

Legislative Council

Tuesday, 15 September 1992

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 3.30 pm, and read prayers.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS AND STATUTES REVISION

*Western Women Financial Services Pty Ltd and Government Agencies
Inquiry - Interim Report Tabling*

HON R.G. PIKE (North Metropolitan) [3.50 pm]: On 10 September 1992 I presented the interim report of the Standing Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Statutes Revision on its inquiry into links between Government agencies and the failed Western Women Group, and in accordance with Standing Order No 366 I now table the report. I move -

That the report do lie upon the Table and be printed.

Question put and passed.

[See paper No 391.]

MOTION - ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE WRIT OF SUMMONS

Documents to be Tabled to Ascertain Need for Inquiry

Debate resumed from 3 September.

HON GEORGE CASH (North Metropolitan - Leader of the Opposition) [3.51 pm]: The motion requires the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia to table certain documents. Some debate ensued on this motion on Thursday, 3 September. Regrettably, debate was cut off about one hour after it commenced when the Attorney General and I argued whether the Attorney General had given a commitment to me and Hon Eric Charlton that the matter would be dealt with to its conclusion that day. I trust that in due course Hon Eric Charlton will advise the House of his understanding of the position and confirm my view that an understanding existed between the Attorney General and us and that that understanding was not carried through.

In the days between the last sitting of the Legislative Council, on 3 September, and today we have witnessed a flurry of activity concerning this motion. I have received letters, including one from the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. I have read newspaper reports of the conflict between the State Government and the Federal Government over their views on this motion. I have received a number of letters from the Aboriginal Legal Service, and from private individuals urging the Liberal Party to continue its support for this matter. I have read in the Press that the Liberal Party and the National Party, as a coalition team in this State, have been accused of Aborigine bashing and all sorts of other strange insinuations. In offering continued support for the motion I must comment on the correspondence I have received, as well as on the allegations of Aborigine bashing as a consequence of our support.

Some weeks ago when it was first brought to the attention of this House that the Aboriginal Legal Service had served a writ against the State of Western Australia, as first defendant, and Laurance Marquet, the Clerk of the Legislative Council, as second defendant, the Attorney General said in his ministerial statement on that action -

In its statement of claim, the ALS is arguing that because it receives most of its funding from the Commonwealth through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, a House of the Western Australian Parliament does not have the power to order the provision of information on its operations. That view calls into question the traditional understanding of the powers of this Parliament. If it was accepted, it could lead to a significant erosion of the State's constitutional powers. For this reason, the State Government will oppose this court action by the Aboriginal Legal Service.

Later, a Select Committee of Privilege of this House was formed to consider, firstly, the manner in which Mr Marquet should be defended in this action and, secondly, the question

of whether a contempt of the Parliament had occurred as a result of the writ issued by the ALS on Mr Marquet. The Select Committee has reported to the House. One recommendation was that it should continue in existence so that it could continue to monitor the progress in this matter.

I have raised the Attorney General's statement because it indicates that a conflict exists between the Federal Government and the State Government. I refer here to a statement made by the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Robert Tickner, that he intends to back the ALS in this matter - and no doubt provide the necessary funds to see that the matter is taken to court and fought out. On the State scene, we have the conflicting situation where the Labor Attorney General, Mr Berinson, has stated he is not prepared to support the Aboriginal Legal Service in this action, and that the Government will oppose the action. Apart from that conflict, we have also from Mr Tickner a letter containing a strange array of matters which he wanted drawn to the attention of this House. I do not know whether it was the intention of Robert Tickner to attempt to encourage members to take some other course of action.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Far too much audible conversation continues to occur in this place day by day. It is out of order and it must cease. If members do not want to listen to the speaker, they have a very good remedy. If they want to stay in the Chamber they must listen whether they like it or not.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I am rather confused by the letter I received from the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs because I do not know what he was attempting to do by sending such a letter to each member of the Legislative Council. I am further confused because he appears to be confused about this motion. He does not appear to understand what this Parliament is calling for. The manner in which he has written the letter seems to indicate some ulterior motive about our request for the production of documents. I do not understand a number of matters he raises in his letter.

Hon Tom Helm: I will explain.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I hope you will.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Hon Tom Helm knows that I have just said that I do not want continual conversations going on during debate. The member will have his opportunity to speak as soon as the Leader of the Opposition concludes his comments. I suggest that the member wait until then.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Hon Tom Helm may think that he can explain what Mr Tickner means by the various phrases in his letter. I hope that, after explaining to me what he thinks Mr Tickner means, he takes the opportunity of contacting Mr Tickner because clearly Mr Tickner needs some advice on the motion before the House. Mr Tickner is in a confused state of mind and he has done nothing to assist members by circulating this letter to them. If anything, he does no less than inflame the situation and make it worse than he would allege is the situation in his letter.

I now refer to the correspondence I have received from the Aboriginal Legal Service. I was sent a copy of a letter addressed to Mr L.B. Marquet, Clerk of the Legislative Council, dated 30 July 1992. It is important that part of the letter be recorded in *Hansard*. This letter contains an attempt by the Aboriginal Legal Service to at least mitigate the circumstances surrounding its actions to the original order which was served on that body. Due to the limited time available to me I can only relate to the letter in part and I will attempt not to take it out of context. Should other members want a copy of the letter, I am more than happy to provide it to them. The second paragraph of the letter, which was written by Rob Riley the executive officer of the ALS, states -

I should say at outset that both the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc) ("the ALS") and I fully appreciate the very serious and important nature of the motion passed by the Council and would not wish in any to do anything which might either infringe the privileges of Parliament or constitute a contempt of Parliament.

The letter then goes on to talk about resolutions passed by the ALS on matters relating to the order of the Legislative Council. The letter explains that the executive council of the ALS reconsidered its position and in part that the committee's reaction was not to produce the documents pending resolution of these issues and concerns. That relates to a confusion that

occurred within the ALS about what was required. The letter further stated that when the committee subsequently received the Legislative Council's letter and had the opportunity to take further advice and to give due consideration to the matter generally, it clarified its position by rescinding the previous resolution and adopting others in its stead. The letter then stated the various resolutions, one of which is important to this House - that is, the committee take further advice on the meaning and effect of the motion passed by the Legislative Council on 2 June 1992 requiring production of certain specified documents. The committee, having had an opportunity to reflect upon that advice and upon the motion of the Legislative Council, had concluded that its initial view, as reflected in the resolution passed at its meetings on 15 and 16 June 1992, was an inappropriate response to the exceptional situation confronting it, so it rescinded those resolutions. Part two of the resolution states that the committee recognises the Constitutional authority of the Parliament of Western Australia and records its intentions to comply with its lawful order properly requiring the production of documents. The letter then goes on to bring to the attention of the Legislative Council various other matters, one of which is its willingness to provide the documents insofar as they relate to programs or services funded by or through the State. I do not intend to read any more of the letter, only to say that the inflamed situation that appears to exist now concerning the motion of the Parliament seems to have been fanned in part by confused comment from the Eastern States. In particular, I am referring to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr Tickner, but more than that, some confusion that existed in the Aboriginal Legal Service in Western Australia. It would appear from that letter that the Aboriginal Legal Service is now saying that it wants to get on with the job and produce certain documentation. I have read some comment in the newspapers that the Opposition - I assume they mean both the Liberal and National Parties in Western Australia - is only Aboriginal-bashing. I want to put on record the Federal coalition's policy in respect to Aboriginal affairs as they relate to the Aboriginal Legal Service. That will cut some of the ground out from under some of our State Labor colleagues who seem intent on wanting to claim that the Opposition is Aboriginal-bashing with this motion. Part of the Fightback document on Aboriginal affairs states -

... the WA Parliament has the power to make this request;

The Coalition will continue to support Aboriginal Legal Services because they have a successful track record in providing legal services to Aboriginal people.

Hon Tom Stephens: Does the State Liberal Party endorse the Federal party's platform?

Hon GEORGE CASH: Fightback! Western Australia endorses the Federal platform. If it is that Hon Tom Stephens is reading -

Hon Tom Stephens: I am asking a question.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The answer is yes. While many of our members have questioned the efficiency and effectiveness of the Aboriginal Legal Service in this State the Opposition has always said that it supported the Federal coalition's position, which indicates continued support for the ALS.

Hon T.G. Butler: Did your State conference do that?

Hon GEORGE CASH: I do not know what the last State conference of our party did.

Hon Tom Stephens: It brought back the gallows.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I was there at all times, but I cannot remember specifically any motion; however, the position of the Federal coalition is as I have just stated. I hope that members opposite are not still confused.

Hon T.G. Butler: I am not confused; I fancy you are.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The Fightback document states that Aboriginal Legal Services have received very strong support in their role in the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and increased funding as a result of the commission's recommendations, to which the Federal coalition has given in principle support. The Fightback document also states - I hope that State Labor members will take up this opportunity to read the coalition Green Paper in respect of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission - that under the coalition Green Paper titled "ATSIC, the Way Forward", organisations such as the Western Australian Aboriginal Legal Service would be required to have its financial affairs subject to

scrutiny and its administrative costs transparent. The Opposition supports the ALS, but it also supports the principle of accountability.

Hon Fred McKenzie: That is what happens now; that is nothing new. ATSIC allocates the funding - remember that.

Hon GEORGE CASH: That is where Hon Fred McKenzie and I will separate. While the Federal coalition and members of the party support the policy of the party, I am not sure that the accountability that I believe is appropriate is occurring with ATSIC. But that is another question that can be partly answered by this motion being agreed to by this House. If all members agreed with the principle of accountability the motion would be supported. The interesting thing is that one of the members of the Aboriginal Legal Service who was practising in Geraldton and from whom Hon Fred McKenzie stood in this Parliament and read a letter some months ago is one of the reasons this motion is being moved today. Like other members on this side of the House I have a lot of questions that should be asked about that person. It is true that in the meantime and, no doubt as a result of the fact that Hon Eric Charlton moved this motion, the lawyer Mr Terry Malone has been moved on.

Hon Fred McKenzie: Nothing in the motion has anything to do with Geraldton.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The documents that are required to be tabled will, I assure Hon Fred McKenzie, impact on the ALS and its activities in Geraldton. Mr Terry Malone, a problem solicitor for both the ALS and the Aboriginal community in the Geraldton area has since been moved on. As one Aboriginal person said to me, "The ALS paid him out. They told him to shut his mouth and say nothing because they didn't want him to expose what was obviously going on in the Geraldton area." It is relevant to this motion that that solicitor, while acting on behalf of the ALS in Geraldton, saw that a complaint was lodged against Mr Kevin Minson, the member for Greenough, claiming that he was inciting racial hatred in Geraldton because of some comment that he made in the local newspapers. Mr Minson was doing no more than stating Liberal Party policy; that is, that the Liberal Party believes there is a need for detention centres to be built in certain areas of this State. I have said in this House before that they should be built east of Port Hedland, east of Carnarvon, east of Geraldton and east of the metropolitan area so that facilities are isolated from the built-up areas, and that we should detain in such centres young juveniles who have broken the law in those areas. Detention is good for those people because they need to be given the opportunity for rehabilitation rather than being incarcerated in the metropolitan area, which sometimes happens to some of our young country people.

The malicious action of Terry Malone in Geraldton is one of the reasons that the Aboriginal community in Western Australia is keen to see us succeed with this motion, because many people in the Aboriginal community believe there is a need to look at the way the ALS in this State operates. I emphasise that Federal coalition policy is one of continued support for the ALS.

Hon Fred McKenzie: As a separate body or as part of the Legal Aid Commission?

Hon GEORGE CASH: As a separate body, so that there is no misunderstanding on the Labor Party side. It will continue as a separate body which is what the Federal coalition clearly states. Funding will continue, but it will continue as a separate body. However, it will be required to be accountable. Members may recall that the Burt Commission on Accountability tabled its report in this House nearly three years ago and accountability is fundamental in that report. In fact, the content of that report was all about accountability and that is what this motion is about.

It is possible for me to go on and on explaining why this House should support this motion. However, time is against me. I wanted to make those important points so that the State Labor Party is clear about the Opposition's position on this motion. I hope that, when Hon Tom Helm responds on behalf of the Government, he will recognise the support that members on this side give to the ALS, but will recognise also that the ALS has a responsibility to account for the public funds it spends. The Western Australian Parliament has the right to require that body or any other body that operates in this State to produce documents. This is an issue that is important to this House and should be sorted out as soon as possible. The allegations of attacks on the Aboriginal Legal Service are no more than attempts to draw red herrings across the intention of the motion. As I said earlier, there has

been a flurry of activity since Mr Charlton amended his motion in this House on Thursday, 3 September. All the tricks in the book are being tried to delay this motion. However, it is important that it go through in its present form. The Opposition supports the motion.

HON TOM HELM (Mining and Pastoral) [4.14 pm]: A couple of interesting comments were made by the Leader of the Opposition. They did not have much to do with the motion, but they had a lot to do with the confusion on where the Opposition stands on the Aboriginal Legal Service. Hon Eric Charlton asks us to support a motion which states -

... for the purpose of ascertaining whether grounds exist to proceed to an inquiry relating to the funding of programs and support services for Aboriginal persons in the State,

It makes no mention of the legal services provided to Aborigines, but says "things Aboriginal". The Leader of the Opposition said that the Liberal Party supported the Aboriginal Legal Service being retained as an independent body. However, if the Leader of the Opposition reads *Hansard* he will see that the National Party leader, Hon Eric Charlton, told the House that he thought it would be a good idea if the ALS were merged with the Legal Aid Commission. It is important that all members understand what the Opposition is saying.

I will address Hon George Cash's remarks relating to the position adopted by the Federal coalition.

Hon George Cash: Don't you tell us what the coalition is doing when I have its policy in front of me. Don't you interpret our policy.

Hon TOM HELM: All I am doing is asking people to read *Hansard*. Hon George Cash has told us that the coalition believes that the ALS should be a separate entity. However, Hon Eric Charlton has told this House that the National Party in this State believes it should merge with the Legal Aid Commission. Members may recall that on 3 September, Hon George Cash spat the dummy in this Chamber. He was angry about a deal that had not been agreed -

Hon George Cash: I said at the time that I did not trust Mr Berinson.

Hon TOM HELM: He became very petulant. He said that a deal had been struck. Members on this side of the House know that we have debated this matter before. As Hon Joe Berinson said, three or four minutes from Hon Eric Charlton, a couple of minutes from Hon Joe Berinson, and the motion would have gone through on a nod. Then Hon George Cash told us - it is in *Hansard* - that other matters were raised by Hon Eric Charlton. He could not resist a second bite of the cherry and he blew it and I will tell the House how he blew it.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Get on with it then.

Hon TOM HELM: Before I do, there are a few things that the Leader of the Opposition needs to know. He referred to confusion in Mr Tickner's letter. However, what cannot be confused is its reference to accountability. On page 2, the letter states -

ATSIC insists on accountability from the organisations it funds. ATSIC is itself the subject of scrutiny by the Australian National Audit Office, the Commonwealth Public Accounts Committee, the Senate Estimates Committee, the Office of Evaluation and Audit established by Commonwealth legislation and the scrutiny of the whole Commonwealth Parliament by the process of Questions and debate in the Parliament.

Is anyone confused about that accountability or about how the ALS performs or where its funds come from?

Hon P.G. Pandal: Yes.

Hon TOM HELM: The member is still confused.

Hon P.G. Pandal: Why are Aborigines complaining to us about the ALS?

Hon TOM HELM: That is a good question, but I will go further and deal with what Hon George Cash told us about cooperation from the coalition. The last page of the letter states -

As I am sure you are aware, at the Commonwealth level there has recently been unprecedented cross-party cooperation in Aboriginal Affairs. This is not to say that

there are not different viewpoints on a range of issues. However, at the Commonwealth level we have over the past two and a half years thus far stopped mindless political point scoring at the expense of Aboriginal people and instead begun to try to find common ground between the parties and to work with Aboriginal people to address issues of disadvantage.

No confusion arises about those two paragraphs. They make it quite clear that the issue relates to the cooperation between all Houses of Parliament, State bodies and the coalition in Opposition. Hon George Cash has told us how he is at one with the Federal Opposition and how they do wonderful things together. I have a transcript of the program on 6WF this morning at 6.45 which does not confirm cooperation between the Federal Opposition and the State Opposition on this matter. The newsreader said that the Federal Opposition had questioned the behaviour of its colleagues in Western Australia in pursuing the federally funded Aboriginal Legal Service.

Hon Tom Stephens: That was Dr Wooldridge, was it not?

Hon TOM HELM: Yes. The newsreader continued that the Leader of the National Party in the State's upper House, Eric Charlton, was trying to force the Aboriginal Legal Service to table financial and administrative records and that his campaign had already been attacked by the Federal Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Mr Tickner, and that his opposite number, Michael Wooldridge, had defended the Aboriginal Legal Service.

Hon George Cash: In line with Opposition policy, so what is your problem?

Hon TOM HELM: I will continue before the Leader of the Opposition makes a fool of himself. Every time he says something he makes a bigger fool of himself! Dr Wooldridge said that he could not see what the Western Australian Opposition was trying to achieve. That suggests that people are not talking to each other, let alone acting in accord. Dr Wooldridge went on to say that before people do something like this they should have some objective in mind and that in the end this is a federally funded organisation that is not funded at all by the States. He said that some people seemed to be causing a lot of animosity in the west but he was not sure they would achieve what they had set out to achieve. Has he got that right? One must look at some of the words in the motion before us, such as doing the right thing by Aboriginal people and looking at the issues we are supposed to address in this motion - which contains God knows how many parts - to assist Aboriginal people and recognise the disadvantages they face. Hon George Cash has mentioned the need for a separate entity with particular attention to be paid to Aboriginal people in this State.

I wonder why Hon Eric Charlton never went to the Aboriginal Legal Service about the matters that concerned him. You have been a member of Parliament for longer than I, Mr President, and I do not know how you deal with matters affecting constituents. However, I suggest that if a constituent came to you with a problem you would keep it at a low level in the first instance and seek a resolution to that problem. We are being told by Hon Eric Charlton and Hon George Cash - and by way of interjection Hon Phillip Pandal - that some Aboriginal people have problems with the ALS.

Hon George Cash: Not "some" but a considerable number.

Hon TOM HELM: Good heavens, he has opened his mouth again - "a considerable number"! It does not matter how one deals with such matters as long as one starts as low as possible and then builds up. I suggest we are nowhere near that point at present. This does not fit with Hon Eric Charlton's statement that he is doing his best for Aboriginal people. He is saying that the best way of helping these people is to have a go at the Aboriginal Legal Service and other organisations by using the powers of the Parliament. I suggest that had he talked to the ALS and got answers to the questions that people have been putting to him and those answers were unparliamentary he had the ability to call for a Select Committee into the matter. In fact, I was a member of a Select Committee proposed by Hon Eric Charlton to do with funding Aboriginal organisations.

Having asked the ALS questions that had been asked of him, if Hon Eric Charlton was dissatisfied he could have sought to have a Select Committee formed to investigate the matter. He has not done that. Instead, he has moved a motion which was cobbled together hastily and which was wrong. That was followed by another motion. We therefore have two resolutions moved about the same matter. I do not know what happened to the first one. I do

not know whether the ALS is obliged to present the documents and information called for by that motion. I do not know whether the courts will have to deal with the question of the ability of this Parliament to deal with those matters. I do not know how people must operate in these circumstances.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Don't you worry about it.

Hon TOM HELM: Hon Eric Charlton sounds like his mate from Queensland.

Hon E.J. Charlton: It is a shame he was not in charge of this State, because we then might have a better economy than we have at present.

Hon TOM HELM: I listened to Hon Eric Charlton on "The 7.30 Report" where he had an interesting conversation. He mentioned the inquiry into black deaths in custody costing \$29 million and said he could have certainly solved a few of the problems of Aboriginal people with that money. I thought to myself, "Good old Eric!" I then looked at *Hansard* to ascertain what Hon Eric Charlton had done about this matter since he entered this place. I found nothing to show that he would spend 29¢ on Aboriginal people, let alone \$29 million!

Hon E.J. Charlton: I can tell you, my friend, that my involvement with Aboriginal people has been over a lot more years than yours. All you have done is get votes out of them!

Hon TOM HELM: Hon Eric Charlton told the newsreader, as he has told some constituents and other people who might believe him if they could understand him, that he could have done a lot of things with that \$29 million. Hon Eric Charlton would not spend \$29 million on Aboriginal people; all he has done is present this motion to the House, so he should get away from his sanctimonious hypocrisy!

Hon E.J. Charlton: I am looking forward to the time Hon Tom Helm brings forward something positive for Aboriginal people.

Hon TOM HELM: I am part of a Government that does that all the time. After what Hon Eric Charlton has said about the \$1.3 billion which is allocated to the Aboriginal people by the Government, of which I am proud, one must say that his asking me, "What have you ever done for Aboriginal people?" is a contradiction in terms.

Hon N.F. Moore: The money does not go to the Aboriginal people. It goes to the bureaucracy the Government has set up.

The PRESIDENT: Order! When this debate commenced I asked members to cease interjecting and carrying on private conversations across the Chamber. At least Hon Tom Helm did that when I drew his attention to the fact it was unparliamentary to proceed in such a manner. I suggest that while he is speaking other members listen to him. I recommend that he ignore interjections and address his comments to the Chair as I can assure him he will get no interjections from here.

Hon TOM HELM: I will deal with the matters put by Hon Eric Charlton when speaking to this motion on 3 September. I will deal with the issues he brought to our attention and his comments about people being advised by court officers that they should not plead guilty who then plead guilty somewhere down the track. This is a simple matter. Court officers, as the name implies, are responsible to the court. Their role is to assure the court that the defendants understand the charges against them. Court officers are not legally trained. They are workers of the ALS, but are appointed by and responsible to the court. If they have not received any legal training and advise one of their clients that it would be better to plead not guilty until the client has had an opportunity to receive legal advice, the client should do so.

[Resolved, on motion without notice by Hon J.M. Berinson (Leader of the House) that debate be continued until 5.00 pm or the conclusion of the debate, whichever was the earlier.]

Hon TOM HELM: When Hon Eric Charlton had his second bite of the cherry and added to the original motion, he stated that sometimes the court officers did not attend the court, legal aid assistance was not available to the court, and people were left without any support. If Hon Eric Charlton had asked the question he would have found, in line with his view about a consultation between the Legal Aid Commission and the Aboriginal Legal Service, that discussions are taking place to ensure that somebody will be available, no matter which hat he or she wears, to attend the court and take on those duties. Two simple assertions exist which have two simple answers. It is recognised, particularly by people in the State's north,

that the Aboriginal Legal Service has stretched its limited resources and is unable to provide the services which it would like to provide. Employees of the ALS, who attend the court and deal with counsel, work long hours which even members of this House would have trouble working. However, to cast aspersions on those people that they are inadequate, and that they cannot and will not do the job, is to cast aspersions on people who cannot defend themselves. It is a typical Charlton attack which leaves people defenceless. How can they defend themselves without the benefit of the use of this Chamber?

The assertions put forward by Hon Eric Charlton are answered quite simply and clearly. Those people are at the sharp end, on the shop floor, doing the best they can for the Aboriginal people, but all they get from Hon Eric Charlton are aspersions cast on their character and ability. It leaves a bad taste in people's mouths because it is a coward's way of doing things. Hon Eric Charlton and Hon George Cash also made the assertion that people who had been dismissed or had resigned had been told to shut up and not say a word; however, there was no mention of names. The privilege of this House was used to blacken people's names, but it will not be used to name the person who made those assertions, which are vigorously denied. In supporting the motion, Hon Eric Charlton said he would use the privilege of this House to name people, but he has not. He also told this House, and a television reporter last night, that there were entrepreneurs in the ALS. I have the transcript of an interview between Hon Eric Charlton and Peter Kennedy on ABC radio yesterday morning.

Hon Peter Foss: Do you do any work, or just listen to the radio?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon TOM HELM: If some members of the Opposition were awake at that time they would be able to listen to the radio. I cannot help it if they are asleep!

Hon Eric Charlton was asked by Peter Kennedy what he meant by entrepreneurs. He said a lot of words, but gave no firm answer. He stated that -

... the whole process seemed to be, from what Aboriginal people tell me and from the results of my comments and questions that I've asked of individual people, and I've been involved with Aboriginal people unlike most people in this state and nation, over a long period, and I respect their point of view -

Those comments could have come from a Queensland politician. He was asked a simple question, but his reply went on and on. He continued -

- when they come and make their comments to me, that when you've got taxpayers' money being handed out by a government, it always leaves the door very much open for those people who are appointed, or who are able to use the process to be in charge, that it's very difficult for anybody else to get a hold on what's going on. It's not like a private set-up obviously ...

Mr Charlton did not support his statement and say who the entrepreneurs were, how they became entrepreneurs or what they did at the ALS.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Are you so dumb that you cannot work out who the people are?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! I suggest Hon Tom Helm direct his comments to the Chair.

Hon TOM HELM: I suggest that Hon Eric Charlton takes the opportunity, which he did not on 3 September, to tell the House what he means by entrepreneur. Peter Kennedy asked the same question but did not receive a reply. Hon Eric Charlton's answer is contained in black and white in the transcript, and is easy to read, but does not say anything. I suppose it is a case of "Forgive them, for they know not what they do." Mr Charlton has completely contradicted himself on this matter. The initial motion, which was wrong, outlined what Hon Eric Charlton wanted. I suggest that most of those matters are on the public record. The Minister has told the House about the accountability of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and how its funding was arranged.

As I have said in this place before, in 1957 I joined the merchant navy. I spent 10 years of my life travelling the world, living under and experiencing first-hand various Governments - paternal, benevolent, dictatorial, and communist, to the Westminster system. The system in

Australia is the best I have ever experienced. I have always been a supporter of this Government's system and strongly believed in it.

Hon E.J. Charlton: You would not have been proud of the period from 1983 onwards.

Hon TOM HELM: I was in local government then. Members in this House have the ability to speak with impunity on behalf of the people and to deal with matters which it would be difficult to deal with through the court system. That is an advantage of this place. It is rather strange to test the authority of this House by asking for those things requested by part (g) of the motion, which states -

Salaries of all Executive Committee, management and staff for 1990, 1991 and 1992. These salaries to specify each particular staff and management position including any funding allocated by the Aboriginal Legal Service to any person for any other purpose and specific details of senior executive and any associated costs.

I suppose that if one wanted to find out the salaries of the executive staff it would not be too difficult, and it may be justifiable, because I assume they are paid high salaries to do a good job and therefore they have some accountability. However, I cannot understand why Hon Eric Charlton needs to know the salary of a typist, for instance, or someone who does the cleaning, or the tea lady. However, let us suppose that he is upset and does want to know what those salaries are. Is it wise for him to use the Parliament to find out? Is it wise for him to use the whole of this Chamber and to test in the Supreme Court the sorts of things that we, as members of Parliament, have the right to do? Is it wise to have the other arm of our democracy decide the guidelines for this kind of thing, particularly when other avenues are open?

It is probable that no one takes much notice of Hon Eric Charlton because sometimes he says some crazy things; I do not think he means half of what he says, and I do not know who his script writer is. Apart from that, he is not a bad fellow.

Hon Reg Davies: Is this the professor speaking?

Hon TOM HELM: That interjection is up to Hon Reg Davies' usual standard. He must deal with matters similar to this one every day of the year because of his status as an Independent. People who do not want to become involved with political parties will go to an Independent member of Parliament and ask him to find out various things, and he must do it the hard way. He has no party or Government machine, and I am sure he would start at the beginning.

Hon Reg Davies: I do have a research assistant now.

Hon TOM HELM: Does Hon Reg Davies start at the bottom and work up or does he hit the top right away? Does he start at the bottom? The member nodded his head. The sensible people on this side of the House do the same - they do not use the Parliament as a political football or as a sledgehammer, as it were, to crack a nut. There are other ways of handling this matter, and if this House were to support the motion it would be acting as irresponsibly as Hon Eric Charlton suggests it should.

Hon Eric Charlton says that this motion contains questions he wants answered, but I suggest his motives are far from those he has put forward, because if his motives were right he would take the course I have suggested and would not find himself in conflict with his Federal coalition counterpart. Hon Eric Charlton should not do the dirty work for the Liberal Party, he should let its members do that for themselves. Perhaps that is what is at issue - perhaps the Federal Opposition thinks the National Party should do the dirty work.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: It is called the coalition in Opposition.

Hon TOM HELM: It is not. Why do they need a coalition when someone like Hon Eric Charlton will do the dirty work for them? I have here a transcript of the Radio 6WF news read at five o'clock this morning, in which the newsreader said -

The State Opposition says the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Robert Tickner, should support an investigation into the activities of the Aboriginal Legal Service.

Mr Tickner has appealed to members of the Legislative Council to reject a request that the service table details of its spending.

However, the Opposition leader, Richard Court, says Mr Tickner is overly sensitive to criticism of the service.

Mr Court then said -

There have been some concerns expressed, and I would have thought that he would want that service to be co-operative with those people that are determined to find out some more details about their operations.

That would appear to be quite an innocuous statement, except that the Liberal Party has made no attempt to talk to the Aboriginal Legal Service either.

I have demonstrated why this debate has taken longer than we originally thought it would. There was no reason for Hon George Cash to be his petulant self. I should probably thank Hon Eric Charlton, because there are more reasons in his second bite at the cherry on this motion than in his first for us to reject the motion. I urge the House to reject the motion because it should never have been moved. If the House is interested in finding out that information we could do it in other ways and we should not use, or abuse, the power of this Parliament.

HON E.J. CHARLTON (Agricultural) [4.45 pm]: I will respond to members' remarks on my motion concerning the presentation of documents by the Executive Director of the Aboriginal Legal Service only briefly, in order to comply with the direction of the House to complete this debate by five o'clock.

Due to the comments made about this matter over the last couple of days I would not have thought many more points of view could be raised by any member in this House. However, I want to straighten out a couple of points made by Hon Tom Helm. When he indicated a fortnight ago that he would speak to this motion I expected him to put forward a list of very good reasons why it should not be passed. However, I am disappointed that he said nothing new. He reiterated a point he has raised in debate on previous motions; that is, that one should never ask questions about any organisation if it is funded by Government, particularly by a Labor Government, because it must be very accountable if the money has come from a Labor Government. Hon Tom Helm forgets that, particularly over the last few years, we have been told many things in this Parliament about where money was spent, and none of us needs to be reminded that the money spent, not only on Aboriginal affairs but also on a range of other organisations, did not go where we were told it was going. That is the central point of this motion: It is as a result of correspondence to successive Federal Ministers for Aboriginal Affairs and the Aboriginal Legal Service not being answered that I was prompted to raise the matter initially - not by way of my previous motion but in the Address-in-Reply debate during the last session of Parliament.

Today a letter was handed to me by an Aboriginal person who came to the Parliament. The letter is addressed to me, and reads -

We the grass roots Aboriginal people want the doors open for you to investigate all Federal and State grants going to the Aboriginal Legal Service.

We are part of that Legal Service, it belongs to us who are the members of the ALS. We have the right to ask for a full investigation whether it be Federal or State.

We would prefer a Parliamentary inquiry into all Federal and State grants, not just to the ALS, but grants to all Aboriginal organisations, and companies.

We would like an investigation into organisations such as;

Aboriginal Enterprise Company

Palencia Company

Mullaley Company

Aboriginal Building Company

Modular Building Systems

Aboriginal Homes Development Association

Aboriginal Medical Service

Education Bodies such as the AECG and Universities

Western Australia Aboriginal Media Association

If there are grants going to individual persons or to private contractors then these must be investigated.

We believe that we do not get the proper service that this money has been allocated for. We believe the money has been channelled off in other directions

The letter is signed by 29 individuals.

Hon Tom Helm: Did you say 29? Is it a petition?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: No, it is not a petition, it is a letter. In addition to that letter, I received a letter from Catherine Crawford, the Principal Legal Officer with the Aboriginal Legal Service, regarding the sickness of Mr Septu Brahim, one of the people named in the motion, asking that his name be deleted from the motion because of his illness. My response to that was that it caused me no problem. However, it is simply unnecessary to omit his name; he need be excluded only from that part of the responsibility outlined in the motion which rests in the hands of other people. If he is not able to participate, that could be demonstrated when delivering the material required by the motion.

I refer now to Mr Tickner's activities: He is one of the two Federal members to whom I referred earlier. He has refused to answer simple questions; in one case it took from the time he took over the Aboriginal Affairs portfolio until the middle of this year for a reply to be received. During that time he totally ignored the question. I received correspondence today from an Aboriginal person in Perth who has asked three separate questions of the Federal Minister responsible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs, and the Minister has not answered those questions asked by a genuine person. Over the past few years the capacity of Federal and State Ministers to put up defensive barriers around inquiries or questions relating to activities in the Aboriginal affairs area seems to have increased.

During this debate I have always made it as clear as possible that Aboriginal people want to know what is happening to the \$1.3 billion allocated every year to Aboriginal programs. Obviously, many people believe the money is going to Aboriginal people. It is not.

Hon Tom Helm: Some of it is.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: Of course some of it is. However, much of it is siphoned off along the way, mainly by non-Aboriginal people involved in the administration of Aboriginal programs. This matter must be addressed. My criticism of the Aboriginal Legal Service does not stem from a belief that it should not exist because I do not like its name or the people working there; it stems from the fact that it is not doing its job.

Several members interjected.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: Hon Tom Helm said that the ALS cannot carry out the responsibilities it already has - I can tell him why: That organisation spends most of its money on things other than representing Aboriginal people in court.

Hon John Halden: Like what?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: The member should read the report!

Hon John Halden: Tell us.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: Travel, accommodation, administration -

Several members interjected.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: Mr Cash, in a moment we will see Mr Halden over here voting with this side of the House. Mr Halden does not know what the ALS does; he cannot find out the answers either.

Several members interjected.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: The simple fact remains: Anyone who dares question the operation of the ALS or any other Aboriginal organisation is attacked for intruding into what has become a totally closed shop. It is time to bring the matters out into the open for the benefit of Aboriginal people. Over my lifetime I have been associated with Aboriginal people. As a matter of fact, the other day I stopped on the side of the road just east of Northam, and the first car which came along stopped. Two Aboriginal people got out of the car and one said, "Eric, are you having some trouble with your car?" That is the relationship I have with Aboriginal people.

Hon Tom Helm: Not your new car?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: Yes, my new car.

Hon Tom Helm: Aboriginal people are like ordinary people, aren't they?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: That indicates my relationship with Aboriginal people. I will continue to have that association with and respect for Aboriginal people, and I suspect that they will respect me for this action. I call on the House to support the motion.

Division

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (14)		
Hon J.N. Caldwell	Hon Peter Foss	Hon R.G. Pike
Hon George Cash	Hon Barry House	Hon W.N. Stretch
Hon E.J. Charlton	Hon N.F. Moore	Hon D.J. Wordsworth
Hon Reg Davies	Hon Muriel Patterson	Hon Margaret McAleer
Hon Max Evans	Hon P.G. Pental	(Teller)

Noes (13)		
Hon J.M. Berinson	Hon John Halden	Hon Sam Piantadosi
Hon T.G. Butler	Hon Kay Hallahan	Hon Doug Wenn
Hon Kim Chance	Hon Tom Helm	Hon Fred McKenzie
Hon Cheryl Davenport	Hon B.L. Jones	(Teller)
Hon Graham Edwards	Hon Garry Kelly	

Pairs

Hon P.H. Lockyer	Hon Bob Thomas
Hon Derrick Tomlinson	Hon Mark Nevill
Hon Murray Montgomery	Hon Tom Stephens

Question thus passed.

ACTS AMENDMENT (GAME BIRDS PROTECTION AND LAND MANAGEMENT) BILL

Order of the Day Discharged

On motion without notice by Hon P.G. Pental, resolved -

That Order of the Day No 6 be discharged from the Notice Paper and the Bill withdrawn.

MOTION - SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER No 72

Order of the Day Discharged

On motion without notice by Hon Garry Kelly, resolved -

That Order of the Day No 7 be discharged from the Notice Paper.

[Questions without notice taken.]

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) BILL

Consideration of Tabled Paper

Debate resumed from 1 September.

HON GEORGE CASH (North Metropolitan - Leader of the Opposition) [5.41 pm]: The Budget papers that were tabled in this House on 1 September by the Attorney General in general are referred to as the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure papers of the State Government for the financial year 1992-93. The documents are of considerable weight. They appear to be documents of substance; however, if members were to take the time to read the documents they would find they were very light on substance and very heavy on rhetoric. That is almost what we have come to expect from the Attorney General.

Hon T.G. Butler: A bit like one of your speeches.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The Attorney General is so sensitive that he assumes he hears things even though, I am sure, things are not said.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Are you denying that you made the statement that you withdrew?

Hon GEORGE CASH: The Attorney General is actually a very sensitive person. In due course, in respect of the inquiry that is being undertaken into the building services division of the Department of Corrective Services, I believe I will be able to show clearly that Hon Joe Berinson is wrong in statements he has made in this House, and that in fact that department has a very significant problem.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I did not say there was not.

Hon GEORGE CASH: In due course, I believe the evidence will show that the Attorney General was aware of the problem and that he did very little to alleviate it. I was of the understanding that the report I asked the Attorney General to table was nearing completion, but the Attorney General has now indicated that a certain officer has been invited to respond to questions put to him, and for that reason, because those answers have not been forthcoming to date, the report is incorrect. I believe that from the massive leaking that is occurring from the Building Management Authority, the Public Service Commission, the State Supply Commission and other sources, including prison officers from the Department of Corrective Services who have been good enough to contact me, the very questions I have been putting to the Minister for Corrective Services over a period of time, most of which he has denied, relate to matters of substance and will be shown to be matters of great substance going to the heart of the administration of the department.

Hon J.M. Berinson: What have I said which are not matters of substance? You have asked specific questions and I have given you specific answers.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The Minister for Corrective Services is a sensitive person who cannot take what is thrown at him.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I can take what you have thrown to me.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Mr Berinson cannot take it. He just showed that by standing up and squealing -

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Garry Kelly): Order! I suggest the Leader of the Opposition direct his comments to the Chair.

Withdrawal of Remark

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The Leader of the Opposition is now reflecting on the President by suggesting that it was somehow improper of me to object to a statement which the President called on him to withdraw.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Again it is clear that the Minister is a sensitive person, but the very least he could do when making a point of order is get his facts right. Firstly, he has no point of order and you, Sir, would recognise that. Secondly, he wants to introduce debatable material into a speech that I am making and to try to prevent me from putting my case to the House.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I raised a point of order.

Hon George Cash: Don't be stupid.

Hon J.M. Berinson: What are you squealing about?

Hon George Cash: You were the one who was squealing. Let us see if you have a point of order.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! Could the Attorney General identify the words to which he is objecting. He has asked me to rule on words of the Leader of the Opposition that reflected on a decision by the President.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I cannot be sure.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon J.M. BERINSON: He said so many objectionable things that it is difficult to isolate them. I think I was referring in particular to his comment about my objection to his statement at an earlier part of proceedings amounting to "squealing". That can only be interpreted, on my part, as an improper objection, whereas it was an objection which was upheld by the President when he called on the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw his remarks.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I rule that the Leader of the Opposition is sailing pretty close to the wind in commenting in the way that he has done on the President's ruling. I will not ask him to withdraw on this occasion -

Hon George Cash: I do not intend to, I assure you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: - but I ask the Leader of the Opposition to continue his remarks on the Budget debate without paying attention to interjections of any sort.

Debate Resumed

Hon GEORGE CASH: I am pleased, Mr Deputy President, that you did not find that there was a sustainable point of order. Is Mr Berinson now going to take another point of order?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon J.M. Berinson: I am taking a drink of water.

Hon GEORGE CASH: At least that is a change.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The Leader of the Opposition should be addressing his comments to me and not to other members of the House.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Mr Deputy President, I am addressing my comments to you. I assure you.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I suggest that you continue in that vein.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I am addressing my comments to you, Mr Deputy President. There was never an attempt by me to reflect on any ruling of the President. If it is that the Minister is so sensitive -

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! I have ruled on that point of order already; let us move on.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Mr Deputy President, you told me there was no point of order.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: That is right.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The point I am making is that the Leader of the House is very sensitive if he takes exception to the word "squealing". I have never before heard exception taken to that word in this House. I wonder whether it is not the word that upset him, but that, following my inquiries into the Department of Corrective Services, he knows that I know something that he wishes I did not know. In due course I will show that there has been substantial mismanagement in that department and I will show also that other departments, including the BMA, the Public Service Commission and the Department of State Services, and other Government authorities and agencies, have expressed concern about the way the building services division of the Department of Corrective Services has been run.

On 12 October, we will begin considering the Estimates for the various departments. I place the Government and the Minister for Corrective Services on notice that if they think that I will agree to the budget of the Department of Corrective Services without the Minister's revealing to this Parliament the facts about mismanagement in the building services division, they have another think coming. If he continues to refuse to answer questions and continues to tell this House that there are no problems in the building services division, I will move for the appointment of a Select Committee and will ensure that the Minister answers the questions that he seems reluctant to answer in this House.

Earlier, I referred to the size of the Budget documents. I said that, regrettably, they lacked substance. When Carmen Lawrence took office as Premier of this State in March 1990, Western Australia's debt was approximately \$8.4 billion. Also in March 1990 we had a AAA international credit rating. Unemployment in March 1990 was 5.4 per cent. Today, only weeks after tabling the Budget documents for the 1992-93 financial year, Western

Australia has a debt level of \$11.1 billion, and Moody's Investors Service, the international investment service that conducts inquiries into the credit ratings of various countries, States and other organisations, has downgraded the credit rating of Western Australia to AA1.

Hon Peter Foss: Laurie Connell would not acquire debt that fast.

Hon GEORGE CASH: That is a good point. In March 1990, Western Australia owed \$8.4 billion. Under Carmen Lawrence's stewardship we now owe \$11.1 billion. In March 1990 unemployment totalled 5.4 per cent and it is now over 11 per cent. High debt and high unemployment are linked with the Lawrence legacy. That is the message contained in these Budget papers. We are now going into debt at a faster rate than any other State in Australia and our unemployment rate is nearly as bad as all of the other States in Australia. Recently, the Premier decided to replace the former Minister for Employment and Training, Hon Kay Hallahan. Who can blame her considering that unemployment has increased at the rate it has over a relatively short period. The bad news for the unemployed in Western Australia is that the Premier will now take on the Employment portfolio.

Hon P.G. Pendal: That will induce a lot of confidence in the economy!

Hon GEORGE CASH: That is point I wanted to make. The Treasurer claims that her Budget is designed to create jobs. However, this Budget will continue to put us deeper into debt and, rather than creating long term jobs, the Government proposes to set up projects that will create short term respite for the unemployment problem. It is creative accounting. If the unemployed think they will get long term jobs, I suggest they think again because it will not happen.

Hon T.G. Butler: You love to play down this State, Mr Cash.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I happen to be very proud of this State. In due course, Hon Tom Butler will have an opportunity of making a speech in this Budget debate. I am not a betting man, but I will lay London to a brick that that was his speech in this debate. He does nothing in this House if it is not by way of interjection. I cannot understand that.

Hon T.G. Butler: You may well be right, Mr Cash.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Garry Kelly): Order! There are too many interjections. I suggest that we listen to the Leader of the Opposition in silence.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Perhaps it was the next statement that I intend to make that Hon Tom Butler wanted to drown out because I remind the House of the comments of Gavan Troy, a former Minister in the Lawrence Government but currently the member for Swan Hills. He has said he will not contest the next election for the Labor Party because he has had enough. He said that Carmen Lawrence has the worst economic record of any of the three past WA Premiers. He said she is astute in the 15 second grab on television, but her economic record is terrible.

Hon N.F. Moore: Who was he talking about?

Hon GEORGE CASH: He was talking about the Treasurer, Carmen Lawrence, who appointed Mr Troy chairman of the WA steel task force, a body that was set up to develop a major downstream processing industry in Western Australia. Clearly the Treasurer has a lot of confidence in Mr Troy, but Mr Troy has no confidence in the Treasurer.

Hon Fred McKenzie: He is only one.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! Hon Fred McKenzie will cease interjecting as will other members.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Mr Troy was a former member of the Lawrence Ministry. He is still the chairman of the task force looking into downstream processing of the steel industry. He has said he has no confidence in the economic ability of the Treasurer, Carmen Lawrence. I agree with and support those comments, as will many other people.

Hon Doug Wenn: That is a huge surprise!

Hon GEORGE CASH: If Mr Wenn looks at the Budget documents, and Mr Wenn is a reasonable person, he will see that there is very little of substance in them.

Hon Doug Wenn: The south west did very well.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! The Leader of the Opposition is encouraging cross Chamber debate. He will address his speech to the Chair.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Hon Doug Wenn said that he was not surprised that I agreed with Mr Troy's statement. Not only do I agree with his statement, but 98 900 unemployed people in Western Australia also agree with the statement.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 pm

Hon GEORGE CASH: An analysis of the Budget papers reveals a trend of high debt and unemployment throughout Western Australia. I said earlier that the current State debt is \$11.1 billion and I am reminded of a recent radio talkback program on which the Premier was asked about the level of State debt. She quite flippantly dismissed the \$11.1 billion debt by remarking that all people take out mortgages to buy their homes. With that sort of flippant remark it is no wonder that a former Minister, Gavan Troy, said that the Premier's economic record is terrible!

We have a situation in Western Australia where the State Government is addicted to Bankcard - it is hooked on borrowing and it has no idea of prudence in budgeting. If we were to take any notice of the Premier's comments that borrowed money can be declared as income, as though it never had to be repaid, we would consider it to be a gift.

Having listened to the Premier, Dr Carmen Lawrence, try to interpret the State Government's Budget, it is clear that she has no knowledge of how to read a balance sheet, and the Budget papers clearly show that she does not have the ability to write a balance sheet. The Premier tells us that borrowings - that is, increases in debt - can be used as income to try to balance the Budget. However, if a business decided to do that sort of thing we would find the directors of the company locked up for breaches of either the Companies Code or the Corporations Law.

The \$11.1 billion debt raises the question of the interest payment. It is interesting to note that in Western Australia today we are paying more than \$20 million a week in interest payments on this State's debt. In other words, we are paying more in interest payments per annum than we do on law and order, education and, indeed, any other specific area of the Budget. The only item of the Budget that pips the amount being paid in interest payments is the Health portfolio.

Hon Tom Stephens: What percentage of the interest payments is attributed to the borrowings associated with the North West Shelf Gas Project?

Hon GEORGE CASH: It would take some time for me to try to explain that to Hon Tom Stephens, although it is not a difficult question to answer.

Hon Tom Stephens: I did not think you would be able to answer it. I will help you.

Hon GEORGE CASH: By his comments Hon Tom Stephens indicates that he is not an accountant and that he is certainly not able to read a balance sheet. All he has to understand is that in March 1990 when Premier Lawrence took over the reins of this State the State debt was \$8.4 billion and today it is \$11.1 billion. Even Hon Tom Stephens, whom no-one would class as a Rhodes scholar, would understand that there have been massive borrowings over that period. As a result, we have to pay the interest bill, which is now in excess of \$20 million a week. All that the Premier did on talkback radio was to shrug her shoulders and say that people have to take out mortgages to buy their homes - it was almost as though the bizarre economic rationale for that is that people do not have to pay back what they borrow.

Hon Tom Stephens: Hon Phillip Pandal made the point that borrowings, as in the case of the North West Shelf Gas Project, are productive.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon GEORGE CASH: By his interjection Hon Tom Stephens confirms his confused state of mind when it comes to understanding figures.

Hon Tom Stephens: I am not confused.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The only story we are interested in hearing at the moment is the one Hon George Cash is telling us.

Hon GEORGE CASH: One of the tragedies of interest payments of the magnitude of \$20 million a week is that it ends up impacting on the lifestyles of Western Australians. The \$20 million we pay each week in interest payments means that we either have increased taxes and charges or reduced Government services. In Western Australia regrettably we have both: We have a Government which has increased taxes and charges and at the same time it has continued to reduce its services to the community. The Government said that it did not intend increasing taxes and charges.

Hon P.G. Pental: The Government says that every year.

Hon GEORGE CASH: That is correct; Hon Phillip Pental makes a very valid point. It is easy for the Government to freeze land tax if it relies on revaluation of property to bring in massive increases. Ten years ago the receipts from land tax in Western Australia were \$39 million. In the last decade, after nine years of Labor Governments, those receipts have increased to \$140 million.

Hon Tom Stephens: You recognise that the Government has taken steps to ameliorate land tax payments?

Hon GEORGE CASH: I am glad Hon Tom Stephens said that; every time he interjects he opens a big door through which I can walk. Hon Tom Stephens is correct in saying that the Government has frozen land tax, but that does not mean that people pay less land tax. When a property is revalued the owner pays more land tax. Does Hon Tom Stephens understand that? The only reason the Government responded to small business in Western Australia with regard to land tax is that small business convinced the Government it was bleeding to death.

Hon Tom Stephens: I do not think you have read the Budget papers yet.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I have read the Budget papers and I challenge Hon Tom Stephens to tell me whether he has read them.

Hon Tom Stephens: You do not seem to get the story right.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The Government claimed that it gave some relief through land tax, but there was no relief at all. The Government merely did not massively increase the tax, as it has in the past. It used revaluation to ensure that receipts from land tax were as high as they had been previously. High tax, like high debt levels, equals unemployment and that is one of the impacts of the direction this Government has taken in recent years. In recent months the Treasurer has had the audacity to claim that Western Australia is looking good and that it is heading in the right direction. In fact, she has gone so far as to say that Western Australia is leading the rest of Australia out of the recession. She should try telling that to the 98 900 unemployed people in Western Australia.

Hon Tom Stephens: There would be more if your policies were allowed to be implemented.

Hon GEORGE CASH: That sort of flippant comment from the Labor member, Hon Tom Stephens, is an indication of the insensitivity of this Government to people's lives and their livelihoods.

Hon Tom Stephens: We are more committed to ensuring a speedy economic recovery.

Hon GEORGE CASH: If Hon Tom Stephens is right, he should explain why in March 1990 5.4 per cent of the work force in this State was unemployed, and today, in September 1992, the official figures indicate it is twice that level.

Hon Tom Stephens: When you read your copy of *Hansard* you will have an opportunity of checking your figures and seeing you are wrong.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Those flippant remarks do nothing but debase the lives of those who are unemployed in Western Australia today, and they will not go over particularly well with those who suffer the indignity of not being able to get a job.

Hon Tom Stephens: The scorched earth policy of GST -

Hon GEORGE CASH: In due course Hon Tom Stephens will have an opportunity to speak and, if he feels able, let him refute the figures I am quoting. More than 98 900 people in Western Australia are officially recorded by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as unemployed, and they will not be impressed by the flippant remarks of Hon Tom Stephens.

This State has a postwar unemployment record in Western Australia at the moment, and a Treasurer who says that Western Australia is leading the rest of Australia out of a recession. In this State are highly educated and skilled people who cannot get jobs because of the policies of this Government. The bad news is that it is not just the 98 900 people.

Hon N.F. Moore and Hon Tom Stephens interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Doug Wenn): Order! The person in the Chair may have changed but the rules have not.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The 98 900 people officially recorded as unemployed in Western Australia are only part of the tragic story in this State. The ABS acknowledges that its surveys and, therefore, its figures do not include those people who in the week prior to the survey worked for a minimum of one hour. Such a person is not classed as unemployed and is not included in the statistics. The ABS also acknowledges that its surveys do not recognise discouraged job seekers - those people who have given up looking for work. The ABS figures do not include family members working for a family business for no wage, and those are the type of people battling to survive. The official figures also do not include people on Government training schemes, and that is exactly how this Government keeps people out of the official figures. It creates short term training schemes in which to enrol people to prevent the unemployment figures from increasing. The ABS figures do not represent those young people who have gone back to school because they could not find employment in this State. If the statistics included the number of people attending school at the moment who would be in the work force if they could find a job, the unemployment figures would swell even further.

I advise the House about a hot-line I conducted some weeks ago together with my colleague in the Legislative Assembly, Mr Doug Shave, the member for Melville. We asked people who represented the hidden unemployed in Western Australia to call us and let us know their circumstances and the plight they were in. Mr Shave's office south of the river and my office north of the river were inundated with telephone calls. I have three lines at my office but only one telephone line was being used. The volume of the calls was so great that they affected the other two lines.

Hon P.G. Pental: The Government probably had not paid the bills, which is what happened in my office.

Hon GEORGE CASH: There were so many calls that it caused the line to overload and cut across the other two lines. The major message from those callers was that the Government would not listen to them and did not want to know of their plight. The Government wanted to tell everyone that things were okay, and it hoped these people with problems would fade into the background and disappear forever. Some of the people who rang had small businesses which had gone broke. Other callers said unemployment had destroyed their families. One lady said she and her children had watched their unemployed husband and father disintegrate before their eyes. He had been an executive for one of the big mining companies, and had been unemployed for several months. She broke down and started to cry, in the first place because she recognised that we were prepared to listen. More than that, she was distressed because the Government was not listening and did not care about people in her position. We also had calls from deserted wives who told us of their plight as a result of the unemployment situation in this State. These people are trying to bring up their children but are faced with an economic situation in Western Australia in which jobs are just not available.

One man was a highly paid senior construction executive and a father of three who had not had a job for a year. He was not included in the official figures as occasionally he was able to pick up a few hours' consulting work. Because he earned a small income every now and again he was not eligible to be considered as one of those officially recorded as unemployed; but secondly, he was not entitled to apply to the Department of Social Security for unemployment benefits. This man told us that his previous salary package was around \$70 000 a year. He was now earning less than \$10 000 a year and he clearly identified himself as one of the hidden unemployed in Western Australia.

There was also the case of a Portuguese couple who came to Western Australia with their two children 10 years ago because they believed that Western Australia would offer a future

for their children - that they could bring them up here and have them properly educated, hopefully to tertiary level, so that they would end up with a job. This lady explained to me that she and her husband had been forced to sell their home, that there was no future in Western Australia for their children, and that she had made the decision to go back to Portugal. Again, that is a problem of hidden unemployment in this State.

Another case involved a couple who had operated a small engineering business for 15 years. They had taken on apprentices in the past, but in recent years had been able to retain only their son as an apprentice. Regrettably, far from Western Australia leading Australia out of the recession, that couple have been forced to put off their own son. He is now no longer officially an apprentice but is on the dole and looking for work. That is the situation we have in this State and clearly, as happened with that company, the recession has caused companies not to be able to employ apprentices around Australia.

The stories go on and on, and when I and the people who assisted me with this hot-line exercise spoke to the callers about the Government's not being able to get big projects such as Marandoo, Kambalda and Yakabindie off the ground, and about the number of jobs going begging because the Government was not prepared to bite the bullet and get those projects up and running -

Hon Tom Stephens: Did you tell them what you did about Port Kennedy, shunting it off to the Legislation Committee?

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Doug Wenn): Order! As I said earlier, the person in the Chair might have changed but the rules of the House have not, and when the person in the Chair calls for order he expects order.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I said earlier that I can always rely on Hon Tom Stephens to interject at the right time. He opens the door so wide that an army could march through it. I mentioned three major mining projects in Western Australia - Marandoo, Kambalda and Yakabindie - all of which just happen to be in Mr Stephens' electorate; and because he is not able to convince the Government to create some employment by making those projects happen he races off to the other end of the metropolitan area and seizes on the Port Kennedy project. He thinks that if he mentions that by way of interjection perhaps the criticism about Marandoo, Kambalda and Yakabindie will go away. It will never go away.

Hon Tom Stephens: This Opposition is always knocking the Government.

Hon W.N. Stretch: How many jobs will there be at Port Kennedy?

Hon Tom Stephens: You are always knocking it and holding it up.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon GEORGE CASH: Hon Tom Stephens can smirk behind his hand and claim that the Opposition is not hungry for jobs, but I invite him to read the Liberal Party policies that we have released -

Hon Tom Stephens: The GST - three volumes of it!

Hon GEORGE CASH: - and some of the statements by our leader. We will fight the next election on one thing - jobs, jobs, jobs - and we will highlight the failings of this Government. We will talk to the 98 900 or more people who are unemployed in Western Australia and will continue to remind them that this State Labor Government has not been able to get those projects off the ground.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Doug Wenn): Order! Members on both sides of the Chamber are pushing it. I have said this before but I will say it again: There might be a different person in the Chair but the rules of the House have not changed. Hon George Cash has the call and, as the President often says, members do not have to like what he is saying but they do have to listen to it.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Last week the new Minister for Employment, the Premier, refused to accept responsibility for the level of unemployment in this State. Whether by not wishing to accept responsibility she was trying to push the blame onto the former Minister for Employment - or the former Minister for unemployment, as she was known in this House - Hon Kay Hallahan, I do not know; but by dismissing the unemployed in Western Australia the Premier was really saying that she does not want to know about the deserted mothers, the bankrupt small business people, the factory workers, the plumbers, the electricians, the engineers, the receptionists, the teachers, and the thousands of others who are victims of this Government's refusal to support industry in this State.

Hon J.M. Berinson: You know she has never said anything of the sort.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I do not want to speak to the Attorney General; he is too sensitive.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! If Hon George Cash does not want to speak to the Attorney General, he should not. He should direct his remarks to the Chair.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I will do so, Mr Deputy President, by saying that it is unwise of me to respond to the interjections of the Attorney General because he is so sensitive that he takes a point of order because the heat in the kitchen is getting too much for him. It is written all over his face, members should believe me.

From the Budget papers one can see that capital works last year were underspent by approximately \$210 million. There was massive unemployment last year and it became worse this year, yet this Government underspent on its capital projects by that amount. In this year's Budget it has rolled the jobs over. It has said, "We have saved \$210 million by not doing the work last year. As we run up to the election we will try to stimulate the job market by pushing some of those projects a little harder." Can members imagine how the unemployed really feel when they realise they have been set up and conned by this Government, and that they would have had jobs last year if the Government had spent the money which had been provided for its capital works projects? Some of the schools might have been painted.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Did you read what the General Manager of SECWA had to say about that sort of argument? He said it was absolute nonsense.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I have made my comments in respect of the Attorney General. I do not need to respond to his inane interjections.

Hon P.G. Pandal: It is disorderly interjection - he should be removed.

Hon J.M. Berinson: At least my interjections are the truth.

Hon GEORGE CASH: What needs to be recorded in *Hansard* is the fact that the Attorney General - the most senior Minister in this House - sits in his seat and smirks when I talk about unemployment in Western Australia.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Rubbish!

Hon GEORGE CASH: Then why does the Attorney General not get that smile off his face? Why does he not take things seriously and have a bit of consideration for the 98 900 unemployed people in this State; or is he waiting for the figure to reach 100 000 before he takes it seriously?

Hon J.M. Berinson: Why don't you tell the truth sometimes?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon GEORGE CASH: If the Attorney General had been listening, he would know that the real unemployment figure far exceeds 100 000 if the hidden unemployed are taken into account. Does he not want to bring that out into the open?

As all members know, small business is the biggest employer in Western Australia. As we are in an era in which Western Australia has the highest unemployment rate in post war history, we have recently had a change of ministerial portfolios. Guess who became the Minister for Small Business? It was the Minister for Fisheries, who was a former Minister for Police and many other things. I have nothing personal against Hon Gordon Hill, but I am worried that he has been given this portfolio. I recently listened to him on the radio when he was asked about his understanding and experience of small business. Recognising that he

has nearly always had a Government job, he said, "Well, I can relate to it because I was once a jackaroo." That is the closest he could come to small business experience!

Hon P.G. Pendal: He used to run the chook raffles at Trades Hall!

Hon GEORGE CASH: Let us not overlook the fact that Mr Hill was the research officer for Hon Joe Berinson. That is probably one of the reasons that Mr Berinson is smiling and smirking -

Hon J.M. Berinson: I am not. I am listening to you with not very much interest.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The Attorney General recognises the failings of the Minister for Small Business. What did small business do when it heard that Mr Hill was the new Minister? It took a number of steps backwards.

Hon Max Evans: They said that they would have to become big businesses!

Hon GEORGE CASH: The fishing industry is operated by small business people. I had responsibility for fisheries for my party some years ago, and I now have that responsibility back as a result of the massive problems occurring in the fishing industry. Those problems come compliments of the Minister for Fisheries, the person now with responsibility for small business. Undoubtedly, he has single handedly caused the greatest disruption ever to the fishing industry, particularly the rock lobster industry.

Hon J.M. Berinson: That is wrong, and the industry would deny it.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The Attorney General has no knowledge at all of how that industry thinks.

Hon J.M. Berinson: You have a band of wishful thinkers.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The Attorney General tells his members not to interject, yet his members throw up their hands and say, "If it is good enough for our leader, why can we not interject?"

Hon J.M. Berinson: Would you like every member to interject?

Hon GEORGE CASH: The Attorney General should talk to the people from the fishing industry in Geraldton to see what they think about the Minister for Fisheries and the Government of this State. These people feel badly let down and are very disappointed in this Government. Will the Attorney General give a commitment to go to Geraldton to talk to these people?

Hon J.M. Berinson: I have every confidence in the Minister for Fisheries. He certainly doesn't need my help.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I will be speaking to fishing industry representatives tomorrow night when they come to Parliament House. I have invited the Attorney General to discuss the problem with rock lobster fishermen in Geraldton, and he said that he would not do that.

Hon Tom Helm: Why did you not go up there, Mr Cash? I was there.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I do not know what Hon Tom Helm means by interjecting that he was in Geraldton.

Hon Tom Helm: Things have not been so bad since poor old Bob was elected, have they? Fancy blaming Bob! That is terrible.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The fishing industry must understand the type of levity with which this Labor Government deals with the plight of the fishing industry! Hon Tom Helm seems to regard this problem as a joke.

Hon J.M. Berinson: He thinks you're a joke.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The Government's attitude is a slight on the rock lobster fishing industry, which exports lobsters to the value of \$240 million a year from this State.

Hon Max Evans: Wave the Attorney General goodbye as he leaves the Chamber.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The fishing industry will join me in saying good riddance. Unfortunately, the Labor Government is doing nothing for the fishing industry. Recently the Minister for Fisheries decided to change the rules for rock lobster fishermen. The rock lobster industry advisory committee worked for a number of months considering the

difficulties being experienced in the industry, and it produced a report which was considered by the industry. The report was referred to the Minister, who turned down the advisory committee's recommendations. The Minister decided to implement his own recommendations for the rock lobster industry.

Hon Tom Helm: Which were recommended by the meeting in Geraldton.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The bad news is that the Minister did not understand the biological impact of his recommendations. Again, we had total confusion. The closures the Minister was proposing would have meant that up to a thousand people in the mid-west area, particularly the coastal regions, would have found themselves out of work. This would have affected crayfisherman, deckhands and people working in the processing factories. This would have been a consequence of the Minister's stupid recommendations. The Minister ignored the professional advice given to him, and his actions caused a fair amount of upheaval within the fishing industry. The other day the Minister asked the rock lobster industry advisory committee to look at his recommendation to see whether it could suggest solutions to the problems he caused.

The Minister for Fisheries is now also the Minister for Small Business. We have one great concern about the future of small business in Western Australia under his ministership; that is, that small business is about to become even smaller. He was a bad choice as a Minister for Small Business. He does not understand what that sector faces. More importantly, small business in Western Australia does not have confidence in him.

I said earlier that one of the problems in Western Australia at the moment is State debt. I mentioned that the \$11.1 billion debt results in Western Australia paying \$20 million a week in interest payments. No wonder Moody's Investors Service - the international financial experts - have downgraded Western Australia's credit rating. Another consequence of our huge debt is that it reduces Government services. Prior to the 1989 election I was the shadow Minister for Police and I was negotiating with the Police Union and other police organisations in Western Australia. At that time the Liberal Party said that in Government it would provide another 600 police officers. This was before the Government had considered providing more police officers. The Government thought that it could up the ante and immediately said that it would provide 1 000 additional police officers over a three year period.

Hon P.G. Pandal: It was recklessness.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Within a matter of weeks the Government reneged on that election promise. The Government said that it could not do it in three years; it would have to do it in four. That effectively cut the Police Force down by 25 per cent. The force felt that 1 000 additional police over four years was a reasonable proposition, and was prepared to accept that. How do members think the Police Force feels today, four years later, when the Government admits that there is no way in the world it can reach the target of 1 000 additional police officers because it is strapped for money? The Department of State Development and interest payments are the reasons it cannot provide an efficient and effective Police Force for this State. This year's Budget documents show that the Government intends this year to appoint a mere 75 additional police officers. The Budget papers for previous years show that the induction of 75 police officers into the Police Force only just covers the number of annual resignations and retirements in Western Australia. In fact, if more than 75 current serving police officers either resign or retire this financial year there will be negative growth; the manpower of the Police Force will effectively go backwards. That will occur when physical assaults in Western Australia have increased in the past 12 months by 12.8 per cent. It will be at a time when heroin and amphetamine drug offences have increased by 58.7 per cent. They are not figures that I have plucked out of the air; they are figures provided by the Minister for Police in this House. He acknowledges that physical violence has increased in this State by 12.8 per cent a year. I wonder how the people who were attacked last year feel about the Government's reneging on its promise to provide police officers? I wonder how people who have had their houses broken into or their cars stolen feel about the fact that this Government's priorities mean that it has put law and order on the back-burner. That is what has happened. This State has now been forced, through Government mismanagement, into a situation where law and order is no longer a priority. It is almost a case of saying, "Hang the community, if you get beaten up that is your problem."

Hon John Halden: That is your solution, isn't it - hanging?

Hon GEORGE CASH: I should acknowledge that in the past 12 months the incidence of car theft has been significantly reduced in Western Australia. One of the reasons for that is that the Commissioner of Police committed additional police officers, in the form of a special task force, to concentrate on that crime. In other words, more police officers were focused on those jobs in order to reduce car theft. How can crime be reduced overall if the Government is not prepared to stand by its promises? What do the 11 417 people who were assaulted in Western Australia feel about the Government's failed promises? This year \$241 million has been budgeted for the Police Force. It is a marginal increase on last year's allocation. Regrettably, it will not be sufficient to upgrade the resources and general facilities required by the force. One thing is for certain: The people of Balga, who have been waiting for years for a police station, and the people of Yanchep, Quinns Rock, Augusta and Karawara in Hon Phillip Pandal's electorate will not get new police stations this year. Why? Because the Government cannot afford it. How many police stations, schools, kindergartens, or day care centres could be bought for \$20 million? As I said, regrettably the Government has put law and order on the back-burner.

I have noticed in the Budget that rather than spending money on law and order the Government has decided to spend \$500 000 on, for instance, a publicity campaign to tell parents how to value their children. I am sure that is an important project, but I question the Government's priorities. I wonder whether the victims of crime last year believe that that \$500 000 will be well spent or whether it would be better to employ a dozen extra police officers in order to have more officers on the street. The mothering campaign referred to by the Government recently and the other publicity campaigns are designed for the forthcoming State elections. The community will see them for what they are; that is, frivolous campaigns which are not the priority of the community. Health, education and law and order are the community's priorities. If Government members went into their electorates and did some door knocking and talked to the community at large they would find that those were the priorities the community wants addressed.

As we move towards the next State elections, the community in Western Australia will hear time and time again from the Liberal Party and, no doubt, from the National Party that their priorities are those of the community's. The Liberal Party will campaign on a policy of jobs and more jobs to try to offer some future for the 98 900 unemployed in Western Australia and the many more thousands who form part of the hidden unemployed and who do not show up in the figures of the Australian Bureau of Statistics. I referred earlier to former Minister Gavan Troy's comment that Carmen Lawrence's economic record was terrible. I agree with his view and I am sure that the 98 900 unemployed also agree. He also said that in the period during which Dr Lawrence has been the Premier of this State she has not initiated any job creation policies. That is confirmed because the major projects at Marandoo, Kambalda and Yakabindie have no chance of being activated by this Government.

I said earlier that this Government was addicted to Bankcard; it was hooked on borrowing. It cannot read a balance sheet; it does not understand that when one borrows funds one cannot use them as income to try to balance the books. It does not work that way. Undoubtedly the legacy of the past few years of this Labor Government will mean that the State is faced with high debt and high unemployment. That situation will not change until radical reform occurs within the political system. That in itself means the election of an alternative Government, one which wants to see development in this State, which recognises the priorities of the community and which is committed to reducing taxes and charges to enable small business to cope in this State.

Hon Kim Chance: By applying a GST.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Hon Kim Chance, who clearly does not understand what tax reform is about, mentioned a goods and services tax. He should not forget that it was only a few years ago that the present Federal Labor Prime Minister, Mr Paul Keating, advocated a GST. Does Hon Kim Chance admit that?

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Doug Wenn): Order! I call members on both sides of the House to order.

Hon GEORGE CASH: One of the things about interjections from members opposite is that they open doors which an army could walk through. They are forever walking into traps. It was okay when Paul Keating was talking about a GST.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! I advise Hon Tom Butler that he is out of his seat.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Mr Deputy President, I told you that Hon Tom Butler was not very good at figures - he cannot work out where he sits!

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! Interjections are coming from members on both sides of the House. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition can make his speech without any help from members behind or opposite him. I suggest that members listen to him.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I am pleased that this House does not adjourn until 11.00 pm on Tuesday because as members continue to interject they provide me with the opportunity to remind them of events which they have forgotten and one of these is that Paul Keating was the original proponent of a goods and services tax for Australia.

Hon P.G. Pendar: Backed by Mr Hawke.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Yes, that is correct.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon GEORGE CASH: It is interesting that when one raises the question of a GST Government members interject and make as much noise as they possibly can. I again remind them that it was Paul Keating, the current Prime Minister, who introduced the notion of a GST in Australia.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! I do not want to be placed in a position of naming a member; the President can do that. I am speaking to members on both sides of the House.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I heard only part of Hon Kim Chance's interjection.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! I ask Hon George Cash not to listen to any interjections.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I heard Hon Kim Chance say something about "dump it". The people of Geraldton, one of the areas the member represents, were talking about dumping him for the comments he made about the fishing industry last week. The fishing industry in Geraldton has had enough of Hon Kim Chance. Although he might be a good wool and wheat grower he knows nothing about the fishing industry. Some people have spent 50 years of their life working in that industry and they think it is time Hon Kim Chance learned something about it instead of publishing in the paper the drivel he did to try to undermine the fishing industry.

The fishing industry wants a Government which is prepared to talk up the industry and protect the massive export trade, which is worth more than \$240 million per annum. However, Hon Kim Chance made statements which jeopardise the rock lobster industry in this State. If he thought through the reaction to his comments he would understand why the buyers in Asia are telling their agents in Western Australia that if things in the fishing industry are as bad as they were portrayed by Hon Kim Chance in a Geraldton newspaper last week they should be looking for alternative markets. Hon Kim Chance should know, because it affects his constituents, that the three markets they are looking at are the South Australian rock lobster market, the Mexican market and another market in South America. That has been the magnitude of the impact of the member's comments. He has undermined the rock lobster industry in Western Australia and the processors and the fishermen are very aware of his comments.

I am obliged, at the conclusion of my comments on the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure and Related Papers to indicate whether I support the Budget. My party has made a decision to support this Budget. However, I said earlier in respect of the Division of Corrective Services that I will work extremely hard to ensure that this Parliament does not agree to the funding for the Department of Corrective Services until such time as the

Minister for Corrective Services comes clean with some of the answers that the Liberal Party wants in respect of the management of that department.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I have answered every single question.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The Minister should not interject because he cannot take the responses.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I cannot take misrepresentation either.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I suggest to the Minister that he read *Hansard* later because he cannot take the heat in the kitchen; it is getting too much for him. More than that, it is written all over his face.

Hon J.M. Berinson: You are pitiful!

Hon GEORGE CASH: I make these comments to inform the Minister for Corrective Services that the Opposition will seek to have certain reports tabled and it will get to the bottom of the matters relating to the Department of Corrective Services and if that requires a Select Committee of this House, so be it.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Do not be ridiculous. It is a childish dramatisation.

Hon GEORGE CASH: No, it is not. The Minister is aware of some of the problems within the department and he knows that I know. He hopes that by trying to stall on his answers to my questions the problem will go away.

Hon J.M. Berinson: What questions have I stalled an answer on?

Hon GEORGE CASH: I suggest to the Minister that he read *Hansard*. If he does not know what questions they are I suggest that he needs some help from Hon John Halden.

Hon J.M. Berinson: You have not put the question on notice as I asked you to.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon GEORGE CASH: I am waiting for the Minister to give me information about the pharmacy which is intended to be built at the Casuarina Prison.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I have the answer, but you did not ask the question.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon J.M. Berinson: I said I would have the answer today and I had it today -

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon J.M. Berinson: - and you did not ask it.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! I remind members that this is not questions without notice. Members really are stretching it.

Hon GEORGE CASH: This is a general debate as you, Mr Deputy President, will acknowledge and while the Minister may not wish to reply to the question -

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! If the member puts a question to the Minister for Corrective Services I will not allow him to answer it. I ask the member to direct his comments to the Chair.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I will do that, Mr Deputy President, because I want the House to understand the nature of the question -

Hon J.M. Berinson: That you should have asked today and you did not.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The Minister may not be in a position to answer the questions now, but I would like him to advise whether the problem surrounding the pharmacy at Canning Vale is based on the fact that when he retires he is going to take it over? Does he have that up his sleeve?

Hon J.M. Berinson: The answer is no.

Hon GEORGE CASH: That is one answer. I will advise the House of the question I will ask the Minister. It might not be the appropriate time to obtain the answer, but it is the appropriate time to advise the House of the contents of my question. It reads -

- (1) Was a pharmacy included in the Casuarina Prison project plans at any stage and, if so, what funds were allocated for the pharmacy?
- (2) On what date was it decided to relocate the pharmacy to the Canning Vale site?
- (3) What were the reasons for the relocation to the Canning Vale site?
- (4) Who authorised the relocation of the pharmacy to Canning Vale?
- (5) Who authorised the expenditure for the relocation from the Casuarina prison project funds?
- (6) Was the normal procedure followed and proper authorities obtained for the relocation and transfer of these funds?
- (7) In respect to the authorisation and utilisation of the funds used to construct the pharmacy at the Canning Vale prison, have any breaches of the Financial Administration and Audit Act occurred?
- (8) Was the Minister advised of the source of funding for the pharmacy at the Canning Vale prison and if so, when was the Minister advised and did the Minister support the relocation and transfer of funds?

Hon J.M. Berinson: That is a fair question.

Hon GEORGE CASH: They are the questions I am looking for answers to. They are the questions the Minister was unable to answer the other day.

Hon J.M. Berinson: And said I would answer today, and you did not ask for them.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I do not think that the Minister wants to answer a lot of questions about Canning Vale prison.

Hon J.M. Berinson: I certainly want to answer this one.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I will continue to ask these questions during the Estimates Committee's hearings. When the Minister says to me that I am embarrassing him in front of public servants because I continue to ask the same questions I will see whether he has the same smirk on his face then as he does now. When the revelations about the Department of Corrective Services come out Mr Berinson's smirk will change to a serious expression. Mr Berinson is retiring from the Parliament and says he will not take over the Canning Vale prison pharmacy when he does. I wonder what he will take over at that place.

HON E.J. CHARLTON (Agricultural) [8.31 pm]: Perhaps the Minister for Corrective Services might be in another department of the establishment.

Hon T.G. Butler: That was a stupid thing to say.

Hon J.M. Berinson: Do you think that was a proper comment to make?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: No, Mr Berinson, I was being frivolous - as Mr Berinson was about those questions. Go back to sleep, Mr Butler.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: The release of the Budget in the other place by the Premier and Treasurer - and the tabling of the Budget papers in this place by the Attorney General - was widely reported as a non-event because it contained no new initiatives to attack the problems besetting the State.

The overall economic condition confronting the State is a subject that has been done to death over many years and makes one wonder why we have seen the One Nation package, the WA Advantage package, and lately the Creation of Jobs package, which will be distributed throughout local government areas -

Hon Kim Chance: And the Social Advantage package.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: Yes, and the Social Advantage package.

Hon P.G. Pandal: The Government has more packages than the postman.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: A special package to help families is also to be introduced. Everybody knows these packages are nothing more than a cover-up for all the problems this Government has brought upon the State. It makes me wonder why after all that has

happened we cannot hear a few honest, basic promotions of policies related to the future that will implement something positive. A promotion which improved employment prospects would speak more loudly, and the Government would be able to shout its success from the rooftops and nobody would be able to match what it was saying because it would have the runs on the board. However, the Government is not interested in doing that; it is interested in propaganda without action.

We have heard about preschool education for five year olds, which is an absolute disaster. Unlike the problems Hon George Cash is having with the Minister for Corrective Services, the Minister for Education answered my questions on this matter. I had much pleasure watching the Minister for Education on "The 7.30 Report". Comments have been made to me about the exhibition last night on Mr Alan Carpenter's program and the way he asks questions. I noticed tonight that the same thing occurred when he asked the Minister for Education about the Alkimos land. I will leave that subject for another time because everyone knows that today's announcement had little to do with the facts. It is a great shame that the Government has not come out and said that it looks like this whole idea was a disaster that the Government got the State into a long time ago. No doubt in the future other universities will benefit as a result of that disaster. That does not say much for the position of the people genuinely trying to establish the University of Notre Dame Australia. They are the ones who will miss out and be forgotten. Everybody else will be swept into the propaganda machine to cover up what has happened.

I commented in this place one night that I believed the Minister for Education was blackmailing parent and teacher organisations in Western Australia on the preschool education for five year olds program. I was asked to withdraw my remark. However, everywhere I go around country Western Australia I hear about meetings of parents and citizens associations which were attended by representatives of the Ministry of Education who told those meetings if they wanted this resource for their school they should agree to and put their name on the list of those wanting preschool education for five year olds. People can call the result of such statements what they like; however, the people out in the community are the best judges of those statements.

People know that reductions in the country population have been occurring for some time. I am told that of every five homes sold in the metropolitan area one is sold to people coming from the country. I am referring here to changes of ownership. This is happening because these people have no future in the country. Some city dwellers say these people are coming to the city because more job opportunities exist in the metropolitan area. People who know anything at all about the economy of Western Australia know that Perth does not, cannot, and will not in the immediate future or medium term provide new employment opportunities for people. It is obvious that country areas experiencing a population reduction continue to produce dollars for the State in addition to the dollars borrowed by both State and Federal Governments. We have gone from a nil borrowing situation in this State to a debt of about \$11 billion, while a debt of a few hundred million at the Federal level has increased to \$160 billion.

When the public hear those figures, they obviously find them mind boggling and cannot identify with them. If we said to every family, "You are now responsible, thanks to this current State and Federal Government, for repaying at some time in the future, or for paying interest on, several thousands of dollars that the Government has ticked up against your bank account", I guarantee they would have no bar of it and would say, "You will not charge that debt against our account." Yet that is exactly what is happening. It is just being camouflaged in the form of taxes and charges. I am not making a political comment; it is a fact of life. Every family is being subjected to these taxes and charges.

The Government cannot pluck money out of the air, and because the general public cannot absorb those losses, the Government has to pass them down to the productive areas, such as the rural, mining and fishing industries, and the cottage industries, and ask them to bear the brunt of the additional cost burdens that are imposed upon their operations. Those people at the bottom have no-one to whom they can pass on those increased costs. That is destroying rural industries. As a consequence, every time they are hit with another cost burden, they produce less. This nation now produces 10 million tonnes of grain. Ten years ago, it produced 15 million tonnes. It amazes me why any Federal Government would not say to the wheat industry, "You used to produce 15 million tonnes. We have a \$160 billion debt

that we have to service. We need you to produce 20 million tonnes. Can you do that for us?" Yet what does the Government say? It says, "You people are a bit of a burden for us. We will take away this service from you and we will take away that service."

We have just gone through a period when interest rates were 24 per cent and people did not have the economic capacity to borrow money or to produce and finished up in a position where they could not operate or had to curtail their operations. Not only is this nation missing out on that production, but also there is a reduction in export income. Every time we hear that the dollar has gone up, champagne corks are popped all over the place, but the Reserve Bank has to spend billions of dollars in a two or three day period to prop up the Australian dollar. That money must come from somewhere. It seems to me to be a pretty basic economic fact that that is not the way to run a business. It is time that the people of Australia said to the Federal Government, "If you run a business, more money must come in than goes out, otherwise you will go broke." Day after day we hear about the tragedy involved in bankruptcy. I continually say to our Federal counterparts, "If you were running Australia the business, you would not run it the way that you are running it at the moment. You would look at what is the mainstream of your income potential and see whether that can be improved, rather than go off on a tangent."

In other words, if my major business activity was the manufacture of a particular commodity, and on the side I was involved in the racehorse industry as a hobby, would I put all of my time and effort into breeding racehorses at the expense of my mainstream business activity? Of course I would not, because my main business activity would go bust. However, that is what has been done in Australia. We have involved ourselves with a range of airy fairy, useless propositions, for political reasons. We have seen the demise of the industries that made this nation great, whether they be primary or secondary. We cannot even manufacture a box of matches in Australia now. I have read in some publications about some of the things we now have to import into Australia because we no longer manufacture them. It is unbelievable that we have to import basic things that could be manufactured in our workshops.

In order to run a successful business, the equipment and infrastructure must be up to scratch. The Federal Treasurer has stated that we must get the infrastructure right and that we must make changes to the importation of machinery so that when we come out of this recession, we will be able to get up and running. However, the infrastructure in Australia is dead in the water. An important factor that will enable a nation to prosper is good roads. The roads of Australia have not been in worse condition since the Second World War. I spend most of my time driving on country roads, but yesterday I visited four shires close to Perth - Mundaring, Swan, Chittering and Gingin. In every one of those shires, the number one complaint was about the state of their roads and the cost burden that has been placed upon them by this Government, which has said to local government, "You will have to take more responsibility for roads." However, they have not been given any money. The Government has spent all of the money on the WA Advantage package, on the Social Advantage package, and on sending to school five year olds who do not want to go to school. It has spent \$40 million to provide jobs to people to make footpaths. A family told me that they were driving along Great Eastern Highway between Meenaar and Cunderdin. That section of the road is an absolute disaster. It is broken up by potholes. They were driving along the road as an interstate truck was coming in the opposite direction, and they found it almost impossible to keep their car on the road because it was jumping in and out of the potholes and they did not have control. We have heard some bulldust from Ministers in this place about more attention being paid to road safety, but what chance do we have to improve road safety when the roads upon which people have to drive to carry out their daily business are in such a terrible state?

The railways have been told by the Government that they must become profitable and that the way to get profitable is to stop operations on those lines which run at a loss or to stop carrying those commodities which run at a loss. However, at the same time in the metropolitan area the Government is building the northern suburbs railway for \$270 million. We have heard in the last few days that only nine per cent of the cost of operating the passenger rail service comes from fares. The remainder of the operating cost obviously has to be made up by the Government. No-one grizzles about that and we never hear any country members criticise that situation because we know there is no alternative, but when it comes to operating a service to country areas not only for the betterment of the people but

also to enhance production, the Government says it has to be user pays or it will do away with it and cut it out.

With Transperth buses, the fares received cover 22 per cent of costs. Obviously the other 78 per cent of costs comes from the public purse. We accept that; it is fair, because we must have buses to move people around. If people were charged the true cost they would not travel by public transport. We also have the State fuel levy which everyone pays one way or another. Everyone who rides on a bus pays the levy, and it is logical that the people who do not use the buses use a car more and pay even more fuel tax. In that way, they assist the people who ride on the buses at a cheaper rate. The State fuel levy is 26¢ a litre which is put back into the road system. The remainder of the levy is splurged around the nation on the One Nation, the WA Advantage and other packages in order to win the next election. In the past, people have fallen for this. I have reached the stage where I say to people around country Western Australia that we should say no. Perhaps we should use civil disobedience when the Government insists that it needs more money or when it says that we will need to pay more for this or go without that. People in country Western Australia who have been subjected to unfair tactics should say no. It is not enough for the elected members in this House, no matter on which side, to say it is not fair or right or that the Government of the day has forced this on us. We should say no but if we cannot change the situation we have no option but to live with the decision made by both Houses. People should be encouraged to say that they will not accept the situation. They should be able to say, "Go to hell, because that will destroy us." People should be able to say that a decision will be bad for the nation.

It is time that the politicians, the bureaucracy, and all the people involved took a look at themselves. We face an out of control economic situation. We should get serious. Instead of making political decisions to win votes we should make decisions for the good of the nation. We have probably not done that for 20 years. We have all been guilty of making decisions for political reasons. It is a tragedy that we have allowed this country to bog down to a point where many young people are unemployed. We are told repeatedly that these people are better educated. What a substitute that is! We have given these people a better education but no future. It must be one of the most soul destroying situations for young people to be facing the future as capable people but with an outlook on life that has been destroyed. The basic family foundation has been eroded. We hear about support for the family, but what is a family? A mother, a father and children no longer represents a family. These days, a family is a group of people who want to live together. That is the sort of family that we are assisting. We penalise a group if one of the parents stays home with the children. Instead of supporting that type of family by giving it a taxation advantage or a free ride on the bus we allocate \$1 million for the education of five year olds in an attempt to replace child care centres. In this way we give people the incentive to send children away earlier. It seems that everyone must be looked after by the system, not within the family structure.

We do not need to look very far around the world to witness the countries that are doing all right with the traditional family base. Every man, woman and child - indeed, every member in this place - has a view about various matters. However, as an example, we all know that if we do not put fuel in a car, somewhere along the road the car will stop. We may prefer to use a different type of fuel but it will not work. We could all promote a vastly different system through which to educate people. We would all like a better way of life. We would all like to have more free time, perhaps to work only 20 hours a week. For instance, we could have football on Wednesdays instead of Saturdays, but it would not work because the economy would soon be ruined; we could not maintain our necessary services. Our system would not allow us to do that, but still many individuals promote these new ways to live.

While on the subject of football, I must say that our national game is magnificent.

Hon Garry Kelly: It is grand final time.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: It is a great game.

Hon Garry Kelly: The Bulldogs will win.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: Yes, I think they will.

Several members interjected.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: I am an East Perth man myself. I thought we might be in it next

week. Turning to the Australian Football League, I had the privilege twice recently to watch the Eagles play. In the bush we cannot do that but we watch them on the television. It is tremendous. However, there is nothing like being at the game, experiencing the atmosphere. The tragedy is that many of the Eagles players, and many of the WAFL players, come from country Western Australia. Over recent years I have witnessed the demise of about six country clubs. About 25 or 50 per cent of men of football age have gone from the agricultural regions in the past five years. They have left the area as a result of the economic circumstances or they have gone to Perth to receive an education or to find employment. They will not go back to the country. When those young fellows come to Perth, they do not always play football. In the past in the country they would have played football in the winter and cricket in the summer, and other sports to a lesser degree. In the country if a young fellow had two legs and could run a bit, he would play football in the winter. That participation has encouraged many young players. Many young people in the metropolitan area would be good at football or soccer, but they are not playing any code; they are not doing anything. They have chosen a useless lifestyle and that is a consequence of this useless way of life that some people in our society are promoting.

The greatest tragedy for the future of football is that Melbourne has too many teams. That will not change because Victoria will not give in. The Australian Football League props up the Melbourne teams by coming up with a strategy for player drafts and financial distributions.

Hon Garry Kelly: More teams for Western Australia.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: We have heard the names of WA players who could be drafted to Melbourne to prop up its clubs. That allows the Victorian teams to continue. How many players from Western Australian clubs will go to Victoria to prop up the Victorian teams? We have heard about the great Hawthorn Football Club, yet only half Hawthorn's players come from Victoria, the rest come from South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania, Western Australia -

Hon Tom Stephens: And from the Northern Territory.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: - and the Northern Territory. That could have been a bit of misleading information provided by Hon Tom Stephens. Members should never take any notice of anything he has to say.

Hon Tom Stephens: You never do. That is one of the great problems of your political career.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: The one good thing about Hon Tom Stephens is that he does smile now and again, and I do not mind some of his input. I always take it in the right light.

Hon Garry Kelly: Do you think football will prosper in the long term under the present arrangements?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: No I do not.

Hon Garry Kelly: I agree with you.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: It could prosper if a few basic commonsense decisions were made. Many good things are happening in football, such as the fostering of junior coaches and coaching clinics by the football administration at both the State and local levels. They are going to the schools and trying to encourage youngsters to play football. I have no concerns that this will not be successful in country areas. The downturn in the popularity of football has occurred in the country as well as in the city. I hope that the Minister for Education will say something about the tragedy taking place in the Ministry of Education affecting our teachers and our schools. It should be compulsory for young people in our schools to participate in sport. It does no good for the teachers, the school or the individual if sport is not compulsory. I used to pooh-pooh the existence of peer pressure, but it does exist and if the leaders in school wanted to play sport during school hours, the rest would follow.

Hon Barry House: The curriculum development for physical development has not kept pace in those areas.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: It is not a single, simple problem, but it is a problem because students are not participating. They are not involved in sport; they just hang around. If one

is not involved with sport as a child, it is unlikely one will participate when one gets older. It is the same with reading and writing: If one does not learn those skills when one is young, it is unlikely one will learn them at 20 years of age. I hope the Minister for Education, now that she has sorted out the University of Notre Dame land grant, will devote a little more of her time to the operation of schools and give the teaching profession a bit of a shake up, because it is in disarray. We need to get back to a few basic principles. I remember many years ago going to a meeting at which I was a proponent for acknowledging those kids who did well at the interschool sports or the school sports carnival. Hon Kim Chance will remember the East Avon schools sports carnival. All the boys played football and all the girls played netball, and at the end of the weekend the fairest and best trophies were awarded. I had teachers saying that we should not recognise those children who were better than the other children because it would give poor Johnny an inferiority complex! What a load of rubbish and bloody rot. But I was outvoted.

Hon Garry Kelly: It is the tyranny of numbers.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: Absolutely. Nobody is recognised at the sports carnival; it is a farce. That is happening in the school system. We are told that we cannot have exams because it is not a good thing to tell one child that he is not as good as the others. However, at some stage he must go into the big wide world. What happens when someone tells him that someone else can do the job better than he can? God did not make us the same, and what some people are good at others are not. However, when it comes to a sporting situation it could be the reverse. Everyone has a gift in some way; it is unfortunate that not everyone has the opportunity to bring that gift out. That is the sort of policy that has led us down this path of less participation in sport - obviously in association with the economic problems facing country areas. We must start from scratch and get our young people to participate in sport. That will overcome about 50 per cent of all the social problems because they will be involved in a sporting activity instead of walking around with three or four earrings in their ears and with their hair hanging down the back of their necks; they will be involved in something positive. Only then will commonsense prevail. The Western Australian Football League might then change its policy on the participation of country players in the WAFL competition. We have all heard about the big move to bring two country sides into the WAFL, but this is not the time to do it. The first thing we must do is get young people in country Western Australia back playing football in the schools. That means not only more activity with junior coaches and clinics but also a change of direction in the thinking of football administration in country areas. In addition, we must look at the Australian Football League. If we are to have a second AFL team we cannot see this continual drain of players to the Eastern States, otherwise all Western Australia will be a breeding ground for the Victorian teams in the AFL. The AFL is a prime example of socialism: It cannot compete on its own in Victoria because the State is wrecked financially. Victoria has a \$60 billion debt and no natural resources of any consequence. It cannot pay it off. It will be paid off by the other States of Australia, and principally by Queensland and Western Australia because that is where most of the resources are. If Ross Oakley and his cohort were half dinkum, they would do something about it. However, because they do not want to, the current situation will continue with Western Australia propping them up.

Hon Barry House: They might be forced to change when the Eagles win a couple of premierships.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: That may be right. I hope Hon Barry House does not consider me to be a pessimist, but while we keep on making funds available in one form or another, directly or indirectly, the AFL will keep taking them. However, I agree that, in the final analysis, it is the money that counts. Nothing else matters as we saw today in the decision on the Notre Dame land. Money will determine which way football goes. However, it is a tragedy that things will go so far before the AFL is forced to do something. It is the same in Eastern Europe. The people in Eastern Europe did not decide to give Communism away; they were forced to because their countries were broke. We will not change the way things happen in Australia until this country is wrecked. However, I live in hope that people will see that changes must be made before we reach that stage. The way to do that - I am promoting it - is by implementing the policies contained in the Fightback package because it is the first time in 30 years that a change of direction has been proposed. That package will be kicked, smothered and ridiculed by Labor Parties around this nation and they will continue offering

people promises that will not result in any benefits for the nation but will see Governments making further borrowings that will further complicate the economy of Australia.

I will continue to encourage country people to stop accepting compromises and a lower standard of living compared with their city cousins. I will also encourage them to stop paying the financial imposts being placed on them. As the Rural Action Movement has demonstrated in the past, we will say no and will not accept these imposts any more. I give a guarantee to members in this place and to the people of country Western Australia that when I identify something that we should not accept, I will lead the charge in telling the Government that we will not have a bar of it. I hope the next election will decide the issue once and for all.

There is no doubt that the Government, in handing down this Budget, has shown a complete lack of initiative. Nothing would please me more than to give it a pat on the back and three cheers for taking action which would generate the sort of economic activity from which everyone would benefit.

Hon Tom Stephens: When was the last time you did that?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: The comment by Hon Tom Stephens is very apt, I suppose.

Hon Tom Stephens: You have never given praise where it is due.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: Obviously the member has a very short memory. He has probably been spending too much time in Perth instead of in his electorate. He should be the first to acknowledge that when the Government does something right, I praise it. He should remember because it does not happen very often.

Hon Tom Stephens: This Budget is another occasion for singing our praise.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: I have told the member on more than one occasion that I have praised the decision made by Max Johnson and announced by the Premier.

Hon Tom Stephens: You should be singing the praises of this Budget.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: When I have seen an improvement in employment figures, and the borrowings of the State going down instead of up, I will join with the member in front of Parliament House and wave to the cheering thousands congratulating the Government.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Fred McKenzie.

RESERVES BILL

Committee

Resumed from 27 August.

The Chairman of Committees (Hon Garry Kelly) in the Chair; Hon Kay Hallahan (Minister for Education) in charge of the Bill.

Postponed clause 13: Reserves Nos. 36996, 41466, 17495, 26628, 28478, 28479 and 15776 (D'Entrecasteaux National Park) -

Progress was reported after the clause had been partly considered.

Hon N.F. MOORE: This clause was delayed pending the decision by the Government on a mineral petroleum resource assessment and biological assessment of the land that is proposed to be added to the D'Entrecasteaux National Park. I thank the Minister for providing me with the so-called petroleum and mineral resource assessment, which is very brief. It states -

Accordingly, additions to the Park are regarded as a special case by the Government and no resource assessment has been carried out prior to their inclusion in the Reserve Bill.

That is not quite what is in the resolution of conflict policy of the Government in respect of mining in national parks. I acknowledge that Cable Sands (WA) Pty Ltd, with which I have had discussions, has conducted fairly extensive exploration in the area for mineral sands and is prepared to go along with the proposition contained in this clause. However, I would like to put a proposition to the Minister for Education which could see us have the best of both worlds. The resolution of conflict statement states that exploration will be allowed to

continue for three years in the D'Entrecasteaux National Park. That statement was made in November 1990 so that exploration will not be permitted to continue, assuming that the Labor Party remains in Government, beyond November 1993. During winter, a large area of the land under consideration is waterlogged and exploration can take place only during the drier summer months. The company has had difficulty in assessing the whole area to give it a proper understanding of its mineral potential. It would be sensible for the Government to give some consideration to extending the exploration time. The company is anxious to determine the extent of mineral sands in the D'Entrecasteaux area; it has prospected for mineral sands and is able to carry out exploration without causing any problems to the national park. It recently gave us a demonstration of its drilling techniques from which it is clear that it does no damage whatsoever. It is having some difficulty completing by November 1993 the total exploration it wants to undertake. The amount of time available is not so much the problem as the very heavy rainfall in the area which prevents the company from going into it in winter months. It seems a very sensible proposition for the Government to acknowledge to Cable Sands that it has had three years, it has done a good job in putting together an assessment within the constraints that apply, and the company can have as much time as it needs to finish the job. This land could then be placed in the national park safe in the knowledge that we shall not be locking up prospective mineral sands that we do not know about because the company has not had time to explore the area because of this policy.

The Opposition is prepared to support this clause, and I ask the Government to give some consideration to my proposition. It would be a very sensible solution to a problem facing a genuine company and it could lead to both sides getting the best of both worlds. Cable Sands can do all the research and exploration it wants, and the State can have an extended national park which would be an asset.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I am pleased that the Opposition will support the clause. I make it clear that there is no inconsistency with the proposal in this clause and the resolution of conflict policy. That resolution of conflict policy refers to this particular park, and Hon Norman Moore chose to read a small part from the document. I want to place it on the record that I gave a copy of this document to Hon Norman Moore, which states that in recognition of the high mineral sand potential of the existing and proposed national park, the resolution of conflict policy provided that exploration would be allowed to continue for three years. Hon Norman Moore said that takes us to November 1993 and asked the Government to consider extending the time line. I will certainly put that to the Minister. Clearly, we need to deal with this matter tonight, and I doubt that the Minister will accept the proposition that the company should have as much time as needed because that would be a very open-ended arrangement.

Hon N.F. Moore: The company is not causing any damage to that land. It does not make any sense.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I will refer the member's suggestion to the Minister. Open-ended propositions are very often not the best propositions. The document signed by the Minister for Mines made a number of other points. As members indicated they did not want me to read that into *Hansard*, I will respect their wishes but I make the point that the small part quoted by Hon Norman Moore was only part of the document. He did acknowledge that the biological assessment had been made available. We have reached an important agreement with regard to this clause, and I am pleased that the Committee supports it.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I do not want to delay consideration of this matter but I again emphasise to the Minister that the policy with respect to the D'Entrecasteaux National Park and exploration therein is a silly policy because it sets a time limit which bears no relation to reality. The reality is that the Government has given an undertaking that it is not opposed to this company carrying out exploration because its exploration is environmentally sensitive. Imposing a time limit will have the effect of curtailing the possible exploration it can carry out. It will make no difference to the environment whether that exploration takes two years, five years or five hundred years. We, as a nation, want to know whether there are mineral deposits in that area which, if developed, would be to the benefit of us all. It does not make sense to tell the company it has only three years in which to carry out exploration, particularly if it cannot finish the job in three years. I ask the Government to use some commonsense, to bear in mind that the company is doing the job in a proper, environmentally sensitive way, and to give the company the time it takes for the job to be

done. It might take another year and then we shall know once and for all whether this national park has any mineral deposits worth developing, and there will be no problems from then on. It is a very sensible proposition. I know the Minister for the Environment is a very sensible person and I am sure he would be the first to agree to the proposal that contains the sort of commonsense proposed to the Minister now.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I am pleased to inform Hon Norman Moore that the Minister for the Environment, being the sensible person that Hon Norman Moore recognises him as, has already extended the exploration period from November 1993 to March 1994 in order to give the company another dry season, taking into account the problem it has encountered during the winter. Negotiations have taken place and the extension has been granted in the light of the practicalities brought to the Committee's attention tonight. I am sure it will be welcomed but, despite that, I will ensure that the comments made tonight are conveyed to the Minister. I am sure anything needed to be done in a sensible and responsible way for all the competing interests in the park will be taken into account.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I am very pleased to hear that it has been extended by three months. The Minister is obviously half sensible because it will help the company in its immediate problem. The point I make, which I hope the Minister will take on board, is that a time limit is irrelevant. Let us get the job done and find out what are the resources in the national park. The bottom line of the Government's own policy is that all approvals - not some - for new or extended national parks will be subject to detailed mineral/petroleum resource assessment prior to being presented to the Government for approval. That is a good policy. It is a good idea. Therefore, let us not put an arbitrary time limit upon a company's activities which may not allow it to fulfil the policy of the Government. We can have the best of both worlds: A national park, and the ability to mine any mineral deposits that are worth mining. I am sure the Minister will think about this some more and perhaps make the announcement tomorrow.

Postponed clause put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Bill reported, with an amendment.

CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 27 August.

HON P.G. PENDAL (South Metropolitan) [9.34 pm]: The Opposition supports the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill. The real nub of the legislation lies in an issue that is not addressed in the Bill itself. Members may recall that the legislation grew out of allegations that were made some time ago about illegal logging operations in the south west forests. At the time that those allegations were made, it was also suggested that accountability procedures in the logging process were not being followed. The upshot of that was that the Government appointed Daryl Williams, QC to have a comprehensive look at those allegations and to report back to the Government. However, it is often the case in matters of this sort that one puts to rest fears in one direction and into the bargain learns that other matters are not as they should be. Mr Williams found that there was no illegal logging going on but, as he went into the matter, he discovered that there were serious doubts about the legal basis of contracts that were historically entered into by the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the logging industry. That has shown up a somewhat dubious legal position that if challenged could put in some jeopardy the entire timber industry of this State.

Members will be aware that when the Minister for Education introduced this Bill into the House, she made the point that the timber industry has a gross sale value of in the order of \$69 million, and that royalties to the State amount to about \$29 million. Therefore, not only are we dealing with an important part of the State's economy and livelihood, but also we are talking about the proper management of an environmentally sensitive part of Western Australia. The study that Mr Williams was sent to carry out in fact allayed the fears of the Western Australian community about so-called illegal logging, but it threw up that separate but very important side issue that suggested that there was room for legal uncertainty in those contracts.

The Minister told us in the course of the second reading speech that those contracts would remain vulnerable to legal challenge unless those doubts were dispelled. Therefore, we have the Bill that is now before the Parliament. Everyone in this House would agree that it would be absurd in the face of Mr Williams' report not to act and to remove the doubts about the legal framework of those contracts. Those contracts were entered into in good faith by all parties; that is, the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the industry. Therefore, there is no element here of retrospectivity, which is often thrown up by members on this side of the House as a reason for our rejecting legislation. In fact, as I understand it, all we will be doing in passing this Bill is securing the spirit of those contracts, which all of us have believed to this point were secure. For that reason, the Opposition supports the legislation, and I see no point in my prolonging a debate on a matter that has been canvassed thoroughly by Mr Williams in his excellent report and which has also been expedited by the Government by way of this Bill.

I make a final comment to the Minister, in the hope that she will pass it on to the Minister who has overall responsibility for this Bill. Incidentally, I notice that this Bill was introduced in this House. I find that a bit puzzling, given that the Bill belongs to another Minister. I know there is nothing wrong with that, but I would be interested to know why the Government introduced the Bill into this House before the Minister for the Environment had a chance to introduce it in another place.

Hon George Cash: They did that with the Bush Fires Amendment Bill the other day; they gave it to the Minister for Small Business, of all people. There seems to be some confusion by the Government as to who is handling what.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: Just a few minutes ago my colleague, Hon Norman Moore, paid a generous compliment to the Minister for the Environment.

Hon N.F. Moore: It was actually a bribe!

Hon P.G. PENDAL: I must say that sometimes Hon Norman Moore is a little too generous with his comments and I certainly would not support those.

I would like the Minister for Education to pass this matter back to the Minister for the Environment: When I referred the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill to the Forest Industries Federation WA it appeared that that was the first that federation knew of its contents. It surprises me that a major industry group should have learnt of the contents of the Bill from the Opposition, and it suggests to me that if the Forest Industries Federation had not heard of the Bill until I took it there, perhaps the conservation movement and those people who instigated this whole matter might not have been advised either. Even if one is dealing with lobby groups with whom one disagrees, that courtesy should be extended to them because there is always the possibility that someone could find ways to improve legislation. I would be grateful if the Minister for Education would pass that observation on to the Minister for the Environment, because I would have thought that as a matter of courtesy the industry would have been officially alerted. After all, it is a very important part of the south west's economy and, in fairness to the industry, it conducts its affairs in a way which sets the standard for the rest of the world. We hear a good deal these days about sustainable forestry practices in particular, and I for one believe that we achieve that in WA. That is all the more reason why a Government should have the courtesy to consult the industry whose task it is, in a physical, everyday sense, to maintain those sustainable practices.

I believe there is some sense of urgency about this legislation because I understand it would have been open for anyone, mischievously or otherwise, to have taken to the courts and challenged any one of these contracts, which may have had the result of invalidating virtually all of the contracts in the timber industry. If that is true, and it certainly is implied in the Minister's second reading speech, we have no time to fiddle about unduly. The Bill should be passed as quickly as possible to remove, firstly, any possibility of a challenge, and secondly, in the long term, any possibility that there is a real doubt about the validity of these contracts. It is certainly the Crown Solicitor's view that those doubts exist. The passage of this legislation will remove them, and therefore the Opposition has no hesitation in supporting the Bill.

HON KAY HALLAHAN (East Metropolitan - Minister for Education) [9.44 pm]: I am

pleased that there is support for the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill. The logging and timber industry is an important one and, as a legal ambiguity has been pointed out to the Government, we must act in the most expeditious way possible. For that reason the Bill was introduced into this House first, as there has been less pressure on the legislative timetable in this House. It was a very considered and conscious decision to introduce it into this place, to deal with it as quickly as we could, and then to transmit it to the other place for the attention of members there.

I will convey to Minister for the Environment the comments of Hon Phillip Pandal with regard to the Forest Industries Federation WA. I understand that the report by Mr Daryl Williams AM QC was a thorough and useful one, that the matter has subsequently been examined by the Crown Solicitor, and that we have before us a technical Bill which we believe needs to be passed in order to protect the legal situation and put it beyond challenge. Given the technical nature of the Bill and the expertise that has been brought to bear on it, it may be that widespread consultation was not undertaken; then again, it may be that adequate consultation was undertaken. I am not in a position to advise the House on that point tonight. However, I am pleased that there is support for the Bill and I commend it to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Committee and Report

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Hon Kay Hallahan (Minister for Education), and transmitted to the Assembly.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE - ORDINARY

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Metropolitan - Leader of the House) [9.48 pm]: I move -
That the House do now adjourn.

Adjournment Debate - Casuarina Prison - Pharmacy Question

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Metropolitan - Minister for Corrective Services) [9.49 pm]: Earlier in the day some suggestion was made that I appeared to be seeking to avoid a question by the Leader of the Opposition in relation to the pharmacy at Casuarina and/or Canning Vale Prison. It was suggested that I had undertaken to answer a question but had failed to do so. In order to set the record straight, I refer to *Hansard* of Thursday, 3 September and question without notice 394. This will correct any misunderstanding on this matter which could have been caused by the comments earlier today. On that occasion last Thursday the Leader of the Opposition referred a question to me about the pharmacy at Casuarina Prison. It was a question without notice of which some notice had been given, to which I answered -

I acknowledge some notice of this question. The department has still not provided me with the material required for the response. I suggest it now be put on notice. I will undertake to ensure that the response will be available on the next Supplementary Notice Paper.

As I undertook to do, I ensured that the answer was available today. The problem I faced was how the answer might be put on the Supplementary Notice Paper when the question itself had not been put on that paper. Therefore, there was nothing to answer. When that was noted, I assumed that the Leader of the Opposition, in lieu of putting the question on notice as I suggested -

Hon George Cash: You did not suggest it at all.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I just read it out. I said, "I suggest it now be put on notice."

Hon George Cash: You said that you would undertake to ensure that the response would be available on the next Supplementary Notice Paper. Is it there?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: That is right. The Leader of the Opposition should not leave out the earlier sentence. The part he has quoted depends upon the earlier sentence, in which I suggested he put the question on the Notice Paper! The Leader of the Opposition knows as well as I do that answers on the Supplementary Notice Paper are answers to questions that have been placed on the Notice Paper. I am not aware of any procedure which allows the tabling of an answer in the Supplementary Notice Paper to a question which has not been asked.

Hon George Cash: Perhaps you should have tabled it today. I think you are avoiding the question.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I undertook to put the answer in the next Supplementary Notice Paper. This is not a big problem. I undertook to have the answer ready, and it was ready. If a question had been put on the Notice Paper as I suggested and expected, the answer would have gone on the Supplementary Notice Paper. However, in the absence of a question, it was not for me to put the answer in the Supplementary Notice Paper. If I had, it would have been an answer to a question which was never asked.

Hon George Cash: Why did you not table it?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The question was not placed on the Notice Paper on Thursday, 3 September either. I came into this House today fully expecting the Leader of the Opposition to ask that question.

Hon George Cash: I think you are totally confused. I read the question out earlier to give you half a chance.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I can understand the Leader of the Opposition's wanting to withdraw from the earlier proposition, and I would appreciate his withdrawing because he misrepresented me in quite a serious way. Having found myself unable to have the answer printed because the question had not been printed, I came into the House ready to answer the same question without notice as Mr Cash had been prepared to ask on the last Thursday we met.

Hon George Cash: I am surprised that you did not have it tabled.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I had nothing to table it to! As the Leader of the Opposition will recall, he did not ask his eight questions. He referred to eight questions but did not ask them until the Budget debate; he cannot get away from that.

Hon George Cash: I think you are confused.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The answers were ready on the timing that I undertook to have them ready; they are ready now. I again invite the Leader of the Opposition either to put his question on notice for tomorrow when both his question and the answer will appear on the Supplementary Notice Paper, or, if he prefers, he should ask it without notice tomorrow. In that case he will receive the answer immediately. I simply suggest that no question of evading the issue or looking for delay was involved. I have not the faintest interest in delay on this matter! As soon as the answer came to me, I was happy to transfer it as soon as a procedure was available to enable me to do so. I again extend the invitation to the Leader of the Opposition: Put the question on the Notice Paper or ask it without notice. He should do so at his own preference. I assure the member that the answer, which was ready for today, will be available tomorrow.

Adjournment Debate - Heritage - Perth Zookeeper's Cottage; Morton Bay Fig Trees

HON P.G. PENDAL (South Metropolitan) [9.56 pm]: I oppose the adjournment motion until I have had a few minutes to bring a heritage matter to the attention of members, particularly the Leader of the House. On many occasions I have been critical of this Government for encouraging, and in some cases forcing, private owners to maintain heritage property, only to discover that the State has been responsible for destruction of much of the State-owned heritage of Western Australia. I will not go through the long, inglorious list, but suffice it to cite the St George's Hall, the stables at the old Swan Brewery building and many other buildings which were demolished under the stewardship of this Government.

Recently the Perth Zoo in South Perth unveiled a master plan for the redevelopment of the Zoo to take place over the next 25 years. In the south east corner of the Zoo property - the

corner along Angelo and Onslow Streets - stand a number of Moreton Bay fig trees which probably date back a century. In this area stands a very old weatherboard home which was built in 1903 to house the first zookeeper. Under the 25 year master plan that house is to be demolished and a new building is to be erected under the canopies of the magnificent, century-old Moreton Bay figs. I for one have some doubts regarding the heritage value of the zookeeper's cottage; one does not need a degree in heritage architecture to see that the building is in a serious state of disrepair. However, has that State-owned property been the subject of a heritage assessment? If not, the Government is again failing in its duties under the Heritage of Western Australia Act.

We have seen privately-owned buildings subjected to Government action. For example, the Railway Hotel in Barrack Street has had a stop work order placed on it preventing the private owner from working on the site because the owner is alleged to have destroyed the heritage of that hotel. As I have said for five years in this House, the same obligation applies to the Government to look after its own property! If the zookeeper's cottage has not been assessed by the Heritage Council, why not? Also, if it has not been assessed, on whose authority is it to be demolished? For all we know we could be presiding over the demolition of a building which should be saved. If the building must be saved problems arise because it will mean that the Zoo cannot build the new buildings on that site.

That is the first thing I want to draw to the attention of the Attorney General. I hope that in due course he will find a way to respond to me and give me the assurance that in fact the heritage value of that building has been assessed and that it is not appropriate to save it.

The second point on which I want assurance is that as a result of constructing the new building the century-old Moreton Bay fig trees will not be destroyed. If anyone knows the area about which I am talking he will know that that stand of trees is a magnificent part of the local landscape. I understand that the architect has very skilfully positioned the new building to run not only beneath those trees, but also between them.

Hon Garry Kelly: Is this construction imminent?

Hon P.G. PENDAL: Yes; it is not simply a schematic design. The architect, who I think has done a very good job, has been engaged. I want an assurance on the record that the placing of the new building will not jeopardise those fig trees.

I also want some assurance from the Minister responsible for the Zoo that none of the Eucalypts in Onslow Street will be destroyed. Residents from that street have been in touch with me. They take very seriously the fact that the Zoo is a neighbour. The area is a magnificent piece of public land and there is no reason that either they or I can think of that those trees should be in any way put at risk as a result of the new building. This is an important issue which must be resolved.

The master plan for the Zoo has already encountered much flak locally; for example, the cricket, hockey and other clubs at Richardson Park are concerned that they will lose access to their arena. I am certainly not in favour of that. Although I have commended the Zoo for a very imaginative and innovative plan, released a couple of weeks ago, it is imperative that not only the question of Richardson Park be dealt with - I will deal with that at a later stage in this House - but also the zookeeper's cottage be heritage assessed sufficiently to allow it to be demolished, and I hope that assurances can be given about the magnificent stand of trees.

Adjournment Debate - Questions Procedure

THE PRESIDENT: Order! Before I adjourn the House, although I do not wish to become involved in the debate, it is very important that members understand what are the rules in this place regarding questions. The procedure needs to be reaffirmed in members' minds. I was rather disturbed at what the Attorney General said regarding a question without notice - not on the detail of the question; I do not know what it was about. It is irrelevant whether notice was given. It is my responsibility, among other things, to see that the questions are proper and, if they are on notice, that they conform to the Standing Orders. The rule has always been that when a member asks a question without notice and the Minister says that he does not have the answer, whatever the reason, that question should be put on notice. The member asking the question does not have to do anything, and that question will appear on the next day's Notice Paper. The only way in which that will not occur is if the member who asked the question without notice directs the Clerk not to put it on notice.

Hon J.M. Berinson: The question was not asked. An indication was given that the Leader of the Opposition wished to ask a question on that subject. That, I think, made this situation different from the usual case.

The PRESIDENT: That is a different matter. However, I want to reiterate that Standing Order 139 (a) reads -

A Member may ask an oral question without notice and the Minister or Member concerned, if it is one that in his opinion should be answered immediately, may thereupon answer the question and, if not, request that it be placed on notice.

I have always ruled, as have my predecessors, that that question automatically goes on the Notice Paper as a question on notice. The only time that does not occur is when the member tells the Clerk he does not want to ask the question. I am making this point because, although I did not pick up the point made by the Attorney General that the question was not asked, Standing Order No 140(c) reads -

The President may disallow any question that is the same in substance as one already answered, disallowed or to which an answer has been refused in the same session.

In other words, members cannot ask the same question twice during the same session. This is why I get irritated when the Minister gives the same answer, albeit to a different question. If the question is asked without notice and it is automatically put on the Notice Paper then to become a question on notice it is not being asked twice, but virtually once. However, if members ask the question without notice and the Minister does not answer it on the first occasion, it cannot be asked the next day because that would be in conflict with Standing Order No 140(c). I admit that I misunderstood what the Attorney General said; that is, that the question was not asked. That situation is not provided for and I will have to think about that. The reason I stood was that I was going to support the Minister on what he was saying; that is, that he could not give an answer to a question which was not asked. Therefore, I had assumed that the Leader of the Opposition had asked for the question not to go on the Notice Paper, because that was the only way it could not appear.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 10.08 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

INDUSTRIAL LANDS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY - ANNUAL REPORT, 1990
Ministerial Directions to Purchase Land, Auditor General's First General Report - Omission Reason

450. Hon MAX EVANS to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Lands:

In respect of the Industrial Lands Development Authority, why did the annual report at 30 June 1990 not refer to the directions given by the Minister to the board to purchase land referred to in the First General Report of the Auditor General for 1992 when the 30 June 1991 reported that directives had been issued?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Lands has provided the following reply -

Due to an oversight, the direction issued by the Minister to acquire the land referred to in the Auditor General's first general report should have been included in the Industrial Lands Development Authority's annual report for 1990.

PRISONS - CASUARINA

Government Allocations Redirected Without Proper Authority

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

Will the Minister determine if Government moneys, allocated to Casuarina Prison, were redirected without proper authority to other than recorded cost items at the prison?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The need for further inquiry will be considered when a report on the current review of the building services division becomes available.

PARKING - PERTH CITY COUNCIL

Income Directed to Further Parking Policy

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

- (1) Is it correct that Perth City Council parking income must be applied to provision of further parking facilities?
- (2) If yes, would such a policy encourage the continued use of private motor vehicles, which in turn creates pollution and contributes to the greenhouse problem?
- (3) Will the Minister consider allowing portion of the income derived from parking to be diverted towards more environmentally acceptable activities such as promotion of public transport?
- (4) If not, why not?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) The City of Perth Parking Facilities Act 1956 requires that all revenue derived under the Act be paid into a "Parking Fund" to be maintained by the City of Perth. All money within the fund must be used for the management and operation of the parking system. However, in addition to being used for the "provision of further parking facilities", money is also used for administration, enforcement, research, and the enhancement of movement between parking facilities and final destinations - financing City Clipper services, pedestrian facilities, etc.
- (2) Although Perth has not, as yet, encountered major problems of traffic

congestion, it is recognised that the requirements of the existing Parking Facilities Act contribute to an expansionary pressure within the parking system and a continued reliance on the car for access to the city centre.

- (3) The Department of Transport is currently coordinating a major review of the Perth central area parking policy, and legislative arrangements for parking within the city. The broad objective of this review is to ensure that the city's parking policy is consistent with, and supportive of, strategic transport policies directed at ensuring a sustainable balance of transport modes for access to the central area, providing for the use of the car, increased public transport use, and an increased use of bicycle and walk modes where feasible. Those involved in the review are keenly aware of the need to provide people-access to the city centre, while avoiding the problems of vehicle congestion which can detract from the city as a clean, efficient, and people-friendly environment. The review is considering alternative uses for parking revenues, including provision for the allocation of money to public transport projects, central area circulation systems, park and ride facilities - including suburban facilities - and other city development purposes. It is expected that the review will be completed before the end of 1992.
- (4) Not applicable.

EDUCATION, MINISTRY OF - PERTH MODERN SCHOOL

Teacher's Allegations Against Acting Principal - Letters and Inquiry Details

489. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education:

Further to the Minister's answer to question on notice 278 on Wednesday, 3 June 1992 -

- (1) Did the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Education receive a letter dated 26 April 1991 from the State School Teachers Union of WA Inc in respect of an action taken against a teacher at Perth Modern School under regulation 135 and, if so, when will the Ministry of Education reply to this letter?
- (2) Did the CEO of the Ministry of Education receive a letter dated 25 October 1991 from a teacher at Perth Modern School who was also an elected health and safety officer at that school making certain allegations against the Acting Principal of Perth Modern School, and why did it take seven months to reply to this letter?
- (3) Did the Ministry of Education receive a letter dated 14 November 1991 signed by 12 teachers from Perth Modern School in which numerous allegations were made against the Perth Modern School administration and the Swanbourne District administration?
- (4) Was an investigation instituted into these allegations and were all teachers interviewed; and if so, when did this investigation take place?
- (5) When was this investigation concluded?
- (6) Have the complainants been advised, in writing, of the results of this investigation?
- (7) If not, why not?
- (8) What conclusions were arrived at as a result of the inquiry?
- (9) Have any of the teachers who signed the letter of complaint been transferred in order that the matter could be quashed?
- (10) How many of the teachers who signed the letter of complaint have been transferred or are proposed to be transferred?
- (11) Is the Minister aware that some of the teachers who signed the letter of

complaint have approached the Ombudsman to seek further redress to their grievances?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) (a) Yes. The letter was a request on behalf of a teacher to have complaints against him removed from his personal file. Requests of this nature are usually declined as an individual's personal file is the ministry's official record of their work history. In this particular case, the teacher received a written apology from the parent who lodged the complaint against him, and this apology can be read in conjunction with the complaint.
- (b) The SSTUWA has been advised of the ministry's position verbally.
- (2) (a) Yes.
- (b) The teacher was advised on 14 November 1991 that the acting principal would be given an opportunity to respond to the allegations. The acting principal forwarded his response to the ministry, and then proceeded on long service leave after having expressed his intention to retire. Consideration of this response was overshadowed by the pending retirement of the acting principal, and it was not until the teacher wrote to the ministry in March 1992 that the matter was resurrected. The allegations were subsequently dismissed and the teacher informed accordingly.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) (a)-(b) Yes.
- (c) November 1991.
- (5) December 1991.
- (6) No.
- (7)-(8) After receipt of the allegations, a preliminary investigation, to ascertain what further action might be necessary, was conducted by a director of operations, at the request of the chief executive office of the ministry. This inquiry found insufficient evidence to warrant a formal investigation. However, a number of operational initiatives were recommended in the interests of the school, and these were endorsed and acted upon in December 1991.
- (9) No.
- (10) Four.
- (11) No.

YANCHEP MARINA - SOUTHERN BREAKWATER NO ADMITTANCE SIGN

Lease No 3116-5595 - Public Pedestrian Access Maintenance

497. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of a sign which is erected on the southern end of the southern breakwater at the Yanchep Marina which states that no admittance will be provided to the southern breakwater?
- (2) Does lease No 3116/5595 provide that public pedestrian access is to be maintained to this breakwater?
- (3) Has the lessee complied with all the terms and conditions of the lease?
- (4) If not, why not?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Lands has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(4) Responses will require research involving consultation with a number

of Government agencies. This research is under way and, once completed, responses will be provided in writing.

YANCHEP MARINA - LEASE No 3116-5595

Seaweed Deposits Odour - Breach of Pollution Conditions

498. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Lands:

(1) Given the extent of the seaweed deposits on the beach adjoining the Yanchep Marina and the odour caused by the decomposition of seaweed, is the lessee in breach of those conditions of lease No 3116/5595 which provide certain obligations on the lessee in respect of pollution?

(2) If not, why not?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Lands has provided the following reply -

(1)-(2) See response to question 497.

YANCHEP MARINA - LEASE No 3116-5595

Mooring Zone North of Northern Breakwater Control

499. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Lands:

(1) Is there a mooring zone in favour of, or under the control of, the lessee of lease No 3116/5595 which extends north of the northern breakwater at the Yanchep Marina?

(2) If so, will the Minister provide details of such an agreement and table a copy of the document and respective plans?

(3) Is the Minister aware of any situations in which the lessee has refused access or mooring rights to this mooring zone, and if the Minister has no such knowledge will the Minister seek advice from the lessee on this matter and advise the House of the lessee's response?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Lands has provided the following reply -

(1)-(3) See response to question 497.

TWO ROCKS - "OLD MOORING BASIN"

Siltation - Lessee's Obligations, Lease Provision

500. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Lands:

(1) Has siltation occurred to the area known as the Old Mooring Basin which is located both south and east of the southern most rock outcrop known as Two Rocks?

(2) What provision is contained in the lease for the lessee to keep this area free of siltation?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Lands has provided the following reply -

(1)-(2) See response to question 497.

YANCHEP MARINA - LEASE No 3116-5595

Obligations and Clause 5 j (i) Survey

502. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Lands:

When was the most recent survey completed to ensure that the lessee discharged the obligations set out in lease No 3116/5595 and in particular the conditions set out in clause 5(j)(i), which requires the lessee to maintain the

approach channel to a minimum depth of 3.4 metres below the low water mark, Fremantle?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Lands has provided the following reply -

See response to question 497.

YANCHEP MARINA - LEASE No 3116-5595

Clause 5 j (ii) Approved Depths

503. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) In respect of lease No 3116/5595 what are the approved depths referred to in clause 5(j)(ii)?
- (2) Will the Minister table the plan indicating the respective approved depths within the lease area and any other area required to be maintained by the lessee?
- (3) When were these depths last surveyed to ascertain compliance with the lease?
- (4) Who carried out the survey and will the Minister table a copy of the survey documents?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Lands has provided the following reply -

(1)-(4) See response to question 497.

YANCHEP MARINA - LEASE No 3116-5595

Area Plan Tabling Including Public Open Space Land

504. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Lands:

Will the Minister table a plan indicating the area comprised in lease No 3116/5595 and indicate any area of land within the lease area which is zoned public open space and any other area to which public access is required to be maintained?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Lands has provided the following reply -

See response to question 497.

YANCHEP MARINA - LEASE No 3116-5595

Sun City Yacht Club Lease, Area Plan Tabling

505. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Will the Minister table a plan indicating the area comprising the lease between the current lessee of lease No 3116/5595 and the Sun City Yacht Club, such sublease having been approved by the Minister for Lands?
- (2) Will the Minister ensure that any future lease agreement over the land and water area comprised in lease No 3116/5595 provides that the land and water area the subject of registered sublease No E072748 is excised from the principal lease and made the subject of a separate lease between the Government and the Sun City Yacht Club?
- (3) If not, why not?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Lands has provided the following reply -

(1)-(3) See response to question 497.

YANCHEP MARINA - LEASE No 3116-5595
Future Lease of Land and Water Area - Public Access Assurance

506. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Lands:

Will the Minister ensure that any future lease of the land and water area the subject of lease No 3116/5595 and generally described as the Yanchep Marina, provides for the excision of such land and water area to enable the provision of a public jetty and public facilities and such other conditions which would ensure that public access by land, air and water, and such public jetty and public facilities are provided for and maintained?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Lands has provided the following reply -

See response to question 497.

YANCHEP MARINA - LEASE No 3116-5595
Public Access Prevention Grounds

507. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) On what grounds can the lessee of lease No 3116/5595 prevent public access to the lease area?
- (2) Given the nature of the various business enterprises conducted within the area contained in lease No 3116/5595 is the public entitled to access to the business enterprises, and if not, why not?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Lands has provided the following reply -

(1)-(2) See response to question 497.

YANCHEP MARINA - LEASE No 3116-5595
Public Access Refusal Incidents

508. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of any incident in which the lessee of lease No 3116/5595 has prevented access to a member of the public, and if so, will the Minister require the lessee to furnish reasons for such refusal to enter the leased premises?
- (2) If not, why not?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Lands has provided the following reply -

(1)-(2) See response to question 497.

NORTH WEST PLANNING COMMITTEE - MEMBERSHIP
Metropolitan Planning Committee Delegate

542. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Who are the members of the north west planning committee?
- (2) Who is the delegate from the north west planning committee to the metropolitan planning committee?
- (3) Who were the delegates nominated by the north west planning committee to the metropolitan planning committee?
- (4) Why did the Minister not appoint one of the delegates nominated by the north west planning committee to the metropolitan planning committee?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Planning has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(2) If the Leader of the Opposition is referring to the north west district planning committee as described in the first schedule of the Metropolitan Regional Town Planning Scheme Act, the membership is comprised as follows -

Councillor Tony Vallelonga representing the council of the City of Stirling.

Councillor Rita Waters representing the council of the City of Wanneroo.

By virtue of his appointment to the metropolitan planning council and in accordance with the approved committee constitution, Councillor Vallelonga is the chairman of that committee.

- (3) The panel of names required to be submitted for my consideration from the NWDPC in accordance with section 25(1)(d) of the State Planning Commission Act 1985 and within the time given was as follows -

Councillor John Bombak - City of Stirling

Councillor Rita Waters - City of Wanneroo

Councillor Tony Vallelonga - City of Stirling - the incumbent member of the metropolitan planning council since September 1989.

- (4) Councillor Vallelonga was chosen from the list as set out in (3) above.

SWIMMING POOLS - LEGISLATION

Review - Working Party Establishment

551. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Has a working party been set up to review the existing legislation related to swimming pool fencing requirements?
- (2) If so, why was this review seen to be needed?
- (3) What terms of reference and/or guidelines were given to the working party for the study of the legislation?
- (4) So far, what progress has been made regarding this legislative review?
- (5) When are recommendations expected to be made?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Local Government has provided the following reply -

- (1) In September 1991, the Minister for Local Government, in cooperation with the Western Australian Municipal Association, established a working party to review some aspects of the legislation related to private swimming pools.
- (2) New provisions and regulations for private swimming pools had been proclaimed on 11 January 1991. This resulted from the reports and recommendations of a working party on swimming pool safety having been submitted to the Minister for Health in 1989. Some problems associated with the inspections of private swimming pools arose due to the new provisions and regulations. The inspection process needed to be reviewed and corrected to remove apparent anomalies.
- (3) The terms of reference were -
 - (a) An appropriate definition for isolation fencing. In proposing a definition, the working party will consider the need for Australia-wide uniformity in such matters. In addition, with

reference to isolation fencing, the working party will consider the need for the application of a discretionary power to allow exemptions from the regulations related to isolation fencing in exceptional circumstances. If a need is identified, then the working party will recommend the most appropriate method of implementing the exemption process.

- (b) With regard to the legislation, the working party will consider -
 - (i) Certification of compliance by owners or occupiers of residences with swimming pools. The working party is to assess whether self-certification is a workable solution or whether an alternative, such as two-yearly inspections, would be more conducive to the aims of the program. If the current self-certification process is found to be flawed, the working party will need to recommend ways of convincing the Opposition in State Parliament that amendments to the current process are required.
 - (ii) Liability of local governments in relation to inspection of swimming pool surrounds.
 - (iii) The liability of swimming pool owners when neighbours take actions on the side of the fence away from the pool, such that the fence height or access to the pool area no longer complies with the regulations. The working party is to assess all ways of overcoming this problem, including non-legislative.
 - (iv) Clarification of the application of the current regulations to pools built under the requirements of the uniform private swimming pool by-laws when repairs are required to gates and fences surrounding such pools.
 - (v) The process of inspection, the issuing and format of work orders, reinspection, the meaning of reasonable period for compliance and the issue of infringement notices.
 - (vi) The need for a regulation relating to gates held open permanently.
 - (vii) Whether there is a need to amend the technical description of a gate in a swimming pool fence.
 - (viii) Any other specific matters referred to the working party by the Minister, the associations of local government or individual local governments.
- (4) The working party met on seven occasions and completed its report covering the introduction of isolation fencing for new pools and proposed changes to the swimming pool inspection process.
- (5) There were 14 recommendations contained in the report and new regulations for private swimming pools, incorporating the recommendations, were gazetted on 26 June 1992.

WESTRAIL - REDUNDANT ROLLING STOCK, ITEMS DISPOSAL

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

- (1) What items of obsolete rolling stock have been disposed of by Westrail?
- (2) When was the stock disposed?
- (3) To whom was the rolling stock sold?
- (4) What was the total amount received from the disposal of this rolling stock?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1)-(4) Items of redundant rolling stock are disposed of by Westrail on an ongoing basis. The normal method of disposal is by public tender. However, items of historical significance are handed over to railway historical groups such as the Australian Railways Historical Society (WA Division) for preservation. If the member can detail specific items, I may be able to provide further information.

SCHOOLS - NORTHERN SUBURBS TRANSIT SYSTEM, SCHOOLS INCENTIVE PROJECT - INFORMATION KIT

Minister's Authorisation - Cost

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

I refer the Minister to the material entitled Northern Suburbs Transit System, Schools Incentive Project - Information Kit, and ask -

- (1) Did the Minister authorise the kits?
- (2) To which schools was the kit distributed?
- (3) Who paid for the kits?
- (4) What was the total cost of producing and distributing the kits?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) All high schools identified in the optimum catchment area for the northern suburbs transit system.
- (3) Transperth through the northern suburbs transit project.
- (4)

Production	\$17 409. 60
Distribution	297.50
Total	\$17 707.10

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WA - MINUTES TABLING

577. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Heritage:

Will the Minister table all minutes of the WA Heritage Council from 1 March this year?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

Reply provided by the Minister for Heritage -

There is no objection to documents, which will not be essential to defences to litigation on behalf of the State, being tabled or otherwise made public.

TRANSPERTH - SCHOOL BUSES

Handling of Disruptive Students Guidelines - Friday, 7 August Incident

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

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an incident that occurred on Friday, 7 August 1992 involving a Transperth bus and students from a school in the southern suburbs?
- (2) What are the Transperth guidelines for handling a disruptive student on a Transperth school bus?
- (3) Did the driver follow these guidelines on Friday, 7 August?
- (4) What action has Transperth taken against the driver concerned?
- (5) Were 23 students detained on this day against their will and without their parents' consent or knowledge?

- (6) Why was the children's request to contact their parents' refused?
- (7) Do Transperth's powers extend to detaining and questioning minors without a parent or guardian being present?
- (8) What action has been taken by Transperth to ensure their depot managers are aware of the rights of children, and their own responsibility to ensure the laws of this State are upheld?
- (9) With Transperth having apologised to the school, the children involved and the parents, why was a public statement made to the local Press supporting the actions of the driver?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) Yes.
- (2)
 - (a) Where problems occur on a school bus prior to departing from the school, bus operators are to seek the assistance of the school authority.
 - (b) Where problems occur after leaving the school the following should apply -
 - (i) If the operator has a radio bus they are to contact radio control centre and act on their instructions. Where necessary, an officer will be sent to assist.
 - (ii) If the operator does not have a radio bus, a call should be made from the first available telephone or where a Transperth depot or manned bus station is in close proximity, proceed to that point for assistance.
 - (iii) Withdraw student travel permits in which case the matter is taken up with the school or parents.
- (3) Proceeding to a depot is an option available to bus operators. However, this option should be applied where the depot is in close proximity. On the occasion in question, the operator should have adopted an alternative procedure of contacting radio control from the first available telephone.
- (4) The matter has been dealt with through the Transperth disciplinary procedure and appropriate action has been taken.
- (5) There were 18 students involved and they were delayed inasmuch as they were taken to the Causeway depot to have the matter resolved at a supervised and safe location.
- (6) To minimise the delay and inconvenience caused to the students, it was felt more desirable to return them to their required destination as quickly as possible. Had each of the students contacted their parents it would have been very time consuming.
- (7) While Transperth does not have the right to detain, under the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust Regulations 1977 - regulation 59 - it does have the right to question any passenger as to their name and address and can require proof of identity.
- (8) Transperth depot managers are all well acquainted with the law as it applies to Transperth. This is part of their overall training and any subsequent changes are always promulgated.
- (9) On the same afternoon that the incident occurred, the newspaper contacted Transperth regarding the actions of the bus operator. At that time, the Transperth spokesman was not aware of the full facts and this influenced the answer. Subsequent investigations revealed aspects not previously known to the spokesman.

BUSES - HARVEY CRESCENT, LE SOUEF DRIVE, KARDINYA (SOMERVILLE)
Rerouting Proposal - Costs

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

Further to my earlier question on bus services in the Harvey Crescent, Le Souef Drive area of Kardinya (Somerville) -

- (1) Has the Minister been made aware of the costs of changing the bus route in this area?
- (2) What is an estimate of those costs?
- (3) Is the Minister aware of allegations that the survey of residents, aimed at gauging their views on the bus re-routing proposal, was biased by unethical publishing of survey and therefore deemed a false representation?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) Yes. However, it should be noted that no decision has been made in relation to any change at this time.
- (2) Depending on the option which best meets the needs of the community, the least cost proposal will not increase Transperth's operating costs. The most expensive option would increase its operating costs by approximately \$230 000 per annum and would involve road treatment by the Melville City Council at an estimated cost of \$30 000.
- (3) Yes. Hon Cheryl Davenport, chairperson of the committee, has advised both residents' groups that the survey will not proceed in its existing format. The committee is due to meet on Thursday, 3 September to resolve how this matter will now be proceeded with.

CORRECTIVE SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF - REDUNDANCY PACKAGES
Staff Eligibility Criteria - Cost

581. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Corrective Services:

- (1) What specific criteria were used by the Department of Corrective Services in respect of eligibility of staff for the Government redundancy package?
- (2) What was the final cost of the package to the department?
- (3) What was the specific amount reimbursed by Treasury?
- (4) Would the Minister provide me with a -
 - (a) list of those prison officer positions that received the package; and
 - (b) list of those staff positions that received the package?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) The Department of Corrective Services applied the criteria specified in the guidelines, prepared by the special voluntary severance task force, to applications for special voluntary severance. Under these guidelines all permanent employees were eligible to apply.
- (2) \$4.932 million.
- (3) The amount effectively reimbursed by way of supplementary funding was \$4.5 million.
- (4) It is not clear from the question whether the Leader of the Opposition is interested in knowing which persons received the special voluntary severance package, or which positions were abolished as part of the consequential restructuring activity, required of departments, as per the guidelines referred to in my answer to (1) above. If the Leader of the Opposition would like to specify what information he does require, I would be happy to provide it.

PRISONS - CASUARINA

Construction and Fittings - Other Prisons Allocation Expenditure

582. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Corrective Services:

With reference to question on notice 469 of 1992 -

- (1) Will the Minister advise if Government moneys appropriated for the purpose of construction and fitting out of prisons, other than Casuarina, were ever used for the construction and fitting out of Casuarina?
- (2) If so, will he provide details?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

(1)-(2)

The current review of the building services division will include consideration of the sort of issue raised by this question.

CORRECTIVE SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF - PRISON OFFICERS

Overtime Payments - Calculation Formula

583. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Corrective Services:

What formula did the department use to calculate overtime for award prison officers for the period 1 July 1991 to 30 June 1992?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

Overtime was paid in accordance with the formula prescribed in clause 11 of the gaol officers' award No 12 of 1968. For the purposes of calculating overtime for shift prison officers, the ordinary rate included the base rate as well as any commuted shift penalty.

CORRECTIVE SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF - BUILDING SERVICES DIVISION

Review - Terms of Reference; Responsible Officers

585. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Corrective Services:

What are the terms of reference of the review into the building services division of the Department of Corrective Services and the names and positions of those officers conducting the review?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The terms of reference for the review are to make a general assessment of the procedures and operations of the building services division within the Department of Corrective Services with particular reference to compliance with Government standards for the control and financial management of construction and building operations. The officers conducting the review include the executive director, acting director building services, manager internal audit services and his staff who are responsible to the director strategic services and relevant staff seconded from external agencies.

PRISONS - CASUARINA

Construction and Fittings - Contractors, List and Payments

586. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Corrective Services:

Will the Minister list all the contractors involved in the construction of and fitting out of Casuarina Prison and the amounts paid to each of them?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The department has indicated that in the time available, it has not been possible to ensure that the list is correct in every respect, especially in drawing the distinction between contractors and suppliers.

[See paper No 398.]

PRISONS - OFFICERS, AWARD
Overtime Payout, 1 July-2 August 1992

587. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Corrective Services:

What is the total overtime payout to award prison officers for the period 1 July 1992 to 2 August 1992?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

\$855 278 paid to 928 officers.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION - ANNUAL REPORT
1990-91 NOTE 5

\$100 000 Loan 1988-89 - Purpose; Bankrupt's Name

588. Hon PETER FOSS to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Tourism:

(1) With reference to Note 5 of the 1990-1991 Annual Report of the Western Australian Tourism Commission, who was the loan of \$100 000 made to in 1988-1989?

(2) What was the \$100 000 for?

(3) What is the name of the person who went bankrupt?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response -

(1) Newman Resorts.

(2) To meet headworks charges associated with developing a caravan park and roadhouse complex in Newman. The funds were approved under a financial assistance scheme called the headworks deferral scheme to enable developers of tourism projects to offset headwork charges over the first five years of operation.

(3) The person referred to in note 5 is Hugh Brian Harris.

EVENT OPERATIONS - OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

Administration Expenditure Breakdown - Revenue Breakdown

589. Hon PETER FOSS to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Tourism:

(1) What is the breakdown of the operational expenditure figure of \$3 506 515 for Event Operations for the year ended 30 June 1991?

(2) What is the breakdown of the administration expenditure figure of \$2 712 204 for Event Operations for the year ended 30 June 1991?

(3) What is the breakdown of the Event Operations Revenue figure of \$4 016 655 for the year ended 30 June 1991?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response -

	\$000
(1) Rally 90	1 209
Rally 91	43
PacRim 90	1 384
World Swimming	139
Margaret River Masters	239
Volleyball	110
	3 124
Accrual Commitments	
*Hopman Cup	92
Volleyball	290
	3 506

*Accrued Revenue for Hopman Cup was \$184 900 of which \$92 450 was an on-payment.

		\$000
(2)	Rally 90	287
	Rally 91	187
	PacRim	567
	EventsCorp	1 642
	Margaret River Masters	33
		2 716
	Accrual adjustments	4
		2 712
		\$000
(3)	Rally 90	1 282
	Rally 91	80
	PacRim	1 739
	Hopman Cup	297
	Margaret River Masters	304
	World Swimming Championships	314
		4 016

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION - EVENTSCORP

Contracts Takeover

590. Hon PETER FOSS to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) In 1990-91 what contracts did the Western Australian Tourism Commission take over from EventsCorp?
- (2) Who were the parties to those contracts?
- (3) Who did the Western Australian Tourism Commission pay to purchase those contracts, and what was the amount paid for each?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response -

- (1)-(2) Contracts taken over from the Western Australian Development Corporation (WADC) were -

Consulting Agreement dated 29 September 1988 between Gary Connelly and WADC.

Agreement made on 23 March 1989 between Australian Basketball Federation Incorporated and WADC - Option to bid for World Championship event.

Hopman Cup joint venture agreement made between WADC, Paul McNamee Enterprises Pty Ltd, and Paul McNamee.

Consultancy Agreement dated 7 November 1990 between JBW and WADC.

Marketing Agreement dated 17 April 1990 between WADC and Markham Australia.

Marketing Agreement dated 28 July 1989 between WADC and Ward Holt Pty Ltd.

Grand Prix Agreement dated 11 October 1990 (accepted 17 December 1990) between WADC and Athletic Association of Western Australia.

Licence Agreement dated 8 September 1989 between Rally Australia Management Limited and WADC.

Sponsorship Agreement dated 19 June 1990 between WADC and Qantas.

Sponsorship Agreement dated 18 September 1990 made between WADC and Australian Telecommunications Corporation.

Channel 9 Network Heads of Agreement between TCN Channel 9 Pty Ltd and WADC.

Accommodation Services Agreement - World Swimming Championships - not signed.

Athletics - Option to bid for world championship event - not documented.

Heads of Agreement between Australian Volleyball Federation and WADC - not signed.

- (3) \$689 301 was paid to the Western Australian Development Corporation for the net tangible assets and \$2 for the intellectual property. Contracts referred to in (1) were assigned at a nil value.

RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES ACT - REVIEW

Completion

592. Hon GEORGE CASH to Hon John Halden representing the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Has the review of the Residential Tenancies Act, for which submissions closed on 23 August 1991, been completed?
- (2) If yes, has a report been compiled and when is it expected that legislation will come before the Parliament?

Hon JOHN HALDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The report on the operations of the Act has been tabled in the Legislative Council (Paper No 67). Public comment on the report was invited after its release. It is the Minister's intention to seek Cabinet approval for legislative amendments in the near future. Their introduction into Parliament will depend upon the legislative timetable.

JOONDALUP COURT - COMPLETION DELAY REASON

Original Contract Value - Cost Overrun

599. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Attorney General:

- (1) Further to question on notice 536 of 25 August, what is the reason for the delay in the completion of the law courts at Joondalup?
- (2) What was the original contract value of the project?
- (3) Have there been any cost overruns on the project and, if so, what is the anticipated amount of the overrun and the reasons for such overrun?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) Industrial disputation and inclement weather.
- (2) \$7 653 000.
- (3) Yes. The anticipated over-run is \$900 000 for the reasons given in (1).

CORRECTIVE SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF - BUILDING SERVICES DIVISION

Mismanagement Allegations - Director Relieved of Duties Reason

600. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Corrective Services:

- (1) With regard to the Department of Corrective Services' in-house investigation into allegations of the building services division's mismanagement and other matters, will the Minister advise the House why the director of the building services division has been relieved of his duties?
- (2) Is the director of the building services division on leave?
- (3) If so, what is the category of his leave?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) The Director of Building Services was directed to take annual leave while a review takes place into the management of his division.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) From 8 July 1992, the Director of Building Services has been on sick leave.

**WATER AUTHORITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA - KUNUNURRA-WYNDHAM
PIPELINE CONSIDERATION**

Water Restriction Problem

602. Hon P.H. LOCKYER to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Is the Government considering a pipeline from Kununurra to Wyndham to overcome the continuing problem of water restrictions?
- (2) If so, when will the pipeline be in place?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Water Resources has provided the following response -

- (1) The water restrictions in Wyndham resulted from an extremely dry wet season, particularly over the Moochalabra Dam catchment, and are expected to be lifted in December. A review of the water supply scheme is in progress and the proposal to include a pipeline from the Ord River in the Rural Water Strategy is one of the options. Both the cost and the suitability of the lower Ord as a water source need to be carefully considered before a long term commitment to this source is made.
- (2) As the pipeline proposal is still being investigated, there is currently no timetable for construction.

ROADS - REPAIRS, SPECIAL FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

Shires of Yalgoo, Mt Magnet, Sandstone, Meekatharra

603. Hon P.H. LOCKYER to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What special funds for road repairs have been allocated to the Shires of Yalgoo, Mt Magnet, Sandstone, Cue and Meekatharra?
- (2) Have the shires received this payment yet?
- (3) If not, why not?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) In total \$906 800 was allocated to these shires in August 1992.
- (2) No.
- (3) Each council was advised to recoup its allocation through the Main Roads Department's divisional engineer in Geraldton and none has taken this action as yet.

DROUGHT - DECLARATIONS

Pastoral Properties, Kimberley Region

604. Hon P.H. LOCKYER to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Have any pastoral properties in the Kimberley region been declared drought affected?
- (2) If so, which properties are involved?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Agriculture has provided the following response -

- (1) Yes. Twelve properties in the Broome-Kimberley region have been declared drought affected.
- (2)

Udialla	Dampier Downs
Waterbank	GoGo
Cherrabun	Moola Bulla
Alice Downs	Margaret River
Bow River	Wallal Downs
Sophie Downs	Carlton Hill

ROADS - EYRE HIGHWAY, NEAR EUCLA TOWNSHIP

Alignment Alteration Intention

605. Hon P.H. LOCKYER to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it the intention of the Government to alter the alignment of the Eyre Highway close to the Eucla township?
- (2) If so, has the matter been discussed with the owners of the Amber Motor Inn with regard to their view on any alterations?
- (3) Has agreement been reached?
- (4) If not, will the alteration be reconsidered to take into account the perceived effects on local Eucla businesses?
- (5) If not, why not?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) The Main Roads Department is considering an alteration to the alignment of Eyre Highway at Eucla.
- (2)-(5) I met with the owners of the Amber Motor Hotel concerning the impact of the changes. As a result, the Commissioner of Main Roads has been asked to consider the effect of any new alignment on the local small businesses and to ensure a satisfactory resolution is reached.

WATER AUTHORITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA - CORAL BAY WATER SUPPLY

Responsibility - Officer's Visit

607. Hon P.H. LOCKYER to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Has an officer from the Western Australian Water Authority recently visited Coral Bay with a view to WAWA taking responsibility for the supply of water to the town?
- (2) If so, what is the result of this visit?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Water Resources has provided the following response -

- (1) Two officers from the Water Authority of Western Australia did visit Coral Bay on 28 August 1992. The purpose of the visit was to obtain information to enable a report to be compiled on the future options for water and wastewater in the town.

The report is being prepared for the Department of Planning and Urban Development. It is not intended that the Water Authority of Western Australia will assume any responsibility for the provision of water and wastewater services to the town.

- (2) Information gained during the visit is being used to prepared a report on the future water supply and wastewater options for Coral Bay for the Department of Planning and Urban Development.

ROADS - EXMOUTH-BULLARA

Upgrading - Commencement Date; Completion Date; Tenders

608. Hon P.H. LOCKYER to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When will upgrading to the Exmouth - Bullara Road commence?
- (2) When will it be completed?
- (3) Will the job be going to tender?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) If the work is to be carried out by contract, it will commence in July 1993, however if a tender exemption is given by the Federal Government, the work could start as early as February 1993.
- (2) Depending on (1) above, completion will be either February 1994 or August 1993.
- (3) Answered by (1).

PORK - CANADIAN IMPORTS

Sales, Western Australia

609. Hon P.H. LOCKYER to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is any pork imported from Canada sold in Western Australia?
- (2) If so, is it labelled as being an imported product?
- (3) If not, will the Government take immediate steps to legislate to make it unlawful not to clearly label imported meats?
- (4) If not, why not?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Agriculture has provided the following response -

- (1) The major processors in Western Australia have advised that they do not use Canadian pork. Some products processed in the Eastern States, and sold in Western Australia, may have contained Canadian pork.
- (2) Meat products processed in Australia are labelled as "Product of Australia".
- (3)-(4) This matter is of national concern and was considered at a recent meeting of the Agricultural Council of Australia and New Zealand. The council referred the matter to the National Food Authority to investigate a uniform national response.

PRISONS - ALBANY REGIONAL

Security Fence Refencing Tenders

612. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Corrective Services:

- (1) When were tenders called for refencing the security fence surrounding the Albany Regional Prison?
- (2) How many tenders were received and who was the successful tenderer?
- (3) If tenders were not called, why not?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1)-(3) The security fence is a combination of elements as follows -

The manufacture of the fence panels.

This was not tendered as it was undertaken in the department's Prison Industries for its own use.

The erection of the fence panels.

This was not tendered. It was awarded, on an hourly rate, to individuals with previous experience on prison sites. This work is not complete, but has extended as far as is possible at this time. Tenders will be called for future fence erection on this site.

Supply of barbed tape.

The fence, for its security, is then fitted with barbed tape. A tender for the supply of barbed tape closed on 12 March, 1992. Three tenders were received and Barry R. Liggins Pty Ltd was awarded the tender.

Installation of barbed tape.

A quantity of barbed tape, removed from the original fences, was replaced on top of the fencing installed, again on an hourly rate. Tenders will be called for the installation of the bulk of the barbed tape which has not yet been delivered to site.

SCHOOLS - HARVEY AGRICULTURAL SENIOR HIGH *Covered Assembly Area Funding - Budget Funding Allocation*

613. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the 1992-1993 Budget allocation of \$544 000 for covered assembly areas include any funding for the facilities desperately needed at the Harvey Agricultural Senior High School?
- (2) Is there any other funding available to the Harvey Agricultural Senior High School in the 1992-1993 Budget?
- (3) If not, why not?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(3) Harvey Agricultural Senior High School will receive the following maintenance and minor works allocations for 1992-93 -

Carpet Replacement	\$ 8 500
Painting	\$25 100
1 x Whiteboard	\$ 1 360
Upgrade Metal Work Room	\$ 7 995
Provide Storeroom for Kiln	\$10 300

In addition the school will receive an allocation of \$4 028 for minor works up to \$1 000 and the school's Parent and Citizens' Association can apply for a school improvement grant up to \$1 500.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM - LABOUR HISTORY EXHIBITION *Purchase Price of Items*

614. Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH to the Minister for The Arts:

- (1) What was the purchase price of labour history material (banners, certificates and other memorabilia) acquired recently by the WA Museum?
- (2) To whom was the purchase price, if any, paid?
- (3) What was the cost of similar materials in the Museum collection?
- (4) On what basis are such items valued?
- (5) Should similar memorabilia associated with the history of local governments become available will that be purchased at similar values?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) The Western Australian Museum has not recently purchased labour history material. Earlier this year two trade union banners and a series of working drawings for the production of banners were donated to the museum.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) No material representative of organised labour (such as banners and memorabilia) has been acquired by purchase.
- (4) It is the Museum's policy not to make financial valuations. If the Museum purchases an item it obtains at least two independent external valuations.
- (5) Not applicable.

SCHOOLS - FIVE YEAR OLDS

Full Time Schooling - Access Percentage 1993

617. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What percentage of students will be offered access to full time five year old education in 1993 -
 - (a) in metropolitan areas; and
 - (b) in country areas?
- (2) What percentage of schools will be offered access to full time five year old education in 1993 -
 - (a) in metropolitan areas; and
 - (b) in country areas?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1)
 - (a) 38 per cent.
 - (b) 42 per cent.
- (2)
 - (a) 41 per cent.
 - (b) 35 per cent.

NOTE: The above are estimates based on existing enrolment profiles and do not take account of students who may enrol in a part time mode at schools which also offer full time programs. These numbers will not be known until enrolments are confirmed.

ORGANOCHLORINS - SPRYLAN, M., CHAIRMAN OF PEST MANAGERS ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENTAL)

Circular Defending Use of Organochlorins

618. Hon REG DAVIES to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Agriculture:

With regard to a circular written by M. Sprylan, the Chairman of the WA State Branch of the Australian Environmental Pest Managers Association, dated 7 August (tabled) in which Mr Sprylan attempted to rally members of his association to defend the use of organochlorins in Western Australia -

- (1) Has an Department of Agriculture officer contacted Mr Sprylan with concern about the disappearance of the organochlorins, referred to in Mr Sprylan's circular?
- (2) If yes -
 - (a) who was the officer;
 - (b) why is the officer seeking to undermine the Government's policy of phasing out organochlorins;
 - (c) is the Minister concerned that an officer in the Department of Agriculture is attempting to undermine his Government's

commitment to banning the organochlorine pesticides and the successful steps taken so far to phase out these extremely persistent, bioaccumulating and hazardous chemicals;

(d) what steps will the Minister take -

- (i) to prevent further collaboration between officers of his department and the Australian Environmental Pest Managers' Association so as to subvert the Government's policy of banning organochlorines; and
- (ii) to assure the public that these officers' actions do not have his support?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Agriculture has provided the following reply -

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

AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF - PASTURE RESEARCH
Officers Transferred to Esperance

620. Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) When was the first occasion that an officer of the Department of Agriculture was transferred to Esperance with the express intention of researching permanent pastures?
- (2) What was that officer's name and how long did he hold that position?
- (3) Why did his appointment cease?
- (4) How many subsequent appointments have been made, who were those officers, how long did the appointments last and what was the reason for their ceasing?
- (5) What, if anything, has been achieved by such departmental activity?
- (6) Does this success typically represent how the department works and carries out its duties?
- (7) What priority is intended to be given to the establishment and production of permanent pastures?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Agriculture has provided the following response -

- (1)-(3) In 1979 Dr M. Boland was transferred to Esperance to work on pasture research. In 1984 he was transferred to Perth as the department's phosphorus nutrition expert.
- (4) Mr W. Pluske was appointed in July 1991 to work on a Land and Water Resources Research and Development Corporation funded project entitled "Perennial grasses for the long growing season in southern areas of Australia". Mr Pluske resigned from the Department of Agriculture in March 1992 having made a career decision to take up a position with a private company. This position will be refilled.
Mr Buchanan was appointed in September 1991 to conduct a project on perennial plants establishment methods for the south coast of Western Australia. Funding for this project which will run until September 1995 has been provided by the National Soil Conservation Program.
- (5)-(7) The department places a high priority on pasture research in the Esperance area and especially the establishment of perennial pastures.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TOURISM COMMISSION - COMPUTER SERVICES

Expenditure \$941 545: 1990-91 Details - Companies Providing Services

625. Hon PETER FOSS to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) What is the detailed breakup of the computer expenses of \$941 545 for 1990-1991?
- (2) Which company or companies provide computer services to the Western Australian Tourism Commission?
- (3) What services are provided by the company or companies?
- (4) What year did the company or companies first provide services to the Western Australian Tourism Commission?
- (5) What contractual arrangement or arrangements are currently in place with the company or companies, and what is the duration of the current agreement or agreements?
- (6) When is the agreement or agreements due for review?
- (7) When the company or companies were first hired, were tenders called for?
- (8) If not, why not?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following reply -

(1)	Computer communications	\$95 000
	Computer software	\$80 000
	Computer bureau charge	\$690 000
	Computer maintenance	\$67 000
	Computer stationery	<u>\$9 000</u>
		<u>\$941 000</u>

- (2) (a) Dynamic Business Resources Pty Ltd
(b) Ferntree Computer Systems
- (3) (a) Computing Bureau Service
(b) Maintenance contact and PL technical support
- (4) (a) 1986
(b) 1991.
- (5) (a) A five year contract was signed on 12 October 1986. The agreement provides for an automatic extension unless written notification is given six months prior to the expiry of the contract.
(b) Contract ceased in August 1992 and has been extended by one month. Tenders for new contracts are currently being evaluated.
- (6) (a) The commission reviewed existing arrangements in September 1990 when tenders were called for the provision of an alternative service. It was agreed at that time to extend the existing contract on a one year plus one year option basis until October 1993.
(b) Annually.
- (7) (a)-(b) Yes.
- (8) Not applicable.

EDUCATION, MINISTRY OF - CORPORATE SERVICES EXPENDITURE
Doubling Reason

627. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Education:

Why has expenditure listed under Corporate Services, for the office of the Minister for Education, increased from \$204 000 for 1991-92 to \$440 000 in 1992-93?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The increase is due to the inclusion of office rent of \$238 000 which was previously funded through the Office of Government Accommodation budget.

RAILWAYS - *PROSPECTOR*

Wheelchairs, Access Provisions - Boarding and Alighting Facility Changes

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

- (1) What, if any, provision is made for wheelchair passengers to have unassisted access to board and alight from the *Prospector* at station platforms at Merredin and other country stations between Kalgoorlie and Perth?
- (2) Are present facilities considered suitable by pensioner and other groups for the aged to board and alight the *Prospector* with reasonable safety and comfort?
- (3) What, if any, changes are envisaged?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1) Unassisted access to board and alight from the *Prospector* at low level platforms is not available. The *Prospector* cars were built 21 years ago and the design did not specifically cater for wheelchair operations. However, this does not exclude infirm patrons from travelling as the on-train staff provide assistance.
- (2) Pensioner and other groups at Merredin have expressed concern at the boarding facilities. Westrail representatives recently visited Merredin to discuss the matter with interested parties.
- (3) The proposed, and endorsed, solution is for Westrail to provide a set of mobile stairs for each platform at Merredin and this is being arranged. It is not feasible to provide this supplementary facility at unattended stations and in these circumstances the longstanding direct assistance provided by on-train staff to any infirm passengers is the safest means available.

BRIDGETOWN-GREENBUSHES CHILD DAYCARE ASSOCIATION INC -
 GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

629. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Community Development:

- (1) Is any Government assistance provided to the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Child Daycare Association Inc?
- (2) If so, how much and in what form?
- (3) If not, has the Minister received an approach from the association for funding or other assistance?
- (4) If no assistance is provided, why not?
- (5) What is the criteria for assistance to be provided to community organisations of this type?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Community Development has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes.

- (2) The association has received a total of \$39 000 in the form of fee relief from the Commonwealth Department of Health, Housing and Community Services since 10.1.91.
- (3) Correspondence has been received from the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Child Daycare Association which describes difficulties the association is experiencing. A detailed response has been provided to the association.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) The criteria for fee relief are that the organisation -
 - (a) is licensed as a long day care centre;
 - (b) operates for 48 weeks of the year;
 - (c) operates 8 hours a day, 5 days a week;
 - (d) pays award wages; and
 - (e) operates within the priority of access guidelines.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME - ALKIMOS LAND ENDOWMENT *Government Intention*

415. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the Government still intend to provide land in the vicinity of Alkimos, in the northern suburbs, for the University of Notre Dame or the Catholic Church?
- (2) If so, has there been any change in Government policy on the provision of the land.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2) No.

Hon George Cash: Does that mean you will not give Notre Dame the land?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: Today the Government announced an endowment of land at Neerabup of 385 hectares to be shared equally by our five universities. The University of Notre Dame will forego any interest in the Alkimos land. However, that land will be set aside for a university which will be needed in the future in the north western corridor as further development occurs. The land at Neerabup is held by Homeswest, which will be fully compensated.

I tabled today the amendment to the metropolitan region scheme which will sit on the Table for 12 sitting days. That represents the finalisation of the rezoning process. The land at Neerabup is, technically, residential. It is proposed that the development commence next year and that approximately 300 lots be yielded next year and perhaps 500 the year after. The Government proposes to legislate for a proposed Western Australian university land development fund, which will need the cooperation of the five universities. They will be required to establish trust accounts so that the funding income from that will flow into their individual institutions. The universities will report on the expenditure of that money to me, as Minister for Education, and I will table their reports in the Parliament. The Government intends to indicate that it would like to see additional funds spent on research and scholarships; perhaps post graduate work. That will be resolved individually with the universities. Ten per cent of the real estate will be required to be given to Homeswest to fulfil its integration policy of providing housing for about one in 10. The land will be required to come on stream early and be available for housing development in the way it would otherwise have been; it will not be allowed to be held for later accruing values.

The university representatives have welcomed this proposal by the

Government. I think it will create a good collegiate and cooperative relationship between the universities. Each stakeholder will be a winner.

Hon Tom Stephens: Congratulations, Minister!

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME - ALKIMOS LAND ENDOWMENT
Government Policy Change

416. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education:

- (1) When did the Government determine that it would not proceed with the allocation of land at Alkimos to the University of Notre Dame?
- (2) What caused the change in the Government's policy?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1)-(2) The Leader of the House has pointed out to me that in my answer I may have given an impression that all the land at Alkimos would be given over to a university. The amount of 50 hectares was allocated at Alkimos; that amount will be set aside for a future university. During negotiations on the legislation concerning Alkimos and the endowment or development trust for other universities, the University of Notre Dame indicated that it would be desirable if all universities benefitted. There was agreement that this was a desirable outcome and that every endeavour should be made to see if that were possible.

Hon George Cash: When did you make the change of policy?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: These negotiations have been taking place over a period and today we were able to make the announcement. The Government was in the happy position of being able to table today the amendment to the metropolitan region scheme. That puts the Government in a very confident position concerning the offer of a substantial and clear endowment to the five universities.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME - ALKIMOS LAND ENDOWMENT
Government Policy Change

417. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education:

Have any revelations concerning Government dealings on the Notre Dame land at Alkimos as explained to the Royal Commission in Perth caused the Government to change its mind and to withdraw that land at Alkimos from the Catholic Church?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I will make it clear once again that ongoing negotiations have been taking place on the legislation necessary to transfer the land at Alkimos to the University of Notre Dame. Out of those negotiations and discussions came the view - clearly from the University of Notre Dame as well - that it would be desirable if all universities could benefit by such an endowment. That is the point at which we have arrived today. It is a very good piece of land for endowment. Very often endowments can benefit their recipients only a long way down the track. Members may ask why include the University of Western Australia, which is said to be the most richly endowed university -

The PRESIDENT: Order! In Parliaments all around this nation Presiding Officers must remind Ministers that answers during question time should be devoted to answering questions rather than giving members information for which they have not asked. The information might be terribly interesting and people might be breaking their necks to find out about it; however, the Minister must wait until members ask for the information before giving it to them. The Minister for Education is a very cooperative Minister and it seems to me that her enthusiasm for enlightening people exceeds the time available for members to ask questions. I do not want to interrupt her discussion except to reiterate that, for goodness sake, there is only 30 minutes for question time. I ask that members' questions be precise and that Ministers answer the questions as quickly as possible.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME - ALKIMOS LAND ENDOWMENT
Government Policy Change - Public Announcement

418. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education:

Has a public announcement been made on the Government's changed policy, and, if so, when?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

At 2.40 this afternoon I made an announcement about the endowment land which will benefit the five universities.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME - ALKIMOS LAND ENDOWMENT
Government Policy Change - Public Announcement

419. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education:

- (1) To whom did the Minister make the announcement?
- (2) Why did the Minister make a public announcement on the changed Government policy without first advising the Parliament?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2)

I called a Press conference for 2.30 this afternoon and I think it took place at 2.40. It followed a meeting I had at 11 o'clock this morning to clarify finally with members of other universities the proposed arrangement that was to benefit them. Informal discussions had been held prior to that. In the interests of brevity, that answers the member's question.

UNIVERSITIES - NEERABUP LAND ENDOWMENT
Morning Meeting, First Advice

420. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Education:

Was the 11 o'clock meeting this morning with all the universities the first occasion on which they learnt that the joint endowment land would be at Neerabup?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

There had been informal discussions with them. Today was the first time they heard from me that the land would be at Neerabup.

EDUCATION, MINISTRY OF - MINISTERIAL ACCOMMODATION
ALLOCATION \$238 000
Minister's Office, Location

421. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Education:

In today's Supplementary Notice Paper the answer to question 627 advises me that \$238 000 has been budgeted for accommodation for the Minister for Education.

- (1) Where is the Minister's office?
- (2) What accommodation is provided for the \$238 000, which is the rent payable on her accommodation?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2)

My ministerial office is located on the twentieth floor of the Capita building at 197 St George's Terrace, Perth.

EDUCATION, MINISTRY OF - MINISTERIAL ACCOMMODATION
ALLOCATION \$238 000
Minister's Office, Accommodation Provisions

422. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Education:

Will the Minister advise what accommodation is provided to her which costs \$238 000 per annum in rent?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The accommodation which is provided to me at the address I gave previously is, to my knowledge, the same accommodation which is provided on every floor of that building and which, I presume, is overseen and negotiated by the Office of Government Accommodation. If the member has any more queries about Government accommodation I suggest he refer them to the Minister who has responsibility for that matter.

EDUCATION, MINISTRY OF - MINISTER'S SUITE, ROYAL STREET, EAST PERTH

Rent, Government Payment - Present Tenant

423. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the Government pay rent on the Minister's suite which is located in the Ministry for Education's building in Royal Street, East Perth?
- (2) Who uses the Minister's suite in the Ministry of Education's building in Royal Street?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1)-(2) It is my understanding that the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Employment, Vocational Education and Training occupies what was previously the Minister for Education's office at 151 Royal Street, East Perth.

AUSTRALIAN SECURITIES COMMISSION - BUDGET

Computer Equipment Purchase - Fewer Funds for Proper Inquiries into Corporate Crime

424. Hon PETER FOSS to the Attorney General:

Is it correct that -

- (a) a large part of the budget for the Australian Securities Commission has been expended in the acquisition of computer equipment;
- (b) this has resulted in both improvements and reductions in service in Western Australia from that provided by the CAO, but has greatly improved the service in both New South Wales and Victoria;
- (c) as a result of the commitment of funds to technology there are fewer funds than required for the proper inquiry into corporate crime; and
- (d) in particular the Rothwells' prosecutions may not be properly funded?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

I thank the member for some advance notice of this question.

- (a)-(c) I can indicate only that all matters referred to in (a) to (c) are matters for the Commonwealth alone and that any questions relating to them should be directed to the Commonwealth Government. As the House will be aware, the position since the establishment of the Australian Securities Commission in place of the National Companies and Securities Commission is that both the authority and the funding of the commission are completely within the Commonwealth's responsibility and not the State's responsibility.
- (d) The Rothwells' conspiracy charges are laid under the Criminal Code and not under the Corporations Law. The prosecution of those charges, as well as some other matters being prosecuted under State law, are being properly funded by the State. That is not simply my description of the position, but one which has the confirmation of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

AUSTRALIAN SECURITIES COMMISSION - CORPORATIONS LAW
Ministerial Council Discussions

425. Hon PETER FOSS to the Attorney General:

As the operation of the Corporations Law is pursuant to a law of this State, for

which the Attorney General has either direct or indirect responsibility, and in view of the fact that my previous question dealt with the service to Western Australians in relation to Corporations Law, will the Attorney General raise the matter at Ministerial Council to ascertain what is the situation?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

I am quite happy to inquire from the Commonwealth Attorney General. I think that we may well find that the matters which are currently being prosecuted by the Australian Securities Commission are those related to issues for which the Commonwealth now has direct responsibility. I will clarify that because the position is not altogether clear and there are a number of grey areas in this respect. Although this will tend to blur the question further rather than clarify it, I also indicate that there are situations where the State's Director of Public Prosecutions mounts what might be called combined prosecutions; that is, prosecutions involving both Commonwealth and State law and where existing arrangements with the Commonwealth provide for some recoup to the State of the costs in respect of Commonwealth matters.

UNIVERSITIES - NEERABUP LAND ENDOWMENT

Public Announcement - Single Most Significant Contribution to Education

426. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Education:

As a prelude to my question I take this opportunity to congratulate the Minister for the announcement she made to the House during question time.

- (1) Is my assessment correct that the announcement of which the Minister gave the House some detail today represents the single most significant contribution on the part of the State Government for university education since the beginning of responsible Government in Western Australia?
- (2) Has the Minister received any suggestions from my colleague the member for Northern Rivers regarding opportunities which may be available to universities now, by way of responding to the needs for a northern campus of these Perth based universities, to facilitate a university studies program in the area of tropical or marine science activities?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1)-(2) Hon Tom Stephens is right to be flagging today's announcement as a very significant announcement for the universities of Western Australia. I think anyone who has their interests at heart would agree and work with such a decision. It is a win for all the institutions involved, and I am delighted that it has been made possible with such a cooperative spirit from everyone.

In respect of a campus in the north of the State, the member for Northern Rivers, Kevin Leahy, who is a very active member on behalf of his constituency, sent a letter to me today which reminded me of the meeting that I had in Exmouth. The meeting was arranged by Kevin Leahy, with the Institute of Marine Sciences, which was looking at the facilities that will be made available by the withdrawal of the American forces and the changes that are taking place at Exmouth. I will certainly encourage universities to look at the opportunities that may arise. A significant amount of interest has already been shown, and I hope that the Institute of Marine Sciences will relocate to the west coast some of its intensive activities currently on the east coast. Mr Kevin Leahy's representation is well timed, and I suggest that he follow it up with a representation to the universities.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME - ALKIMOS LAND ENDOWMENT

Public Announcement - Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee Report

427. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Was the timing of the announcement to provide endowment land at Neerabup

to Notre Dame University in lieu of land at Alkimos designed to pre-empt the potentially embarrassing adverse findings of the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee, which has been inquiring into the Government's promises concerning the Alkimos land?

Hon Tom Stephens interjected.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The member had better watch his step, if that is the case. He would want to read it every day.

- (2) Was it Notre Dame University that invited the Government to reconsider the Alkimos proposal; that is, find an alternative site for the endowment land?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1)-(2) I want to make it clear that the announcement today means that Notre Dame University will no longer have any interest in the Alkimos land. The second part of the question failed to take into account the benefit to be gained by the other four universities. I make it clear that the five universities will benefit equally from this endowment. As I explained earlier in question time, and I thought I was fairly clear, the discussions that took place with regard to the required legislation for the Alkimos land took place in the context that it would be better if all universities were to benefit. An attempt was then made to arrive at an outcome whereby all universities would benefit. In my view, that is the strength of the announcement that was made today.

The announcement today coincides with the tabling of the major amendment to the metropolitan region scheme, which will lie on the Table for 12 days. That will finalise the rezoning process. Technically, that land is now rezoned residential. I do not know when the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee will report. There was some suggestion that it will report tomorrow. It may be next week.

Hon E.J. Charlton: It will never report if the Government has anything to do with it!

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: Hon Eric Charlton is a very silly man.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: Mr President, I am sorry that I was distracted by an interjection. The announcement today coincides with the tabling, which makes that land a very attractive proposition to the universities.

Hon George Cash interjected.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I am not on the Public Accounts and Expenditure Review Committee.

Hon George Cash: It is a good thing you are not.

UNIVERSITIES - NEERABUP LAND ENDOWMENT *Joint Ownership*

428. Hon MAX EVANS to the Minister for Education:

Will the universities be the joint owners of the land and share jointly in the distribution on sale, or will one-fifth of the land be vested in each university?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

It is proposed that there will be one development trust and individual trust accounts in the five universities, so that ultimately the net income will come in equal shares to the five universities.

UNIVERSITIES - NEERABUP LAND ENDOWMENT *Development Assistance*

429. Hon MAX EVANS to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Assuming that the land will be held jointly by the five universities and that funds will go to the five universities, have any arrangements been made to

help the universities to develop that land, because huge resources will be required to bring on that land for sale?

- (2) What will be the compensation to Homeswest, and what is the estimated net realisable value of this land over the next five years? The Government has stated that it is a generous gift. What is it really worth?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1)-(2) We are now looking at legislation which will bring into being a Western Australian universities land development trust. The life of that trust will be determined by the time that it will take to bring on those lots at Neerabup. The compensation to Homeswest will be made not by the trust but by the Government.

Hon Max Evans: How much will that be?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: At present in an undeveloped state the value is about \$24 million, but it is estimated that over the life of the development there will be a \$50 million net profit.

Hon Max Evans: Will the Government assist with the finance for the development?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: We would not expect to do that when the trust can borrow against its significant assets. I expect that is the way it will progress. The Government has appointed Professor Gordon Stanley to negotiate on behalf of the Government with the universities and to assist them to iron out any difficulties.

PRISONS - CASUARINA

Allocations Redirected Without Proper Authority to Other than Recorded Cost Items - Reports Completion

430. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to question on notice 469 in today's Supplementary Notice Paper in which I asked whether the Minister could determine whether Government moneys, allocated to Casuarina Prison, were redirected without proper authority to other than recorded cost items at the prison. The answer reads: "The need for further inquiry will be considered when a report on the current review of the building services division becomes available."

- (1) Are the reports to which the Minister refers available?
- (2) If not, when are they likely to be completed?
- (3) Will the Minister table the reports in Parliament?
- (4) If not, why not?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1)-(4) The reports are not available. When they are available, I will give consideration in the ordinary way to the desirability of tabling them. I think I did indicate 10 days or a fortnight ago that I thought at that time the report might be available in three or four weeks. As work has progressed, it has become clear that that was overoptimistic, and I expect it to take about one more month before the executive director presents his report to me. Part of the additional time is due to the need to provide the departmental officer most concerned with this issue with an opportunity to comment before the executive director finalises his report.

PRISONS - CASUARINA

Departmental Officer, Return to Work

431. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Corrective Services:

- (1) Will the departmental officer to whom the Minister has referred be returning to work at the Department of Corrective Services?
- (2) If so, when, and for what duration?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1)-(2) I am not aware of any proposal that would have the officer return to work before the report is presented.

PRISONS - CASUARINA
Final Report Sent to Crown Solicitor

432. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Corrective Services:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that a report, said to be a final report, has been sent to the Crown Solicitor for his comment?
- (2) If not, will the Minister conduct such investigations that would ascertain whether any report has been sent to the Crown Solicitor for his consideration?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1)-(2) My position is that I have asked for a report and I expect to get a report. What happens in the meantime in relation to -

Hon George Cash: But you have been briefed on the matter, have you not?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: At the outset, as the Leader of the Opposition knows -

Hon George Cash: And in the meantime also!

Hon J.M. BERINSON: No I have not. The member has no right to say that because he does not know -

Hon George Cash: Is that so?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: - and he is wrong.

Hon George Cash: Mr Berinson, wait until the Estimates come up!

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I am getting tired of the Leader of the Opposition's making gratuitous suggestions that somehow I am lying. He continually does it, and I only pick it up in *Hansard* where I find I have answered a question and he has mumbled, "That's wrong" or "We know better" or some such spurious comment. The position is precisely as I have put it: I was briefed at the earlier stage by the executive director on the fact that an issue had arisen which he believed required a comprehensive review, and he initiated that. The only discussion since that time between the executive director and me has been precisely on the question of timing. From time to time I have asked him, "How is the report going? What does the timetable look like now?" In the course of that, for example, it was the executive director who indicated to me that he saw a need to make any preliminary views available to the affected officer for comment. That is, quite fairly enough, it was the view of the executive director that he should not proceed to attempt a final report until he had given the affected officer some capacity to comment. That is the nature and the total content of the discussions between the executive director and me. Perhaps for completeness, and to prevent the Leader of the Opposition's coming up with some other snide remark, I should say that I have discussed this matter with no other officer of the department.

Hon George Cash: What about other departments and other Ministers?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I have discussed this with no other officer of my department. I have discussed it with no other Minister - with one exception, which I will come to in a moment - and with no other officer of any other department. Now the question will be asked: What is the exception to which I refer? I have said that I have discussed it with one other Minister on one occasion. It arose precisely because of the appalling tendency of the Leader of the Opposition to make unsubstantiated interjections reflecting on the truthfulness, let alone the accuracy, of my comments. When I answered a question that the Leader of the Opposition had asked as to whether I had any discussions with Minister McGinty, and I had said no, the Leader of the Opposition interjected to say, "That's wrong. Of course you have", or words to that effect. Having heard that, I went to the other Chamber and said to Jim

McGinty, "Have we ever discussed this, because I have no recollection of it?" He said, "No, I have never discussed it with you. What makes you think so?" I said, "I don't think so, but the Leader of the Opposition thinks so and he is the sort of fellow who latches on like this leech that we have referred to and will not give up attempts to suck blood from a stone even after his teeth have been worn down to the gums in the effort. He just keeps mumbling."

Hon George Cash: I guarantee, Mr Berinson, I will get blood. It will be your blood! You know what I am talking about!

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I do not know what has come across members today, but this business of abusing each other across the Chamber must cease. I do not know whether my administration of the Standing Orders of this place is unsatisfactory to members but if it is they can do something about it. However, until members tell me that my interpretation of the rules is wrong, I will continue to interpret them in a way that will give every member equal rights and equal opportunity in this place. As I keep saying - and I am getting sick and tired of hearing myself say it - in this House, members do not have to like what people say, they do not have to believe what people say, but they must sit and listen to what is said. I will not allow that question to persist. I hope that the Leader of the House determines that we will not have any more questions.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I am delighted to take your lead on that, Mr President, but before doing so -

Hon George Cash: Running for cover!

Withdrawal of Remark

Hon J.M. BERINSON: That is precisely the sort of comment to which I object. I ask that it be withdrawn.

The PRESIDENT: I do not know what the member said.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: He said that I am running for cover, and that was in the light of your suggestion, Mr President, that we bring question time to an end; and despite the fact that we have gone for 40 minutes instead of 30, he still mumbles that sort of snide comment. I ask that it be withdrawn.

Hon P.G. Pandal: Why don't you resign. You are losing your cool.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The more I know about this place the less I know about it. About 2 000 golden rules exist in this place. I will not recite all of them. However, one rule is that whatever argument members have with each other in this place, they do not implicate the President. To suggest that you use some comment I made, in order to bolster the argument, is certainly unacceptable to me. I have always adopted a fairly reasonable approach regarding members' seeking the withdrawal of comments. I have been fairly consistent in the attitude I have adopted. There have been occasions, in the context of what has been occurring, when I have said that I think a member who sought to have words withdrawn was acting in a supersensitive way and was a bit thin-skinned, and I have not insisted on it. However, in the main, I have suggested that if a comment is made that upsets a member then that member is entitled to ask that it be withdrawn. In this example, although the actual words used are not unparliamentary, the insinuation was. I suggest that the Leader of the Opposition withdraw it.

Hon GEORGE CASH: To what words is the Minister referring? Would the Leader of the House like to repeat the words?

Hon J.M. BERINSON: The words were "running for cover".

The PRESIDENT: It is not the words that are unparliamentary, and if historians in

the future write that the President made somebody withdraw the words "running for cover" people will go into hysterics and think that there must have been something wrong with me. I repeat, it is the context in which the words are used that I have to make judgments on from time to time. In this instance, the context suggests that they were out of order. They are the words, Mr Cash.

Hon GEORGE CASH: At your request, I withdraw the words.
