlights the difference between a socialist's approach to the problem and the Opposition's approach. It is ridiculous to blame the increase in demand for elective surgery on the people who needed surgery. The increase in demand for elective surgery is as a result of rapid growth in the area and the inefficiencies of the Medicare system, which has destroyed people's incentive to insure privately.

It disturbs me to hear people like the member for Bunbury, Mr Smith, support his Premier by making statements that essential services like health, education and law will not be affected by WA Inc and the general financial mess this State is in at the moment. That is rubbish. They would realise the foolhardiness of their statements if they sat down and analysed exactly what they were saying. The health crisis has risen, as we all know, from Western Australia's business dealings which need to be investigated. The people of Western Australia want to know how much money has been lost, who was responsible for making the decisions about WA Inc, where the money is now and what the possibility is of retrieving some of it.

To investigate that, we need a Royal Commission in Western Australia and everything else is secondary to that. I support the motion.

HON GARRY KELLY (South Metropolitan) [5.09 pm]: I support the motion moved by Hon Tom Stephens on May Day. I, too, congratulate Sir Francis Burt on his appointment as Governor of this State. As well, I congratulate Dr Carmen Lawrence on being elected leader of the State Parliamentary Labor Party, and on her appointment as Premier.

As I am speaking in the week following the recent by-elections, it would be almost unthinkable for me not to comment on those by-elections. On 26 May the seats of Fremantle and Maylands were both retained by the Labor Party, notwithstanding the inevitable anti-Government swings which Governments encounter at by-elections. Mr Jim McGinty and Dr Judy Edwards were sworn in this morning, and both delivered excellent maiden speeches in the other place today.

I cannot but think that some of the analyses of the by-election results have been, to say the least, rather strange. I will restrict my comments to the seat of Fremantle because that is the area in which I participated, as I live in the electorate and my office is in Fremantle. Let us look at the swings against the Government - and the figures I am quoting are all two-party preferred. In Fremantle the swing against the Government was 7.6 per cent and in Maylands it was somewhat less - 4.6 per cent. Somehow the Opposition is construing those swings as indicative of a groundswell of public opinion against this Government, either in favour of blocking Supply or a precipitous demand for a Royal Commission or inquiry.

It is important to put these swings in perspective. In March 1988 by-elections were held for the seats vacated by Brian Burke and Mal Bryce. In the seat of Ascot the swing against the Government was 14.8 per cent and in Balga it was 23 per cent. I would have thought that if anything indicated dissatisfaction with the Government it was those swings. However, if we "transpolate" - to use Mr MacKinnon's newly-invented word - the swings the Government suffered in the Balga and Ascot by-elections to the 1989 State election, which followed almost a year later, we would certainly now have a Liberal-National Party Government and, further, there would be hardly any Labor members in the Legislative Assembly. That would have been the result, if we translate - and I will use the proper term now - those by-election swings and impose them on a general election swing. We all know that in the 1989 election that did not occur.

Hon E.J. Charlton interjected.

Hon GARRY KELLY: Because Mr MacKinnon is saying that if the swings which occurred on Saturday were translated to the State general election, given the number of marginal seats the Government holds, without doubt the Liberal Party would win the election. However, one should be very careful when doing that sort of thing.

Hon E.J. Charlton interjected.

Hon GARRY KELLY: It is a matter of principle and has nothing at all to do with a grab for power; I know that.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Why don't you do it, then?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Doug Wenn): Order!

Hon GARRY KELLY: Much has been made of the fact that Arthur Marshall topped the primary vote in the Fremantle by-election. It must be conceded that Mr Marshall ran a very high-profile, well-organised campaign and he is to be congratulated on achieving that result.

Hon Barry House: Which is akin to the Labor Party topping the poll in Nedlands or Cottesloe.

Hon GARRY KELLY: Okay, can I finish my remarks?

Hon Barry House: We would be very worried if that situation occurred, so you should be very worried as well.

Hon T.G. Butler interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon GARRY KELLY: Arthur Marshall topped the poll and he is to be commended on the effort he put into that campaign, but it betrays an ignorance of the voting system to say that that somehow represents a victory or that that result is the optimum result for the Liberal Party, given the situation which confronts that party. I am not here to try to second-guess or understand the tactics the Liberal Party employed in achieving that result, but I believe an alternative strategy would have served that party better.

A number of issues exist in the Fremantle electorate which the Government concedes have caused difficulty and must be addressed, and a number of them were addressed during the election campaign. Three high-profile local candidates stood for the seat of Fremantle - Mr Arthur Marshall, Dr John Troy and Ms Christabel Bridge - as well as eight other candidates, including Mr McGinty; so the primary vote was scattered over a large number of candidates. That fact must also be taken into account. Having said that, however, there is no doubt that, as Hon Barry House said in his interjection, he would be worried if such a situation had occurred in Nedlands. I do not know if worry is the correct word, but both the Labor Party and Jim McGinty recognise there are issues in Fremantle which must be addressed and I can assure Hon Barry House and the Opposition that, come the next State general election, the seat of Fremantle definitely will not go to preferences.

The analysis that the topping of the primary vote by Arthur Marshall is somehow significant betrays an ignorance of the preferential voting system. An advertisement was published in *The West Australian* last Tuesday which reads -

Marshall "Wins" Fremantle

Congratulations Arthur Marshall

From The Majority of Voters in the Fremantle Area

The results of Saturday's election clearly demonstrate you won the event

The Electorate obviously wanted a Liberal Member not a Green or a Labor representative

I must say that although Arthur Marshall topped the primary vote the majority of voters did not want Arthur Marshall to be the member. I do not know if Gill Wieringa of Enitor Pty Ltd is a Liberal Party member, or was advised by the Liberal Party, or is just a friend of Arthur Marshall's, but he is plainly misguided.

The bleatings from Liberal Party members and supporters about the deficiencies of the preferential voting system are a symptom of their lack of success in appealing to the electorate. I recall that in the 1950s and 1960s members of the Labor Party were inclined to do the same thing, because our party had trouble winning elections too, and we tried to blame the preferential voting system. Things were a little different, though, because we had the Democratic Labor Party in those days and if the Labor Party was ahead on primary votes, the DLP had a fairly sizeable vote and the Liberal Party was running a comfortable second in a three-way contest, one could bet one's bottom dollar that the amount of leakage from the DLP vote would be just about zilch, and one could guarantee that the seat would go to the Liberal Party.

Notwithstanding that, there were problems, especially in the Federal sphere, which the Labor Party has since addressed. The Labor Party is now reaping the reward in terms of electorate success. Until the Liberal Party addresses these problems, both at the State and Federal level, it will not win the vote. Its objection to the voting system is mere bleating, particularly since it is recognised that the Federal voting system is one of the fairest in the world. There was an amusing one line letter to the newspapers after the last Federal election which said that some members of the Liberal Party wanted first-past-the-post and preferential voting abolished. I do not know whether that is official Liberal Party policy. However, the results of last Saturday's by-elections endorse the strategy Dr Carmen Lawrence has mapped out for the Government in the time she has been in office - 100 days - and it also indicates that the electorate wants the Government to get on with the job.

That is not to say the community does not have some misgivings about the goings on in respect of the so-called WA Inc arrangements. However on a number of occasions the Premier has said she is not averse to holding an inquiry after the McCusker inquiry has reported. If we convene a Royal Commission or a commission of inquiry of similar power before that report is received, we will be gravely in danger of compromising the investigations already under way.

Hon Barry House: Rubbish.

Hon GARRY KELLY: Hon Barry House may say it is rubbish but he should listen to the logic of what I am about to say. The McCusker inquiry has already resulted in 208 charges. Ten other separate investigations are currently under way; one is about to be started up, while the Sulan inquiry in relation to Alan Bond has just cleared up some difficulties.

Hon Barry House: So we have to hold off until they are completed?

Hon GARRY KELLY: I did not say that. I said 10 separate inquiries are already under way. The McCusker inquiry has already laid 208 charges. If the Government appoints a Royal Commission, it is likely that any evidence adduced before that Royal Commission will not be admissible in the prosecution of those charges. In that case people who could very well have been convicted could escape punishment. That is a risk we do not want to take. If charges have been laid, it is important that the processes of the law should be allowed work through the steps necessary to obtain a conviction without being compromised by a Royal Commission. Royal Commissions are very costly and lengthy, and there is no guarantee that at the end of the day a Royal Commission will result in prosecutions.

Hon Fred McKenzie: Do not forget that the Select Committee into Rothwells, PICL and WAGH has the powers of a Royal Commission.

Hon GARRY KELLY: The important message of the by-election results is that the people want the Government to get on with the job. The by-elections were held on my birthday. I will not tell this House my age, but last Saturday's results enabled me to celebrate the twenty-first anniversary of my twenty-first birthday in style.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Forty two.

Hon GARRY KELLY: Gee whiz, the Minister must have taken off her shoes and socks!

There was one discordant note in the by-elections last Saturday, which occurred when I went to the Palmyra Primary School to cast my vote. I walked into the booth and discovered that my name and the name of my wife had been omitted from the electoral roll. It is disconcerting to represent an area and yet not be on the electoral roll.

Hon T.G. Butler: The Opposition will want a Royal Commission into that.

Hon GARRY KELLY: It might, but I assure the House there is no case to answer. However, there is a first time for everything and last Saturday my wife and I had to cast provisional votes. I rang the Electoral Commissioner on Monday and he told me that there had been some glitch in the computer program but reassured me that the fault had been rectified and the provisional votes my wife and I cast would be admitted to the count. I am sure that 26 May 1990 will go down in history as a very successful day for the Australian Labor Party in terms of the results of those by-elections.

In respect of industrial training, on Tuesday Hon Phillip Pandal spoke to the motion moved by Hon George Cash which dealt with the economic conditions currently prevailing in this

State. I would like to speak to those comments and as far as I can refute them. One of the first comments made by Hon Phillip Pandal was that the apprenticeship system in this State, as a result of the decline in its numbers under this Government, is in a state of near collapse. Further on in his speech he said -

I remind them that the number of apprentices in training in this State has fallen to an all-time low under this Government.

Later he said -

In the six year period between 1983 and about this time last year there was an unprecedented slump of 45 per cent in the number of apprentices in training in the public sector.

Hon T.G. Butler: Did he tell the House that was more than were in training prior to 1983?

Hon GARRY KELLY: Hon Phillip Pandal said nothing of the sort. His speech continued -

Six years ago, when the Labor Government took office 1 818 young people were undergoing apprenticeship training in the public sector. This time last year there were 1 009. . .

He also said that in the last full year of the last conservative Government in 1983, 13 500 apprentices were in training. By 1985 that figure had fallen to an all time low of 9 370. By 1989 the figure had crept up marginally to 10 600. In respect of the various categories of apprentices Hon Phillip Pandal said that new metal trades apprenticeships had dropped from 389 last year to 186 this year; electrical apprentices were down from 151 to 76; building trades apprentices were down from 230 to 141, while apprenticeships in food related trades had fallen from 218 to 98. Hon Phillip Pandal said he based his comments on a report produced by the Confederation of Western Australian Industry. Although I do not normally disbelieve what Hon Phillip Pandal says, I thought his figures bore some checking out. By and large those figures are a load of hogwash.

Hon John Halden: That is pretty normal. I cannot understand why you believed him at all.

Hon GARRY KELLY: I like to give everyone the benefit of the doubt.

The statistics quoted by Hon Phillip Pandal are either outdated or incorrect. The Opposition is on shaky ground when talking about the Government's employment record compared to the Opposition's employment record. In the last five years of the coalition Government, between February 1978 and February 1983, 47 600 new jobs were created - compared with 123 700 new jobs for the first five years of the Labor Government, and a further 67 400 since; that is, a total of 191 000 new jobs. The record of the coalition Government as it relates to youth unemployment peaked at 31.6 per cent in 1983. The economic recovery under this Government saw youth unemployment fall back to 10 per cent during 1989 - still an undesirable figure but much lower than 31.6 per cent.

The apprenticeship figures quoted by Hon Phillip Pandal are equally erroneous. An increase in the number of apprentices has occurred since 1983. Apprenticeship numbers total 14 251, an increase of 1 561, or 12.3 per cent, over the 1983 figure of 12 690. Including traineeship figures, the total training numbers rose to 14 897; an increase of 17.4 per cent over the 1983 figure of 12 690. As a result of the 1982-83 recession, engendered by the Fraser Government through the wages blow out, a drop in the number of apprentices occurred. The Court Government mismanaged the apprenticeship system by an artificial boost to the number of apprentices during the North West Shelf construction stage and the numbers at those times were not at sustainable levels. Hon Phillip Pandal based his comments on a report produced by the Confederation of Western Australia Industry. The confederation has acknowledged that the figures were incorrect; they were based on preliminary numbers which were incomplete.

Hon John Halden: Would Hon Phillip Pandal acknowledge those figures were incorrect?

Hon GARRY KELLY: Perhaps he will read *Hansard*. We have seen a decline in intake since last year because that was a strong year. I have produced a table which outlines the apprentices in the various groupings. I would like this table to be incorporated in *Hansard*.

[The material in appendix A was incorporated by leave of the House.]

[See page No 1582.]

Hon GARRY KELLY: Hon Phillip Pandal also made the assertion that the Government does not support the apprenticeship scheme. That is incorrect. The Government provides a wide range of assistance to employers; for instance, the State funds the TAFE system which provides technical off-the-job training for apprentices and pre-apprentices. Under the Commonwealth apprenticeship training scheme employers receive incentives of up to \$3 000 to train apprentices; an additional grant of \$500 may be made to employers who take on an unemployed trade apprentice registered with the CES; employers receive an off-the-job training rebate; a \$2 000 grant for disabled apprentices, subsidies for Aboriginal apprentices, and exemptions from payroll tax for employers of first year apprentices. So the Government uses a host of incentives to encourage apprentices and traineeships to increase the number of people in training.

The number of apprentices trained by the Government has fallen because in the past the Government has borne the total load of training of apprentices both for Government and the private sector. The incentives which I have outlined encourage private employers to take up some of the slack, and to start training apprentices for their own requirements. While the Government numbers may decline slightly the policy mix has seen the total apprenticeship numbers rise since 1983 - not drop, as Hon Phillip Pandal stated. Hon Phillip Pandal also stated that the system had reached a state of near collapse, but the information I have given members shows that is not the case.

I refer now to the Senate Standing Committee which inquired into the use of drugs in sport. That committee was chaired by Senator John Black, a Labor Senator from Queensland. I am very concerned about the use of drugs in sport. I am also very concerned about the way that committee was conducted. If that is an example of how a parliamentary committee should carry out its operations, politicians should take a hard look at themselves. The inquiry was a travesty of justice.

On 26 May 1990 the editorial in *The West Australian* commented as follows -

The Senate committee on the use of drugs in sport has served a useful purpose in lifting the lid on unsavoury aspects of the Australian sporting scene.

The committee has had its share of detractors. It has been accused of adopting Star Chamber tactics, of engaging in witch hunts, relying on hearsay and focusing too much on the past. But that reaction is hardly surprising where the activities of sporting institutions, coaches, athletes and others have come under such close scrutiny.

I do not deny that the use of drugs in sport to enhance an athlete's performance is to be anything but condemned; but the way in which the committee approached its task amounted almost to a holy war. As my time is limited, I shall refer to only the case of Jane Flemming who volunteered to give evidence to the Senate inquiry about a particular incident in which she was involved during the Ulster Games in Belfast in 1986. Recommendation Two of the Senate Standing Committee's report reads -

That, where necessary, sports organisations confirm that attempts to corrupt drug tests will receive appropriate disciplinary responses. In particular, with regard to Jane Flemming's part in an attempt to corrupt a drug test in 1986, that:

Athletics Australia conduct an inquiry with a view to making clear to athletes the seriousness of any attempt to corrupt a drug test; and

the Australian Sports Commission reconsider its response to the incident and ensure that Athletics Australia carries out a proper investigation consistent with the IOC Charter Against Doping in Sport.

An interim report was released by that committee early in 1989. That report included the in camera evidence of Jane Flemming as follows -

[Mr Plant] came up to me [at the javelin throwing area] and asked me if I would urinate in a bottle for Sue Howland because she had been picked for testing . . . He gave me a drink bottle . . . I went and weed in a bottle and apparently it got passed off as Sue's urine sample.

This attempt to corrupt a drug test was closely examined in the interim report; many conclusions were drawn, with a host of comments from sporting and administrative bodies.

An article in *The Age* under the heading of "Drug report unfair, says Flemming" states -

She said that she was asked about the substitution by the Senate committee last year, she had asked to give evidence in camera and stressed that it was important that the information not be made public.

"Any mention of my name in the context of drug-testing corruption, I believed, would completely misrepresent to the public my position. Understandably, I felt that would be fair."

Today I rang the secretary of the committee, Mr Peter Grundy, who works for the Senate. He told me that witnesses were warned that in camera evidence could be used by the committee; however, it would appear from Ms Flemming's comments that she was unaware that that was the case. It is unconscionable that the committee is now talking about investigating Jane Flemming's role in this incident when the official, Mr Laurie Plant, asked her to supply a urine sample.

Hon Barry House: He should be the one under investigation.

Hon GARRY KELLY: He is the one who should be called to book. After the report was released the committee wrote to the Australian Sport Commission and asked what it had done regarding the Flemming incident. The Chairman of the ASC returned a letter sent to Ms Flemming which stated -

The Commission of the Australian Sports Commission met on 13 July and considered the Senate Committee's Interim Report and a report arising from our meeting on 5 July. I now write to inform you that the Commission confirms Mr Coates and my disapproval of your participation in the urine substitution incident. Had it not been that you were young at the time, on your first major trip as a member of the Australian Commonwealth Games Team and following the instructions of your Assistant Manager -

So, this person had considerable authority over the athlete. The letter continues -

- we would have terminated your scholarship. If there is ever any repetition or other breach of our doping policy you can expect instant dismissal.

The International Olympic Committee list of doping classes and methods states -

The IOC Medical Commission bans the use of substances and of methods which alter the integrity and validity of urine samples used in doping controls. Examples of banned methods are . . . urine substitution . . .

The committee's report then states -

The IOC, then, bans attempts to corrupt drug tests. Having regard to that, the Committee considers that the response of the ASC to the Jane Flemming incident is inadequate. Further, the Committee takes the view that athletes, having sought to cheat on a drug test, ought not to receive public funds for the duration of any resultant suspension. If the IOC policy had been followed, Ms Flemming would have been suspended from competition and from the AIS for two years. As was noted in the Interim Report (Interim Report, p.363), the former Chief Executive of the AIS, Ron Harvey, advised the Committee that an athlete involved in an attempt to corrupt a drug test should be sacked.

There is still no mention here of Laurie Plant. The attitude to the incident is very one sided. The Australian Sport Commission's attitude is a little more enlightened. I do not believe that the commission is saying that the corruption of drug tests or the taking of drugs is to be condoned, but it has some regard for the fact that a young athlete was overseas for the first time and was influenced by a team official to do the deed. The committee's reaction is a gross overreaction to the situation. The members of that committee are to be condemned for their blinkered, narrow minded, self-righteous and overzealous attitudes.

I now refer to the procedures which have been set in train to produce a new Local Government Act. If members have seen the Local Government Act 1960 they will know that it is in real need of review and renovation. The former and present Ministers for Local Government are to be commended for establishing this process. It never ceases to amaze me that as soon as a discussion paper is released various groups in the community start

screaming like banshees that they do not agree with the proposals. To redraft the Local Government Act will be a monumental job. The permanent head of the Department of Local Government, Mike Wood, and the former and present Ministers deserve to be commended for the progress being made to ensure that all parties have a chance to have input in the redrafting of the Act. It is rather grating that people always tend to criticise the release of a discussion paper, even though it is only a discussion paper and not Government policy. These papers give people an opportunity to comment. It is only when all the comments are received that the drafting takes place. If the Government produced a Bill without talking to anyone, it would be criticised as well - it is damned if it does and damned if it does not. Perhaps people are not used to the consultative process of drafting legislation. In many areas of Government we must recognise that all wisdom does not reside in this Parliament. I am sure that it does not, which can be argued on the small number of people in Parliament. We must receive all the input we can from the community before legislating in this and many other areas.

The question of compulsory voting arises when discussing the Local Government Act redraft. Compulsory voting is probably inevitable if we are to have real participation in the local government arena. The discussion paper suggests that elections should be held every two years with half of the council retiring at each election. The only worry I have about that is that the community may suffer from election fatigue if people are dragged out every two years to vote in local council elections as well as the compulsory Federal and State parliamentary elections.

Hon Graham Edwards: We could have a State election every two years if things get out of sync as members opposite are suggesting.

Hon GARRY KELLY: That is true.

Several members interjected.

Hon GARRY KELLY: One cause of the poor turnout at local government elections is that only one-third of the councillors retire each year; that is, they retire in dribs and drabs. Ratepayers may agree with the platform of Joe Bloggs, but very little interest in the election is shown because they know nothing will change because two-thirds of the council remains unchanged. As a compromise to encourage greater ratepayer participation in local government elections I suggest that an election be held every three or four years instead of every year.

Hon Barry House: We will have flavour of the month councils.

Hon GARRY KELLY: At least the ratepayers will know for what the candidates stand and we may do away with the usual five per cent or six per cent poll.

Hon Reg Davies: Do you have ratepayers coming to you complaining about the frequency of elections?

Hon GARRY KELLY: I am not saying they complain. Most people think local government is a big yawn and do not give a damn about it. Apathy towards local government is a problem and it must be overcome. One way to overcome this problem without introducing compulsory voting is for the whole council to be re-elected every three or four years. The team with the most acceptable platform will have the opportunity to implement its program during its term in office.

I have spoken about some peripheral issues and now I will refer to a very important subject; that is, football. I am a supporter of the Bulldogs.

Hon Graham Edwards: Tell us how the Bulldogs got on when they played Perth.

Hon GARRY KELLY: They did not do very well and I congratulate Perth on a good performance. The local competition has gone downhill since the advent of the Eagles.

Hon Graham Edwards: It is on its way back.

Hon GARRY KELLY: I disagree with the Minister. The so-called Australian Football League, which as far as I am concerned is still the Victorian Football League, has devastated the local competition. Last weekend there were more spectators at the Eagles' game than the combined attendance at the Western Australian State Football League competition games. Members may say that the Eagles are more popular and that is the reason there were more

people in attendance at its game. To follow that logic through if the support for the local competition is so low that one Eagles' game attracts more spectators than the combined local games, not only is the local league doomed, but also the Eagles are doomed. Where on earth will the Eagles recruit its players from if we do not have a strong elite league competition in this State?

Hon Graham Edwards: The weather was bleak on Saturday.

Hon GARRY KELLY: Yes, it was, but I am not blaming the weather. Since the advent of the Eagles the AFL has been a one way street as far as funds and players are concerned. With the indulgence of the House I will refer to figures to illustrate the devastation which has occurred to the local competition. Swan Districts Football Club is not a very good team, mainly because it is not South Fremantle. In 1981 the Swan Districts Football Club received transfer fees totalling \$83 000; in 1986 the total was \$103 000 and in 1989 it received \$55 000. I seek leave of the House to incorporate a schedule of figures showing the transfer fees received by the Swan Districts Football Club from 1981 to 1989 and the attendance figures at Western Australian State Football League games between 1981 to 1987.

[The material in appendix B was incorporated by leave of the House.]

[See page No 1583.]

Hon GARRY KELLY: Opposition members have been buzzing around this Parliament calling for an inquiry; on this vitally important issue of the future of Australian football there should be some sort of inquiry into the debt burden, administration and future planning of Australian football. The Brisbane Bears are broke and the Sydney Swans are not much better off. I also include the Eagles in that category. The so-called Australian Football League competition is supposed to be the saviour of Australian football. The league was established to receive revenue from television. Members need only ask Alan Bond and the owners of the other commercial television networks how much they will pay for Australian television rights. Are they in a position to pay for the rights? The bottom has dropped out of the television business and the golden goose that was supposedly going to supply this money to football is in a state of decline and we need an in-depth inquiry to allow those people who have put Australian football on the skids an opportunity to justify what they have done and to suggest ways to remedy the situation. I have much pleasure in supporting the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Derrick Tomlinson.

House adjourned at 5.58 pm

COMMENCEMENTS FOR JANUARY

	1987	1988	1989	1990*
METAL	431	462	683	571
ELECTRICAL	140	149	255	199
BUILDING	136	138	212	162
PRINTING	22	13	18	15
VEHICLE BUILDING	60	65	77	41
FOOD	76	88	88	57
OTHER	218	221	253	169
TOTAL	1 083	1 136	1 586	1 214

* Note that the commencements for January 1990 will continue to increase, though it is unlikely that this increase will be significant.

APPENDIX B

B) Transfer Fees

1981	\$83 000	
1982	\$245 000	
1983	\$357 000	
1984	\$329 000	
1985	\$227 000	
1986	\$103 000	
1987	\$136 000	
1988	\$128 000	
1989	\$55 000	(A lower figure than 1981 and certain to be even lower)

C) Attendances

	Ordinary	State	
1981	865 193	45 971	
1982	828 921	45 357	
1983	824 976	65 193	
1984	761 318	59 862	
1985	752 097	64 228	
1986	732 239	39 863	(1 game only)
1987	386 836	28 670	

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

POLICE - CIB POLICE OFFICERS

50. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

- (1) What percentage of the Police Force is -
 - (a) attached to the CIB;
 - (b) working in CIB duties?
- (2) How many police officers were attached to the CIB as at 30 June 1980 to 30 June 1989 and 30 March 1990?
- (3) What is the percentage of increase in the CIB work load in each of the past five years?
- (4) Given that the CIB traditionally comprised approximately 11.5 per cent of the number of police officers in the Western Australia Police Force and given the increase in crime over recent years, why has the ratio of CIB to uniform police officers not been maintained?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) (a)-(b)
The Commissioner of Police has advised me that 11.7 per cent of the Police Force are attached to the CIB and 100 per cent of this 11.7 per cent are working in CIB duties.
- (2)

30 June 1980	294
30 June 1981	299
30 June 1982	299
30 June 1983	299
30 June 1984	327
30 June 1985	327
30 June 1986	362
30 June 1987	374
30 June 1988	384
30 June 1989	441
30 March 1990	463
- (3) The actual workload of the CIB cannot be accurately determined by any simple measure. It is therefore not possible to accurately identify percentage changes.
- (4) The member's assumption is incorrect. The ratio of CIB to uniformed officers has been increased and now exceeds 11.5 per cent. However, there is nothing prescriptive about any ratio and in assessing the relative workload of the CIB, regard should be had to the increased availability of forensic services and technology, much of which impacts more favourably on inquiry officers and enables them to increase productivity.

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE - GOVERNMENT FUNDING

136. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is there an agreement between the State and Federal Governments under which funding for the State Emergency Service is to be provided?
- (2) If so, will the Minister provide a copy?
- (3) What has been the level of Commonwealth funding to the SES in each of the financial years since any such agreement was signed?
- (4) What has been the level of State Government funding in the same period?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) There is an arrangement, but no formal agreement, between the State and Federal Governments under which funding for the State Emergency Service is provided.

(2) As no formal agreement exists a copy cannot be provided.

(3)-(4)

Answered by (1).

ASSET MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE - OLD TREASURY BUILDING
Sale

142. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Leader of the House representing the Deputy Premier:

(1) Is the old Treasury building in St George's Terrace being considered for sale by the Asset Management Task Force?

(2) In view of the stated objective in this year's Budget for the Asset Management Task Force to raise \$55 million by selling Government assets, and the fact that it appears that nowhere near this amount has so far been raised, what Government assets are earmarked for sale in the remaining months of this financial year?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

(1) No, the Old Treasury building is not being considered for sale by the Asset Management Task Force. The Government has outlined on a number of occasions that the Old Treasury building would never be sold by this Government. These buildings are just too valuable and of major historical significance to Western Australia.

The Asset Management Taskforce is, in the course of its examination of all State owned property assets, analysing the best future use of these buildings. However, outright sale is, and always has been, out of the question.

(2) The AMT has, to date, completed 82 projects, of which it has sold or has under contract of sale 76 properties valued at \$28.7 million. A complete list of the property assets disposed of through the AMT program in 1989/90 will be provided when the 1989/90 State Budget results are tabled in Parliament.

Major properties currently on the market under the AMT program include -

Railway Institute building, Wellington Street, Perth;
Aston Clinic building, West Perth;
surplus Fremantle Hospital property;
772 Hay Street, Perth;
Earlsferry Hostel, Guildford;
Canning location 2434, Bullcreek; and
the old Cortesloe Police Station.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN EXIM CORPORATION - MARINE INDUSTRIES LTD
Joint Venture

191. Hon W.N. STRETCH to the Leader of the House representing the Deputy Premier:

With regard to Exim's joint venture with Marine Industries Ltd announced by Press release dated 27 April 1988 -

(1) What is the current financial status of Exim's investment?

(2) Have any of the properties controlled or owned by the joint venturers in WA been -

(a) sold, and at what price;

(b) advertised for sale, and at what price;

(c) under what option, and at what price;

and who are the purchasers or potential purchasers?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

(1) Answered by reply to part (1) of question 190.

(2) (a) Property known as King Trout Farm, including improvements volume 14687 folio 579 for \$480 000. Property known as Two Lakes, volume 1786 folio 411 for \$115 000.

(b) Yes. All remaining properties except two adjacent properties at Treenbrook, subject to existing lease agreements, have been advertised for sale on separate titles. List prices have not been advertised and are subject to negotiation.

(c) Answered by (b).

The purchaser of the King Trout and Two Lakes properties is Martinick Holdings Pty Ltd.

ANCHORAGE PROJECT - GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS

197. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Leader of the House representing the Deputy Premier:

(1) Does the Government intend to proceed with the Anchorage development at Fremantle?

(2) If not, why not?

(3) If so, when?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

(1) The Government Employees Superannuation Board, not the Government, is responsible for the Anchorage project.

(2)-(3)

The board is still in the process of consolidating the land holdings within the site. When consolidation is completed a decision will be made on the manner and timing of the land use.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION - DIRECTORS

199. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Leader of the House representing the Deputy Premier:

Who are the current members of the board of directors of the State Government Insurance Commission and when do their respective appointments expire?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The current members of the board of commissioners of the State Government Insurance Commission and their respective terms of appointment are -

Mr W. Rees Chairman

3 years 1 January 1990 - 31 December 1992

Mr F.A. Saville Deputy Chairman

3 years 1 January 1990 - 31 December 1992

Mr R.G. Bowe Commissioner
to 30 June 1991

Mr R.F. Boylen Commissioner
to 31 December 1990

Mr W. Martin Commissioner
to 30 June 1991

Mr M. Lewi Commissioner
to 19 September 1992

Mr F.P. Michell Commissioner-Managing Director
to 31 December 1991

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE CORPORATION - DIRECTORS

200. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Leader of the House representing the Deputy Premier:

Who are the current members of the board of directors of the State Government Insurance Corporation and when do their respective appointments expire?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

Mr F.P. Michell to 31 December 1991	Chairman
Mr W. Rees to 31 December 1992	Deputy Chairman
Mr F.A. Saville to 31 December 1991	Director
Mr W. Martin to 30 June 1991	Director
Mr R.F. Boylen to 31 December 1990	Director

STAMP DUTY - SMALL BUSINESS
Lease Guarantees - Stamp Act Change

205. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Leader of the House representing the Deputy Premier:

- (1) Has the State Taxation Department reinterpreted section 19(a) of the Stamp Act to now assess a guarantee given by third party as a separate and distinct matter for the purpose of imposing additional duty, and if so, when will the Minister explain the reasons for this change in interpretation?
- (2) How much additional revenue is likely to be raised as a result of this change in the interpretation of the Stamp Act?
- (3) Is the Minister aware that this change in interpretation is likely to impact adversely against small businesses in Western Australia and is a contradiction in earlier Government media statements which have previously indicated support for small business in this State?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

(1)-(3)

I am advised that, although the State Taxation Department is considering the legal position, the new assessment procedures to which this question refers have not been implemented.

FISHING - BAIT FISHERMEN
Officer Oversight Locations

206. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Fisheries:

Further to question 47 of 1990:

Will the Minister advise which locations the incidents occurred and what he means by "which merit particular oversight"?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Fisheries has provided the following reply -

At Bremer Bay the Fisheries Department has been involved in developing an understanding between the salmon fishermen operating at Fisheries Beach and John Cove and the company processing pilchard in relation to the movement of pilchard boats during the salmon season. This has involved a degree of oversight by departmental officers.

TOURISM - KUNUNURRA VISITORS CENTRE
Transport Problems

207. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Kununurra Visitors Centre contacted the Department of Transport to advise of the problems currently being experienced in transferring passengers from the Kununurra Airport to the Kununurra townsite and if yes, will the Minister advise of what action has been taken to improve this situation?

- (2) Did the visitors centre also raise the question of the issue of taxi licences which are not being utilised by the licensed holders which is having a detrimental effect on the local Kununurra tourism industry?
- (3) If so, what investigations have been completed to date on this matter?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) Yes. Discussions have been held with the Kununurra Visitors Centre and the Kununurra taxi operators. The taxi licence that was not being used has been surrendered and the other operators have been directed to take steps to ensure taxi services at the airport improve. The department has also let it be known that it will consider issuing additional licences to applicants prepared to service the airport.

In addition, arrangements have been made to ensure the airport shuttle bus service meets every incoming flight.

- (2) Yes.
- (3) Answered by (1) above.

ROADS - KWINANA FREEWAY *South Street-Thomas Road Extension Timetable*

215. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the timetable supplied to me in 1989 in Parliament in respect of the extension of the Kwinana Freeway from South Street to Thomas Road in Kwinana and ask:

- (1) Has this timetable now been abandoned?
- (2) If so, for what reason?
- (3) What is the new starting and completion timetable?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

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

FISHING - WHITE BAIT *Minimum Size Regulations*

220. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) Has the Cockburn Sound Professional Fishermen's Association approached the Fisheries Department to carry out a research programme into a minimum size White Bait which may be harvested to ensure that White Bait taken in commercial quantities have achieved maturity, and if so, can the Minister advise if the research to date has reached any firm conclusions?
- (2) Is it intended to introduce regulations specifying the minimum size of White Bait which may be taken and if not, why not?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Fisheries has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes. No research has been undertaken but there is some data available to indicate the size at first maturity.
- (2) No. However, the Director of Fisheries has written to professional fishermen licensed to fish in Cockburn Sound, requesting that

particular care be taken to avoid targeting small fish. The District Fisheries Officers will liaise with the fishermen on this aspect during the year.

PEEL-HARVEY ESTUARY - WATERWAYS COMMISSION REPORT
Chaetomorpha, Gracillaria Findings

221. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

Did the Waterways Commission in its report No 16 of June 1989, "Seasonal changes in the Macrophyte abundance and composition in the Peel-Harvey Estuarine System" acknowledge in that report -

- (a) that in the Harvey Estuary Macroalgal Biomass in 1986-87 was dominated by *Chaetomorpha*;
- (b) in earlier years Red Algae, principally *Gracillaria*, have dominated on occasion;
- (c) the growth rate of *Gracillaria Folliifera* has been found to exceed that of *Ulva* SP under low light conditions; and
- (d) *gracillaria* may be capable of out-competing Green Algae under the turbid conditions generally found in the Harvey Estuary?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for the Environment has provided the following reply -

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes, in the Harvey Estuary.
- (c) The reference is to a study conducted elsewhere, not to growth rates in the Peel Inlet or Harvey Estuary.
- (d) The statement is a view of the author's and may or may not be true in real life.

TRANSPORT INSPECTORS - HEAVY HAULAGE FUNCTIONS

222. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Are Transport Inspectors being empowered to carry out heavy haulage functions similar to those carried out by the heavy haulage branch of the Police Force?
- (2) If yes, what action has been taken in respect of this matter?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1)-(2) No. However, discussions are currently being held between the Main Roads Department and the Department of Transport to determine the feasibility of empowering the Department of Transport inspectors to request road train operators to produce Main Roads Department permits for road train operations whilst performing their normal inspectorial duties.

PORT AUTHORITIES - JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT
Crown Protection

223. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Transport:

Where a port authority enters into a joint venture agreement is the joint venture and the authority's interest in it protected by the shield of the Crown and if not, would the joint venture activities be subject to all Commonwealth laws and Commonwealth taxation?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

Currently the enabling Acts for the port authorities generally do not provide a clear indication or whether the authorities act as agents of the Crown and are thereby protected by the shield of the Crown.

It is the Government's intention to amend the port authority Acts to remove this uncertainty by expressly conferring Crown immunity for the ports. Under this legislation, which is still being drafted, it is intended that joint venture agreements entered into by a port authority would not enjoy Crown immunity.

MINES DEPARTMENT - LUNCHEON, SOUTH WEST RESTAURANT

November, December 1988 Trip

224. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Mines:

With reference to my earlier questions 60 and 145 of 1990 -

- (1) Did this trip take place in or around November/December 1988?
- (2) If so, who met the cost?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The Minister for Mines has provided the following reply -

I have no knowledge whatsoever of any such trip and further detailed enquiries within the Department of Mines have not been able to locate any accounts, nor any officer who has any knowledge whatsoever relating to this allegation.

STATESHIPS - "JASA COCOS" BARGE

Dimensions

225. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Transport:

Further to question No 19 of 1990 -

- (1) What are the dimensions of the barge "Jasa Cocos"?
- (2) Is the "Jasa Cocos" equipped with a crane or other lifting device?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1)

Length	28.6m.
Beam	15.5m.
Depth	2.5m.
- (2) No.

STATESHIPS - NEW SHIPS

Finance and Construction Proposals

226. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Transport:

Further to question No 20 of 1990 -

- (1) How many proposals has the Government received to finance and build ships?
- (2) Who put forward the proposals?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

(1)-(2)

A number of organisations submitted outline proposals or expressed interest in the purchase and charter of the new buildings to Stateships, including -

Danish Investment Foundation
 Intercontinental Group
 F. Laeisz Shipmanagement m b H & Co
 Capel Court Investment Bank
 Hai Sun Hup Group
 Asian American Capital Investors Pty Ltd
 Credit Suisse
 Westpac Banking Corporation.

Under Treasury guidance, detailed proposals were developed with Asian American Capital Investors and Westpac Banking Corporation for selection purposes.

WOOL - ROAD TRAINS

Review - Esperance-Perth Cartage

228. Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is a review presently being carried out on the cartage of wool and other items by road train to and from Perth?
- (2) Does this review address the question of the cartage of wool from Esperance to Perth by road train?
- (3) If so, when is the review expected to be completed?
- (4) Is the Minister aware of the economic and practical difficulties being experienced by wool growers in Esperance who are unable to rely on services to meet the wool sale dates?
- (5) Is the Minister aware that prohibiting the use of road trains is also affecting the transport of recyclable materials?
- (6) Will the Minister give urgent attention to the specific effect that is being suffered by wool growers in Esperance because of their inability to use road trains to transport wool to Perth?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

(1)-(3)

Each application is considered on its merits and is subject to review in that sense. It is proposed to specifically review the issue of the cartage of wool from Esperance to Perth by road train and the honourable member's comments relating to this issue would be welcome.

- (4) No. Growers can use either road or rail transport to move their wool.
- (5) No. A road train permit has been issued to transport scrap metal, broken glass, scrap paper and scrap plastic from Esperance to Perth.
- (6) Answered above.

WESTRAIL - TRAINS

Brake Failure

229. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Transport:

Will the Minister advise when I may expect a reply to my correspondence dated January 18 1990 concerning brake failure on Westrail trains?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

Westrail and Transperth have recently completed their investigation of the matter raised in the member's letter and I will be writing to the honourable member shortly.

ANCHORAGE PROJECT - GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS

236. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Leader of the House representing the Deputy Premier:
- (1) Is it intended to proceed with the anchorage "between the bridges" development at Fremantle?
 - (2) If not, why not?
- Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:
- (1)-(2) See answer to question 197.

PORTS AND HARBOURS - ROUS HEAD BOAT HARBOUR, FREMANTLE
Leases

238. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Transport:
- How many leases have been negotiated for space in the Rous Head boat harbour, Fremantle?
- Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:
- The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -
- To date nine leases have been negotiated which represents approximately 33 per cent of the land available for lease.

PORTS AND HARBOURS - ROUS HEAD BOAT HARBOUR, FREMANTLE
Fremantle Port Authority Payments

239. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Transport:
- Is the Fremantle Port Authority owed any money by another State agency or instrumentality as part payment for the construction of the Rous Head boat harbour?
- Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:
- The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -
- Yes.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS - POLICE LOCKUPS
April 1990

240. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:
- How many juveniles were held in police lockups on each of the following dates, April 1, 3, 5 and 7, 1990?
- Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:
- Throughout the State the following number of juveniles were held in police lockups on the dates shown -

1 April 1990	13
3 April 1990	18
5 April 1990	8
7 April 1990	10

CRESTS - STATE CREST
Maylands Electorate Letter

241. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:
- (1) Is the Premier aware that the State crest cannot be printed, published or otherwise distributed without permission as outlined in the Armorial Bearings Protection Act?
 - (2) Did the Premier apply for, and receive, permission for the use of the crest in a letter dated May 23 sent to the electors of Maylands?

- (3) If no, why did she not?
- (4) Does the Premier take the view that she is above the law?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The Premier has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Permission was not considered necessary as the Premier was writing to the electors of Maylands in her capacity as Premier of the State.
- (3) See answer to (2).
- (4) No.

ABORIGINES - SOUTHERN ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
Government Funding

242. Hon M.S. MONTGOMERY to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

Further to Question 12 of May 3 1990 -

- (1) Does the Southern Aboriginal Corporation receive any funding from the State other than through the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority?
- (2) If "yes", what amount of funding is received and through what State Government agencies is it given?
- (3) For what specific purposes are the funds granted?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes.
- (2)-(3) Complete details of the purposes, amounts and sources of State Government funding to Southern Aboriginal Corporation will take some time to compile and I will respond to the member's query in writing.

ABORIGINES - SOUTHERN ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
Functions

243. Hon M.S. MONTGOMERY to the Minister for Planning representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

Further to Question 12 of May 3 1990 -

- (1) Does the Minister know what the functions of the Southern Aboriginal Corporation are?
- (2) If "no", how does the Minister ensure that there is no duplication of functions and/or services between the Southern Aboriginal Corporation and the various State-funded Aboriginal welfare programmes?
- (3) If "yes", what are those functions?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The major functions of the Corporation are to provide support and resources to Aboriginal groups in the South-West region of the State. The Southern Aboriginal Corporation also manages housing in the South-West, funds for this function are provided by the Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander Commission to supplement the housing stock normally available through Homeswest.

ROADS - TOM PRICE, PARABURDOO-HEDLAND-NEWMAN HIGHWAY
Sealed Road Link Route

298. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does the Government have a preferred route for a proposed sealed road linking Tom Price/Paraburdoo with the Hedland-Newman Highway?
- (2) If so,
 - (a) what is this route;
 - (b) why is it the preferred route;
 - (c) when is work expected to commence on the construction of the road?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

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

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION - FLEURIS PTY LTD
Port Kennedy Management Pty Ltd

175. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Has the Minister signed a document giving effect to any agreement between the Government and a joint venture consisting of the WADC and a company called Fleuris Pty Ltd, or Fleuris alone, or a company called Port Kennedy Management Pty Ltd?
- (2) If so, can the Minister give an indication of when the document was signed?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2)

If the member puts that question on notice he will be provided with the information he seeks.

BURSWOOD CASINO - OWNERSHIP
Police Report Tabling

176. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

I refer to a statement made yesterday by the Minister for Racing and Gaming in relation to the ownership of the Burswood Casino.

- (1) Will the Minister table the police report into the Victoria Co referred to in the ministerial statement of the Minister for Racing and Gaming?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(2)

I am happy to consider that matter and will do so by next week.

QUESTIONS - UNANSWERED
No 190

177. Hon W.N. STRETCH to the Deputy Leader of the House:

By way of preamble I gather that the Deputy Leader of the House thought I was being a little flippant about questions yesterday. However I draw her attention to question No 191. The reply to part (1) of my question was that it had been answered by the reply to part (1) of question No 190. Question

No 190 has not yet been answered because it is on the list of postponed questions. Will the Deputy Leader of the House follow up this matter and use it as a current example of where things are going slightly wrong with the system?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I will add that example to the examples provided by Hon Bill Stretch yesterday. I am sure people will be much more accurate in the numbers they attach to questions in the future.

DRUNKENNESS - DECRIMINALISATION

Detoxification Units

178. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

The Minister will recall that during the debate on the Acts Amendment (Detention of Drunken Persons) Bill last year undertakings were given in this House in respect of the construction by the Government of a number of detoxification units.

- (1) Can the Minister advise whether any of these detoxification units have been built?
- (2) If so, where?
- (3) Can the Minister advise the House on the success or otherwise to date of the decriminalisation of drunkenness?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(3)

I think that question requires a detailed answer, particularly the latter part of the question. I invite the member to put the question on notice and I will provide a full reply.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS - WILDERNESS CAMPS

179. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

In recent times the Minister has been quoted as supporting the idea of a wilderness camp, one of which is currently located about 200 kilometres from Darwin.

- (1) Could the Minister advise on the current status of such camps in Western Australia?
- (2) Has the Government decided on the location of the camps for juveniles to which the Minister earlier referred?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(2)

This matter was put to Cabinet recently following consideration given to the situation relating to juvenile crime. Cabinet has endorsed the matter in principle and has directed that it be referred to a panel, which Cabinet has decided to establish and which will give advice on matters relating to juvenile crime. That panel will be chaired by Justice Walsh and will include such people as community representatives and the Commissioner of Police. I might say I strongly favour this concept. I looked at this concept in the Northern Territory and in my view it could be used to some benefit in this State. Obviously much work needs to be done on the matter and I fear I will have a lot of work to do to convince some people in the community that it is a worthwhile concept. However I will certainly try to do that.

POLICE STATIONS - ONE MAN POLICE STATIONS, COUNTRY AREAS

Withdrawal Consideration

180. Hon J.N. CALDWELL to the Minister for Police:

Has further consideration been given to the withdrawal of one man police stations in country areas?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

I am assured by the Commissioner of Police that no consideration has been given to the withdrawal of one man police stations.

POLICE - HELICOPTER

Co-piloting

181. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the recent launch of the police helicopter, which, as the Minister is aware, the Opposition supports. Can the Minister advise whether the police intend to institute a program to allow co-piloting of current police officers to enable them to be trained in flying alongside the contract pilots currently Government employed to fly that helicopter?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

That matter has previously been discussed. To ascertain exactly what the current situation is I would need to get some up to date advice. If the member puts that question on notice, I will advise him of the current position.

LAND - MT LESUEUR

Horse Breeding Reserve

182. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Lands:

Does the Minister propose to make any changes to land status in the vicinity of the proposed Mt Lesueur power station and coalmine? I refer specifically to an area known as the horse breeding reserve.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I cannot recall such a matter coming across my desk. If the member puts the question on notice, I will have the matter researched.

QUESTIONS - UNANSWERED

No 188 Police King Air Aircraft

183. Hon W.N. STRETCH to the Minister for Police:

- (1) When can I expect to have question No 188 answered? That question deals with the use by the Police Department of the King Air aircraft leased by the Government.
- (2) With the advent of the new police helicopter, will police no longer make tactical use of the King Air aircraft, if they have in fact already done so?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) I apologise for the delay in answering this question. However I was not sure whether some of the information provided was accurate and I was getting it checked. However, I will have that question answered by Tuesday.
- (2) My understanding is that the answer is no. I will not discount the use of the King Air in times of emergency or urgency.

POLICE STATIONS - LOCKRIDGE POLICE STATION

Four Fewer Officers

184. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Minister for Police:

Does the Lockridge Police Station currently have four police officers fewer than its establishment?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

That question will have to be put on notice.

FIRE STATIONS - ROCKINGHAM

Permanent Station

185. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of serious misgivings expressed by a number of citizens

in the Rockingham area about a volunteer fire brigade and their concern that the Government has not yet established a permanent fire station in the area?

- (2) Can the Minister give some indication whether a permanent fire station will be constructed in the Rockingham area?
- (3) Can the Minister advise the House on the current status of KIEMS?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) Requests for a fire station to be built in the Rockingham area have been made for a number of years. My office has been involved in discussions with local authorities and other interest groups on this matter.

- (2)-(3) The member would be aware that KIEMS is currently at a planning stage. I am endorsed by Cabinet to make a statement to introduce the planning stage, stage 2 of the KIEMS project, to take place in about 12 months. During this planning stage the matter of a fire station in the Rockingham area will be further addressed.

KIEMS - ACRONYM MEANING

186. Hon FRED McKENZIE to the Minister for Police:

What does the acronym KIEMS mean?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

Kwinana Integrated Emergency Management System. It is to ensure that an integrated and coordinated emergency plan is established in the Kwinana area.

KWINANA INTEGRATED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM - STAGE 2

187. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

I have a supplementary question. Is it not a fact that stage 2 of the KIEMS plan has not been proceeded with? Is this due to the Government's not funding the plan as it had promised?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The member's assumption is wrong. Stage 2 of KIEMS was not due to be completed until 1991. However, due to the action I have recently taken stage 2 will be brought forward by some 12 months. This is an indication of the importance I have placed on the management system.
