

Legislative Council

Tuesday, 28 April 1992

THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Garry Kelly) took the Chair at 3.30 pm, and read prayers.

MOTION - COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Premier's Comments Concern

HON GEORGE CASH (North Metropolitan - Leader of the Opposition) [3.37 pm]: I move -

That this House -

- (1) Notes the recent, trenchant criticism made by the Premier in another place about the type of inquiry undertaken by, and the procedures applicable to, Standing Committees of this House;
- (2) expresses concern that the Premier has been grossly misinformed as to the usages of this House and its committees;
- (3) rejects the implication that evidence taken by the Constitutional Affairs and Statutes Revision Committee relating to its inquiry into activities of the Women's Information and Referral Exchange and other Government agencies has somehow been provided to members of the Opposition in breach of the Standing Orders of this House when the record shows that the evidence was given in open session of the Standing Committee;
- (4) rejects the threat implicit in the Premier's remarks that the level of funding to the committees of this House will be curtailed where the Government takes issue with the subject matter of inquiries pursued by the committees, which is a threat to the democratic role of the House and of Parliament in ensuring the accountability of Government;
- (5) reminds the Premier that the powers, rights and privileges of this House are exercisable without the prior consent of the Government;
- (6) reaffirms the principles of responsible government, particularly so far as they relate to that responsibility being owed to both Houses of this Parliament;
- (7) deplores the breach by members in another place of the customs of this and other bicameral Parliaments that the proceedings of one House are not noticed in the other except by way of substantive motion.

Members will note that the motion is made up of a number of sections, and generally I intend to speak to each of those sections. Members of this House, and I am sure members of the Legislative Assembly, are aware that on Thursday, 9 April 1992 the Premier moved a motion in the Legislative Assembly referring a matter involving the Women's Information Referral Exchange to the Ombudsman to make inquiries into certain aspects of WIRE and its relationship with the Western Women group of companies. Members will be aware that the association of WIRE with the Western Women companies has been a matter of public comment for a long period and is the subject of an inquiry by one of the committees of the Legislative Council. In her tirade on Thursday, 9 April the Premier criticised at great length the Standing Committees of this House and, in particular, the committee chaired by Hon Bob Pike. She also managed in her tirade to almost bulldoze the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly with regard to comments made about members of another place and, indeed, the actions of another place - that is, the Legislative Council - and attacked members of the Opposition with such vigour that at one stage she found it convenient to refer to them as necrophiliacs.

Hon P.G. Pandal: Charming!

Hon GEORGE CASH: The Minister for Education seems to think this is a joke, and that in itself -

Hon J.N. Caldwell: The Premier did not know what it meant though, did she?

Hon GEORGE CASH: I want to make two points about the interjections that have just been made. Firstly, when I stated that the Premier had called members of the Opposition necrophiliacs, the Minister for Education thought it was such a joke that she burst out laughing. Secondly, Hon John Caldwell questioned whether the Premier understood the meaning of the word "necrophiliac". The Premier is a former Minister for Education. She holds a Doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Western Australia, and by that standard alone she could not be said to be uneducated. There is no question that the Premier knew the meaning of the word "necrophiliac" and that she intended the meaning of that word to be passed on to and associated with members of the Opposition. For the benefit of those members of this House who do not know what the word "necrophilia" means -

Hon T.G. Butler: Hon Eric Charlton was the one who did not know what it meant.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber. I ask all members to pay attention to the speaker on his feet, and the people who are engaged in conversations around the Chamber to terminate their conversations as quickly as possible.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I will read as loudly as I can the definition of the word "necrophilia", so that I can be heard above the laughter of the Minister for Education, who recently banned in Western Australia the public display of *Picture* and *People* magazines but who laughs when the word "necrophilia" is mentioned.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Don't you agree? You are a joke.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! One member is on his feet and speaking, and I suggest that the interjections be kept to a tolerable level. I commented before that if members want to interject - which is out of order - the interjections should be of a quality nature rather than of quantity, so let us hear from Hon George Cash.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Even though members of the Government want to shout me down, I will read into *Hansard* the definition of "necrophilia" in order that all members of this House will understand the level to which the Premier was prepared to stoop on Thursday, 9 April 1992. The *Collins English Dictionary* states that the definition of "necrophilia" is, "Sexual attraction for or sexual intercourse with dead bodies." It is also called necromania.

Hon B.L. Jones: Perhaps it could be allied to a loving of dead issues.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I rely upon the *Collins English Dictionary* for my definition, and if Hon Beryl Jones sees it as being something else, perhaps in due course she will let us know how she identifies with the word "necrophilia".

The Premier stood in the Legislative Council and argued for an elevation of -

Points of Order

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Mr Deputy President, can you advise whether it is appropriate for a member to draw on words used in a debate in another House?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Garry Kelly): There is no point of order. We are dealing with a substantive motion, which draws attention to a debate in another House, so it is quite in order.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I am sure it was just a slip of the tongue, but the Leader of the Opposition referred to the Premier's making a statement in the Legislative Council. I am sure he meant to say in the Legislative Assembly.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I am sure he did.

Debate Resumed

Hon GEORGE CASH: In order that we are all sure of what I meant, I meant the Legislative Assembly.

Hon Tom Stephens has clearly not read the motion, because the reason that it was necessary to give notice of the motion and to word it in the way it has been worded was to enable me to raise matters that were referred to in the Legislative Assembly, and to be in a position where I could, if required, criticise members of the other place. Hon Tom Stephens shakes his head, but he does not understand the procedures of this House or, indeed, of the Legislative Assembly. Had he read Standing Orders he would know that that was the only way that

those scandalous comments made by the Premier the other day could be addressed in this House; and that was the very point I was raising about the Premier's bulldozing the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly. The Premier clearly understood what the Standing Orders were all about, but it suited her purpose at the time to take no notice of them and to make statements that reflected on this House and on Select Committees of this House, and I assume that the Premier thought she would get away with it.

It is also obvious from reading the debate of Thursday, 9 April that the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly was concerned about and offended by the comments made by the Premier. The Leader of the Opposition, in particular, raised a number of points of order about matters raised by the Premier, and it is interesting that when one of those points of order was considered - namely, that the Premier had reflected on members of another place and was, therefore, in breach of the Standing Orders - the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly was prepared to allow a reflection by the Premier on other members of Parliament so long as there was a substantive motion before the House. I am fortunate to have been a member of the Legislative Assembly, and I learnt while in that place that, at times during debate, anything goes, and that the interpretation of the Standing Orders is often so loose as to allow for a breach of the Standing Orders in that place. However, it has been my experience in the Legislative Council that no member is given the opportunity or is allowed to continue to denigrate or make adverse comments about members of the other place because, firstly, the decorum in this House is quite different from that in the Legislative Assembly and, secondly, the Presiding Officer in this House has absolute regard for the Standing Orders.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! I caution Hon George Cash that we are talking about reflecting on members of the other House, and the member is in danger of reflecting on the Speaker. I ask him to bear that in mind.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Mr Deputy President, I take cognisance of your comments, and will move on.

I was trying to make the point that it seems that the Premier thought she could get away with anything in the Legislative Assembly. That sort of comment she made would never be allowed to be made in the Legislative Council. The Premier stated on pages 1147 and 1148 of *Hansard* of 9 April that the Standing Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Statutes Revision was established for purely political motives. That comment demonstrates an absolute lack of understanding, or sheer ignorance on the part of the Premier. There was never an intention to establish that committee, or any committee of this House, for purely political motives. In fact, had the Premier bothered to look at the debates about the establishment of those committees, she would have found that there was all-party support for their establishment. Therefore, to ascribe to their establishment purely political motives certainly condemns members of her own party, if that is what she honestly believes.

Hon E.J. Charlton: The Government sends some of its legislation to that committee.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Hon Eric Charlton is right, but more than that the leader of the Government in this House, the Minister for Education and the Minister for Police have from time to time made statements in this place clearly supporting the workings of the committees. I refer in particular to the Legislation Committee which is burdened with the most work.

Hon Kay Hallahan: I have made some statements of disagreement as well.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I was talking about statements of agreement.

Hon Kay Hallahan: I am talking about a fair representation.

Hon GEORGE CASH: At page 1148 of *Hansard* the Premier said in relation to the Constitution Affairs and Statutes Revision Committee that the way in which the committee has conducted its business has brought discredit on this Parliament and that the committee was a disgrace to the Parliament. If the Premier cared to read the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly or had the same regard for the customs of Parliaments around the world which embrace the Westminster system she would know that she breached the Standing Orders, indeed that she could be held in contempt of the Parliament for her statements. It is not on! It shows that the Premier has something to hide. As much as the Premier was moving that reference be considered by the Ombudsman she also wanted to make sure that she was able to lash out and criticise the work of a committee of this House. I

do not know what it is that the Premier seeks to hide in respect of the Western Women group inquiry, but it seems to me that the deeper the committee digs, the closer it gets to the truth, and the more disturbed the Premier and others become.

Hon T.G. Butler: What is the truth!

Hon GEORGE CASH: I do not know the truth yet.

Hon T.G. Butler: But you assume that the committee is getting close to the truth.

Hon GEORGE CASH: It is clear the committee is getting closer to the truth because of the way the Government - in particular the Premier and the Minister for Education - behaves when matters referred to the Western Women group inquiry are raised in this House.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Hon Tom Butler would know what is going on.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Even Hon Tom Butler had to be reminded by a Government member that interjections are not favoured by the Government at this stage because the Government today would prefer that we do not raise Western Women matters in this House -

Hon T.G. Butler: When was that?

Hon GEORGE CASH: The member saw it.

Hon T.G. Butler: What did I see?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! The private debates across the Chamber must cease.

Hon GEORGE CASH: If Hon Tom Butler is indicating that Government members are able to interject at will in respect of this matter I encourage them to do so.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! I am in charge of the proceedings of the House, and members do not have my permission to interject. That applies to members of the Opposition as well. I ask all members to pay close, careful and silent attention to Hon George Cash.

Hon GEORGE CASH: It is not as if the Premier made an occasional reference in her speech on Thursday, 9 April. Her speech was littered with disgraceful comments reflecting on members of this House and in particular on the Constitutional Affairs and Statutes Revision Committee. At page 1149 of *Hansard* the Premier said that any suggestion that the number of parliamentary committees should be increased or that they should be given further resources would be regarded with grave suspicion by the Government. That was a threat by the Premier that if the committees of this House inquire into matters that could cause the Government some distress the Government will consider cutting back resources and funds so that the committees are not able to carry out their duties and responsibilities; that is, they will not be able to fulfil the roles established for them by this House. It is as if the Premier believes that the committees of the Legislative Council should seek her or Government permission before they investigate various matters. More than that, as they continue investigations they should liaise with the Premier to ensure they are not causing any embarrassment for the Government at any time.

Hon Kay Hallahan: They should do a reasonable job.

Hon GEORGE CASH: That is blackmail of the Legislative Council by the Government.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Rubbish!

Hon GEORGE CASH: It is a good reason for this House to consider new arrangements for the Budget so that the funding of this House is not subject to political interference by the Government.

I mentioned earlier that the Premier had referred to members of the Opposition as necrophiliacs. If that is the standard to which the Premier wants to stoop she should understand that a few people in this place are able to stoop to the same depths. If the Premier wants to fight in the gutter -

Hon T.G. Butler: Would you like to name them?

Hon GEORGE CASH: Hon Tom Butler is one. He is capable of fighting in the gutter. As President of the Australian Labor Party he did that for years. Some members of Parliament are capable of stooping to those depths, if that is the way the Government wants it. We will see in due course who wins the fight because it is interesting that on the one hand the Premier

is prepared to stoop to these depths and on the other hand she leaves the Parliament and talks about the need to elevate parliamentary standards. She cannot have it both ways. Either we fight in the gutter or we try to raise the standards of this Parliament. Recently the Premier acknowledged publicly the need for a full-bodied debate on the standards of conduct in the Parliament.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Don't you want it?

Hon GEORGE CASH: My point is that it is interesting that the Premier speaks of the need to elevate conduct of both parliamentarians and Parliament overall, yet her speech on 9 April was littered with comments about necrophiliacs.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Would you like to set an example?

Hon GEORGE CASH: I can only try to do so; it would probably not be a good example given the quality of members who sit behind me but it would be a far better example than that of the Minister for Education who took it upon herself to belittle the motion before the House by laughing every time I mentioned that the Premier had referred to members of this House as necrophiliacs.

Hon Kay Hallahan: It is amusing.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The second point of the motion refers to the usages of this House and its committees generally. It should be noted that one of the functions of the Constitutional Affairs and Statutes Revision Committee is to consider and report on petitions. The reason that committee is to consider the question of the Western Women group is because on 10 September last year Hon Peter Foss presented a petition containing 209 signatures requesting that this House appoint a committee of inquiry into the failed Western Women group and to determine whether the State bore any responsibility for the financial losses suffered by so many people.

Another matter raised by the Premier, and addressed by the third point of the motion, was the allegation that there had been a leak from the committee. That is a very serious matter which could be addressed by a Committee of Privilege in this House if members believe that improper leaks have occurred from that committee. An analysis of the Premier's comments reveals that it is obvious she does not understand or have any inkling that the evidence has been given to that Select Committee in public. She has relied, no doubt, on some of her advisers who have told her that the only way some of the information could have appeared in the media, particularly *The West Australian*, was for it to have been leaked by members of that committee. This side of the House rejects absolutely any argument that would suggest any member of the committee from this side of the House leaked any information.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Your leader indicated he knew who had leaked the information. The challenge is for your leader and members of the Opposition to identify that person about whom he made the allegation.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The Minister for Education is wrong. No information was leaked from that committee that was not information that had been given in public.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Your leader knows the identity of the people who leaked information.

Hon W.N. Stretch: The Minister should be quiet and learn.

Hon Kay Hallahan: I cannot learn if the information is not accurate; do be sensible.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Even when the Minister hears accurate information, she never learns.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Hon George Cash is too unkind.

Hon GEORGE CASH: What I say is evidenced by some of her answers to questions asked in this House.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Hon George Cash should not discredit himself altogether.

Hon GEORGE CASH: No information was leaked from that committee. I have spoken to members of the committee from this side of the House and I am assured that no information was leaked. The only information which to their knowledge has appeared in the newspaper was given at public hearings. The Minister will recall that the advertisement which called for submissions stated that submissions would be deemed to be public unless the proposer of those submissions advised the committee that he or she wanted them treated otherwise.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Your defence of the Select Committee is very interesting and well noted.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I am glad the Minister has said that because in the end when that committee reports I anticipate - and I say "anticipate" because I have no prior knowledge - that the Minister's position will be somewhat different from what she has displayed in this House.

Hon Kay Hallahan: That is not true.

Hon GEORGE CASH: That is what I was talking about when I argued that as the committee dug deeper, the closer it got to the truth, the more it would hurt the Minister for Education and the Premier. Members of this House who have some working knowledge of what was going on are clear in their own minds that the Minister's involvement is different from what she has represented in this House.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Is it different from the statement that Robin Greenburg was a Liberal, that she was associated with your party, that members of your party referred people to her? You should be judicious in what you say.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Garry Kelly): Order! I ask that interjections cease. I dare say the Minister will have an opportunity to reply and Hon George Cash will finish sooner if there were not so many interjections. I would like to hear Hon George Cash in silence.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I challenge the Minister for Education to appear before that committee and answer questions put to her by that committee. The sooner that occurs the sooner we will be able to establish whether the Minister's stated position on the Women's Information and Referral Exchange and the Western Women group matches her statements in this House. I am saying that they will be quite different.

Hon Kay Hallahan: My statements will be no different outside this House from inside this House.

Hon GEORGE CASH: Point 4 of the motion refers to the threat to curtail the funding to Select Committees of this House. If the Premier thinks that she or her Government can threaten the direction or activities of this House by refusing to properly fund its committees, in due course the people of Western Australia will understand that they have a corrupt Government that is prepared to stoop to any level to stay in office. I hope that it was the heat of debate that caused the Premier to make those threats, because I have interpreted them to be nothing more than blackmail, and that is not acceptable.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I ask Hon George Cash to be careful about using words like "corrupt".

Hon GEORGE CASH: Mr Deputy President, I take your point.

This House has an absolute responsibility to inquire into the activities of the Government. If the Government believes that by curtailing funding to this House its members will not be able to do their job, the Government has another think coming. The general tenor of the debate in the Legislative Assembly seriously breached the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly and the custom as it applies to this Parliament, the Australian Parliament and, indeed, the British House of Commons. The breaches of custom were matters of which the Premier was aware at the time she made her statement but she was prepared to embark on that course of action because she was clearly offended by the good work done by the Pike committee, which has been causing some pain to the Government. It is necessary to recognise that the Premier also was prepared to launch an attack on the chairman of the committee. While it is against Standing Orders to reflect on any member of the Parliament, the breach is elevated if a member attacks not just a member of a Select Committee but the chairman of a Select Committee. That is what occurred the other day. Erskine May's *Parliamentary Practice* and Odger's *Senate Practice* describe the various categories of breach of privilege and custom. A member would be considered in contempt of Parliament if he criticised a chairman of a Select Committee. It is not an abuse of privilege but a contempt of the House, which is a breach at the highest level. Members should be aware of Legislative Assembly Standing Order No 131, which states -

No member shall use offensive or unbecoming words in reference to any Member of the House.

Standing Orders also state that offensive remarks about members of the Legislative Council are unparliamentary and disorderly. The Premier's comments certainly breached the custom, traditions, Standing Orders and almost every other procedure of the Legislative Assembly, the Legislative Council and other similar Westminster Houses of Parliament. Earlier I read to the House a definition from the *Collins English Dictionary* of the word "necrophilia". While I do not want anyone in this House to think that I have some sort of obsession with that word or activity -

Hon Kay Hallahan: We do.

Hon Sam Piantadosi: We are starting to worry about you, Mr Cash.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The Minister for Education on the one hand makes those snide interjections and on the other hand appears in the media in Western Australia as the lady of virtue and tries to explain the reasons that she condemned the sale of the *Picture* and *People* magazines.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Hon George Cash totally misunderstands the situation.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The dictionary would define people like the Minister for Education and the Premier as nothing but hypocrites.

Hon Tom Stephens: Give credit where credit is due.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I have, and I have said that the Minister for Education is nothing but a hypocrite. That is the credit due to the Minister for Education, and Hon Tom Stephens knows it. For the benefit of members such as Hon Tom Stephens, who reads the written word but needs pictorial evidence if he is to understand anything, I will explain how *The Macquarie Dictionary* defines hypocrisy.

Hon Kay Hallahan: You are the personification of hypocrisy.

Hon GEORGE CASH: *The Macquarie Dictionary* defines hypocrisy as follows -

The act of pretending to have a character or beliefs, principles, etc., that one does not possess.

I ask members to cast their minds back to the appearance of the Minister for Education on television recently when she tried to explain why *Picture* and *People* should be included on the banned list. She tried to present a case which showed she believed in principles, which she does not possess at all.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! Members should stop the cross Chamber exchanges.

Hon GEORGE CASH: *The Concise Oxford Dictionary* defines hypocrisy as follows -

Simulation of virtue or goodness;

A hypocrite, according to that same dictionary, is -

Person guilty of hypocrisy; dissembler, pretender;

That definition fits well with the comments made by the Premier in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday, 9 April and the other comments she has made in arguing for the need to lift the standards of Parliament.

Hon Tom Stephens interjected.

Hon GEORGE CASH: If Hon Tom Stephens feels left out because I have labelled only the Minister for Education and the Premier as hypocrites, I will throw him in for nothing. He knows that he is one of the greatest hypocrites in this place. Members should recall the recent occasion when he came into this place and claimed that Sir Charles Court was flying around the north west in a Robe River jet. Do members remember when I stood in this House and proved that that was not the case? Hon Tom Stephens unreservedly apologised for misleading the House. I take my hat off to him for doing that.

Hon T.G. Butler: Are you suggesting that he should not have apologised?

Hon GEORGE CASH: He should have apologised much earlier. There should have been no need for me to ask him to do that.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! The debate is rapidly becoming such that little sense can be made of it. I ask members to restrain from interjecting and if they intend to make interjections they should not make them as frequently.

Hon GEORGE CASH: It is also important I read the definition of hypocrisy from the *Collins English Dictionary*, which is as follows -

the practice of professing standards, beliefs, etc., contrary to one's real character or behaviour,

That dictionary also defines hypocrite as -

a person who pretends to be what he is not.

Given the comments of the Premier in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday, 9 April and the comments of the Minister for Education in this House not only today but also from time to time, both fit into the definition of hypocrite and fit neatly into the definition of one who practices hypocrisy.

I ask members to support this important motion. It is not a motion about parliamentary standards per se, because that can be the subject of a motion at another time. It is more a motion calling to order a Premier who completely bulldozed and demolished the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly Thursday two weeks ago in a debate in that House. She took the opportunity on numerous occasions to reflect in offensive terms on members of this House. More than that, and on a corporate basis, she was prepared to spend considerable time in that Legislative Assembly debate criticising the Standing Committees of this House - committees which were set up on a bipartisan basis and, indeed, work on a bipartisan basis. The Premier was wrong in most of those comments and, in fact, they were founded in the distress that has been suffered by the Premier and the Minister for Education and caused by that committee seeking the truth about the Women's Information and Referral Exchange and the Western Women group. I predict that in due course the stress that has clearly been experienced by the Premier and the Minister for Education will become more of a reality when those committees are able to report on the true activities of both of those people.

HON P.G. PENDAL (South Metropolitan) [4.16 pm]: The nub of this matter, which has become increasingly obvious in recent months, is the fear of the Premier that the truth is finally emerging. It is not only a fear on the part of the Premier and some members of the Government but is also becoming an obsession. One has to look only at their behaviour when addressing some of the scandals that have confronted the Government in recent times. Mr Deputy President, that may be drawing a long bow but any member who has been here since the change of Government in 1983 will recognise that what happened on 9 April in another place is part of an insidious and ongoing deliberate campaign to discredit the upper House and its committees and thereby discredit the information that will be uncovered. The creator of that technique was Brian Burke. The present Premier is in great company. If that technique was learnt at Mr Burke's knee, it was refined by Premier Dowding. Dr Lawrence is in great company and she is to be judged alongside the activities of both Messrs Burke and Dowding, both of whom deliberately set out on that insidious campaign to discredit the upper House and its committees in the hope that when the public heard the messages and information that those committees had to report the information would be discredited.

Implicit in all of this - and I am pleased to say brought out in both the motion and the speech of Hon George Cash - is the double standard of the Premier. On taking the high office of Premier she was the person who complained that the standards of conduct in this Parliament were unusually low, enough to warrant the creation of that Parliamentary Standards Committee. But what happened? The minute the Premier came under some challenge she resorted to the same sort of gutter language that she was disdaining by virtue of moving for the establishment of that committee. In a moment I will refer to that gutter language in a way which, by and large, the Press has refused to deal with it in recent months.

On that occasion I put a submission to the Parliamentary Standards Committee. It did not take me very long to assemble that submission and it is now contained in the report, part of which was tabled in this House in, I think, May 1990. I made the point then that it was hypocrisy at its worst that a Premier who was putting herself on such high moral ground should be guilty of calling Opposition members of Parliament dills and liars when it suited her to do so. I asked the committee how I could take it seriously when it was sponsored by a

person who reverted to that sort of language because she could not find a better way to describe the activities of Opposition members of Parliament whose inquiries came too close to the truth.

Another of my real concerns is the media's reaction to that foul description that the Premier used when she referred to necrophiliacs. Members will recall that it is only a month ago that the Leader of the Federal Opposition incurred the wrath of the nation because he referred to the New South Wales right of the Labor Party as the closest thing that Australia has to the Mafia. Dr Hewson was correctly asked to modify his language and he was rightly condemned by a lot of people, even though what he said was the truth, because it lowered the standards of parliamentary behaviour. His comment became national news and was featured on page 1 of nearly every newspaper and on the editorial and cartoon pages. He was universally condemned. I have no objection that Dr Hewson should have been brought to book, even though he might have been telling the truth. However, where was the media outrage when approximately two weeks later the Premier of this State, who holds herself up as holier than thou, referred to members of the Opposition in terms such as she did? In fairness, *The West Australian* did carry that story and, therefore, one cannot say it ignored it. In other words, the Press Gallery in this place and the other place knew that it was a reasonable and serious story. As I said, *The West Australian* did not ignore it, but it buried the story on about page 8 or 10 of the newspaper. However, the rest of the media did ignore the story. My objection is that this occurred in the wake of the universal condemnation of Dr Hewson's unparliamentary behaviour in calling the New South Wales's right of the Labor Party something akin to the Mafia. The Premier was allowed to speak with a foul mouth - she does not have the manners of the street kids who sleep under the bridge a few miles from here - and to get away with unparliamentary behaviour while Dr Hewson was nailed to the wall.

This issue is not about the dignity of this House or of the Parliament being at stake; I, like the Leader of the Opposition who has just spoken, and other members on this side of the House can put up with robust debate and we have been insulted by better people than members opposite. The issue is about the Opposition in this House getting close to the truth. The reaction of the Premier to a major committee of this House which was getting too close to the bone is outlined in *Hansard* of 9 April. It is a fear of the Premier's and it has developed into an obsession on her part. I can understand that. This holier than thou Premier was involved in doing the best she could to ensure that nothing bad came out about the Burke Government during the Midland abattoirs inquiry. Anyone who wants to know the part she played in that should read the transcripts of that Select Committee. She was brought up in a good "school" and in such illustrious company as Mr Burke; and we know what has happened to him.

Hon Kay Hallahan: I thought you were talking about the Catholic education which you share with her.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: She is a disgrace to that and she knows that.

Hon Kay Hallahan: What are you?

Hon P.G. PENDAL: If the Minister for Education wants to introduce a sectarian element into the debate, perhaps the Opposition could move another motion for debate tomorrow. I do not think anyone in the community, including the Premier, would thank the Minister for her comment.

Several members interjected.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: What we are seeing is a repeat of history. It is nothing new from the Labor Party. Mr Burke taught these people that if they denigrated the upper House they denigrated the facts it uncovered. Mr Dowding learnt to refine that. History will judge that that is where the rot set in for the Labor Party. When Mr Burke was admired by the Press Gallery, most of whom from those days have gone, thank God, he was not admired for running the State so well, but that he could put it over everyone. He was being admired for the wrong thing. Along came Mr Dowding and he was admired for the same reasons, but society has not learned. We now have the third Labor Premier in a row who is going down the same path.

Hon B.L. Jones: We have a higher rating.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: A higher rating produces the immorality of Government.

Several members interjected.

Hon Kay Hallahan: You must be talking about Mr Greiner.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: There is the hypocrisy. Mr Greiner does not have high ratings, but he is a Premier who is prepared to make real decisions. Hon Beryl Jones exemplifies the view that if one is popular as a Premier he or she can do anything. It is institutionalising the very immorality that this Government and this Premier have been at the forefront of. What has developed in the last couple of weeks in this Premier is a vulgar trade on those high ratings. I guarantee she will go the same discredited way as Mr Dowding and Mr Burke.

Hon B.L. Jones: That is what you would like to think. The truth will be far from that.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: That is what the community will judge to be the case. It is one thing to hang in there and survive by dint of the Government's undoubted popularity - I have no doubt about that whatsoever. I have often thought about the fate of people like the Bill Hassells of this world. Mr Hassell left this Parliament having failed to become Premier, but I can tell members opposite that at least his reputation is intact.

Several members interjected.

Hon P.G. PENDAL: Indeed, he has a reputation that is enhanced.

[Debate adjourned, pursuant to Standing Order No 195.]

NURSES BILL 1991

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon Kay Hallahan (Minister for Education), read a first time.

Second Reading

HON KAY HALLAHAN (East Metropolitan - Minister for Education) [4.32 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

It is with considerable pleasure that I introduce this Bill, which will reform and update the professional registration of nurses in this State. This Bill is the first stage in the fulfilment of the Government's commitment to amending all health professionals' registration Acts in Western Australia. It has resulted from a comprehensive review of the Nurses Act 1968, first initiated in July 1987 by the then Minister for Health, Hon Ian Taylor. The proposed changes to the legislation are substantial and have warranted the drafting of a new Act.

This Bill will replace the outdated Nurses Act, which was first introduced in 1968. The overall aim of these amendments is to modernise the legislation to make it consistent with the significant changes that have occurred in the nursing profession in the 1980s. The role of nurses has been expanding over the years to keep pace with the advances in medical science and technology. In the past 10 years particularly, more complex patient care has demanded greater responsibility and training for nurses. New community activities and expectations, the introduction of highly sophisticated medical technology, changing medical practices and higher educational standards have all created a very different environment from that which existed previously. The nursing profession is aware of its responsibilities created by a new environment and has responded positively. It has recognised that the current Nurses Act does not reflect these changes and is inconsistent with modern practices in health care. This new Bill is introduced with the cooperation of the professional organisations and associations representing nurses in Western Australia, the Western Australian Nurses Board and the tertiary institutions responsible for educating nurses in this State.

Part 1 of the Bill sets out the objects of the legislation. They are to promote standards of knowledge and clinical skills among nurses, to maintain educational standards and to regulate and promote safe nursing practice.

Part 2 of the Bill establishes a new Nurses Board, which will have 12 members appointed by the Minister. Nurses will comprise 11 of the 12 members who, for the first time, will be required to be nurses of at least three years' standing who are currently practising. Nominations will be sought from various nursing organisations and educational institutions

so as to ensure the board is representative of nurses with knowledge of and experience in clinical nursing, nursing education and administration. Express provision is also made for a non-health professional member. This linkage with the community expresses the recognition by the nursing profession of its responsibilities to the consumers of care and the community in which it practises. Two new statutory committees will be provided for in this part. The registration review committee will be primarily responsible for examining issues related to qualification requirements. The professional standards committee will be responsible for investigating and holding inquiries related to a nurse's professional conduct. Both committees will also be empowered to carry out research and investigate any matter on their own initiative or referred to them by the board. Amendments were passed in the other House which removed from part IV of the original Bill the "Practice of Midwifery", which has been replaced by new clause 9, "Codes of Practice". This clause allows the WA Nurses Board to implement codes of practice for nursing as a nursing specialty. These codes will need to be approved by the Governor and be published in the *Government Gazette*. Any amendment or revocation of an existing code of practice will need to be published in the *Gazette*. This amendment was moved because it was seen that it would benefit the overall practice of nursing and all nursing specialities and was agreed to by all interested parties.

Part 3 of the Bill seeks to simplify and modernise the present registration requirements. The four main features in the registration provisions are -

- (i) portability of registration will be given to nurses who are registered in another State or Territory;
- (ii) a nurse who has not practised within five years will be required to advise the board and undertake a refresher course approved by the board;
- (iii) the board will be able to grant temporary registration to persons who are in the State for a short period of time - for instance, where an "eminent" person is invited to teach in Western Australia - or to nurses who do not require full registration;
- (iv) the board will be able to grant provisional registration to nurses who are either awaiting documents verifying their qualifications or are required to undertake a course of nursing training or study in order to attain full registration status.

Part 3 of the Bill also provides a new administrative scheme for maintaining the register. Presently there are 10 divisions of the register based on the different branches of nursing which reflect hospital-based training and qualifications. The Bill replaces this arrangement with a register in which there will be only two divisions in which practising nurses will be registered. It is designed to accommodate both nurses who have hospital-based diploma qualifications and nurses graduating from tertiary institutions. Although there is no specification of types of nursing specialities, the register will record all nursing qualifications obtained by a nurse. The new register reflects the need to provide a legislative framework for nurses who will be comprehensively trained and who will be employable in a range of nursing care settings. Division 1 of the register will generally cover those currently registered nurses who have qualified by undertaking courses in general, psychiatric or midwifery nursing or are graduates in nursing from a university or college based institution. Essentially, a person registered in this division is capable of practising independently as a professional nurse, and will have had three or more years of training to obtain his or her qualification. Transitionally, this division will also include currently registered nurses who have qualified through the old hospital based training. The second division of the register will cover nurses who have taken courses which are less extensive than those included in division 1. This will include enrolled nurses, dental nurses and mothercraft nurses.

Part 4 of the Bill streamlines administration of the board and incorporates the recommendations made by the Burt Commission of Inquiry. As a self-regulatory authority the board will continue to be able to appoint its own staff and be responsible for its own finances. To ensure proper financial administration all accounts will be audited once a year with a formal report to be submitted to Parliament within 14 days after it has been delivered to the Minister. The annual report must be delivered to the Minister on or before 31 December each year. The tabling of the annual report in this way will better inform the community on the direction of the profession and will be an additional mechanism of accountability.

Part 5 of the Bill establishes the disciplinary procedures for the board to deal with nurses who do not maintain proper standards or ethics in their practice. The Government considers it necessary both to improve the protection of the public from unprofessional or improper conduct on the part of a nurse, and also to safeguard the rights of the individual nurse. Existing provisions were enacted a number of years ago and experience has indicated that they are, in some instances, unclear and inadequate. The Bill will remove these shortcomings and will bring the control of discipline more into line with that in other jurisdictions, and with principles of accountability, fairness and natural justice. Two distinct procedures are available for dealing with disciplinary matters in the new Act. The board may initiate action when it receives a complaint or when it believes there is cause for concern in relation to breaches of professional standards. The first option that it has is to conduct an investigation. An investigator will be appointed by the board and will be responsible for investigating all disciplinary matters referred by the board. The investigator will report to the board, which may act on his or her findings by dismissing the allegation, ordering a formal inquiry, or reaching a decision as to a penalty with the agreement of the person being investigated.

The second option will be to proceed directly by way of formal inquiry conducted by the professional standards committee. A formal inquiry can also be set up on receipt of a complaint, or the raising of a matter of concern and following an investigation at the initiation of the person to whom a complaint relates, or on the direction of the board. The committee will not be able to suspend a nurse's registration unless a formal inquiry is held. Where no formal inquiry is held the powers of the committee will be restricted to imposing conditions on registration, censure, and a pecuniary penalty not exceeding \$2 500. The formal inquiry will have to follow the rules of natural justice and give the nurse the right to be heard and be represented.

Two new provisions provide for the dismissal of a complaint and the exoneration of a nurse, and empowering the board to suspend a nurse pending the outcome of a formal inquiry. The latter sanction will be invoked only where potential harm to the public may arise if the person continues to practise nursing. These new powers are not intended to be punitive but to give the Nurses Board a number of alternatives in the interests of a nurse and the community rather than take the extreme step of putting the registration of the nurse in jeopardy. At all stages of a disciplinary procedure the application of the principles of natural justice are to be emphasised to achieve this objective. The offence provisions in the Bill are essentially the same as those in the current Nurses Act. They include practising in a nursing speciality without the appropriate qualifications, unlawfully using the title "nurse", fraudulently procuring registration, and employing or being employed as a nurse without registration. The penalties, however, have been increased to reflect the severity of the offences. This will bring the legislation into line with other Australian States; for example, South Australia.

Finally, provision is made under the Bill for nurses to advertise and incorporate their services. This will enable the board to set a prescribed standard for advertising and give it control over the registration of bodies corporate. Overall the legislation will put Western Australia in the forefront of comparable authorities in Australia. It will enhance the Nurses Board's ability to exercise proper control over the profession as well as provide adequate protection for the community. The introduction of this Bill will provide an accessible reference for those who administer and use it. Accordingly I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Barry House.

SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL 1991

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon Graham Edwards (Minister for Police), read a first time.

Second Reading

HON GRAHAM EDWARDS (North Metropolitan - Minister for Police) [4.41 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The main purpose of this Bill is to amend the South West Development Authority Act to establish the Peel area advisory committee. Members may recall that amendments to the Act proposed last year included the establishment of area advisory committees, an increase in the size of the board of management, an amendment to the staffing structure of the authority and included the Shire of Boddington in the authority's area of responsibility. The Government intended to establish an area advisory committee only for the Peel region in the first instance but wanted to provide the flexibility to establish similar area advisory committees in other regions as the need arose. However, during debate concerns were raised about this matter and, rather than risk deferring any further the other important changes proposed in the Bill, area advisory committees were allowed to be deleted from the Bill. During last year's second reading speech it was pointed out that since the South West Development Authority began as a division of the former Department of Regional Development and the North West in 1983 the south west region had grown substantially in population and employment. In addition there has been a significant increase in the economic benefit the region delivers to the State as a whole. The functions of the South West Development Authority laid down in the Act are to plan, coordinate and promote the economic and social development of the south west. It can be argued that these improvements are directly related to the wide-ranging activities of the authority. The major components of the authority to assist in carrying out its functions are the board of management, the staff and the advisory committee. As mentioned previously, last year's amendments dealt with changes needed to the first two and sought to deal with the third.

At present, the Act provides for a South West Development Authority advisory committee with the specific function of advising the authority on the exercise and performance of its powers, functions and duties under the Act. The advisory committee includes up to 12 persons being representatives of the people of the south west region. With the growth in population experienced in the south west over recent years, there have been calls from subregional centres for greater representation on the advisory committee. The Peel area population has grown markedly and since the town of Mandurah has been declared a city there is clearly a need for a much greater say for the people of this area in the direction of the activities of the authority in their area. The function of the proposed Peel advisory committee will be the same as the South West Development Authority advisory committee except that it will be limited to the Peel area. The Peel area is defined as the area within the south west region constituted by the combined districts of the Shires of Boddington, Murray and Waroona and the City of Mandurah. Membership of the Peel area advisory committee will consist of up to 13 members, with four of these being selected from nominations made by the four local authorities in the Peel region and eight being appointed by the Minister from applicants who are residents in the Peel area. In addition the advisory committee will include a representative from each local authority in the Peel area. The constitution, operation and proceedings of the Peel area advisory committee are proposed to be the same as those for the South West Development Authority advisory committee.

Apart from the establishment of the Peel area advisory committee, the Bill also seeks to amend the section of the Act relating to directions given by the Minister so that it conforms to requirements that such directions be in writing and included in the relevant annual report. The Bill also includes minor amendments to the description of the area of responsibility of the South West Development Authority to reflect the change to city status of Mandurah and to include the authority and its advisory committees within the jurisdiction of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Barry House.

MOTION - LIQUOR LICENSING AMENDMENT REGULATIONS

Disallowance

Debate resumed from 7 April.

HON TOM HELM (Mining and Pastoral) [4.46 pm]: In asking the House not to disallow this new regulation, I remind members of the debate held when the motion for disallowance was moved by Hon Eric Charlton on 1 April. He said then that he thought the regulation should be disallowed because it increased the fee payable for a special liquor licence from \$8

to \$25. On the face of it one would think the House would be obliged to agree to the disallowance of the regulation because of the phenomenal increase in the fee, as Hon Eric Charlton put it, to charitable organisations, kindergartens, parents and citizens' associations, and so on.

I do not know whether Hon Eric Charlton has spoken to the Liquor Licensing Division about this matter and about the importance of regulations going through to the board and to the people it services. However, from his remarks I think it is unlikely that he has spoken to the board, and I believe he does not realise the sorts of things he is asking this House to agree to when he seeks to disallow this regulation. Hon Eric Charlton asks us not to allow an increase in the fee, which on the face of it is fair enough; but amongst other things he has asked us to disallow the ability for sporting clubs, turf clubs, parents and citizens' associations and so on to reduce the cost of their fundraising exercises, of which they may have more than one throughout the year. I do not know what goes on in the south of the State, but in the north when kindergartens or P & C associations have fundraising events they generally involve the whole family and very rarely do they involve an application for a liquor licence. So liquor is not a major part of the fundraising activities of those two groups particularly, which involve families. However, sporting organisations without exception ask for special licences on a regular basis. The reduction in costs for those groups under these regulations is phenomenal; previously it cost \$8 every time someone wanted to hold a function, and this may have been once a week or seven times a week. Now people can pay \$105 to obtain a licence for a 12 month period. Therefore, they will not have to make a special application every time they want to put on a fundraising do. If the regulation were disallowed, these groups would have to obtain a separate licence for each function.

I will go through these points in some detail because it is an important issue for the people Hon Eric Charlton purports to, and those I, represent. Mr Charlton has said often enough in this Chamber that these regulations are a small step towards helping the viability of the liquor trade of the clubs and organisations within our electorates - that applies whether they are in the north or the south of the State. Licences are issued to charitable and sporting organisations to raise funds, and the regulations will help to institute a more orderly use of the Liquor Act.

In his speech Hon Eric Charlton referred to the need for plenty of outside dunnies. Contrary to what we were told by Mr Charlton, once an annual licence is applied for and the \$105 fee is paid, more than one inspection of the premises is made. That is a good thing. If a person is holding more than 10 functions a year to raise funds, it is in his interests to ensure that the facilities are adequate. This applies to the clubhouse in which members meet, as well as, say, the municipal swimming pool, where people attending the function might be hurt; however, the people attending the function could also cause damage to the surrounding municipal area.

I draw the House's attention to the house wrecking function held in Trigg last year, an event reported in the newspapers. I understand that the people who held that function had a \$8 licence. The people who attended proceeded to destroy the house as part of the function.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Was it a fundraising function?

Hon TOM HELM: Part of the intent of the function was to wreck the house. I recall that a number of charges were laid. Although this example has its amusing side, it is important to realise that whenever anyone - including members of this House - attends a function, the facilities should be adequate, and this is not a matter of examining the colour of the walls or the doors. People must feel secure in their belief that the facilities are adequate when they spend their money supporting organisations and generally have a good time. We are told that people must do many things in order to obtain a function licence. Before November, when these regulations were gazetted, that may have been true as a lot of red tape may have been involved in organising a charitable function in our electorates. However, having for some time been involved with P & C groups, kindergartens, scouts and other organisations, and on occasions being the person who has applied for a function licence, I have never found any problem with red tape in obtaining the licence. As members would be aware, the clerk of the court issues the licence after he has asked the police to decide whether the person is suitable to receive that licence. Apart from that determination, very little else is involved. The police decide whether they will attend the function to keep an eye on things, and that is a good thing. The new regulations simply recognise the informality involved and enable the

application procedure to be followed once a year instead of many times a year.

If a local P & C organisation allowed a lot of drinking and carrying on at a function, the regulations allow for the commissioner to use his discretion to decide not to supply the licence, and in that case he would not charge the \$25 every time an application was made. If a P & C were to decide that it would be a good idea to have more than one or two functions a year, the organisation could approach the commissioner, who could agree to reduce the fee. Therefore, it would probably cost less than was the case before the regulations were gazetted. Hon Eric Charlton referred to the kindergartens and P & C groups which hold only one function every year, and the fact that they must pay \$25 instead of \$8.

Hon George Cash: That is a 300 per cent increase; it is easier when talking in percentage terms.

Hon TOM HELM: Indeed, but we must recognise that such organisations will take into account the fact that they have the ability to increase their fundraising capabilities by holding more functions. If they decide to hold more functions, the formalities are certainly not onerous. The group will simply apply to the clerk of the court for a licence and the licence will be issued, provided that certain conditions are met.

Since the regulations were gazetted in November last year, perhaps 6 000 applications have been made for licences. I have a few examples with me from places such as Manning, Geraldton, Esperance, Forrestfield, Australind, Lynwood, Fremantle, Dalkeith, Telfer, Collie and Meekatharra. They indicate that kindergartens and P & C groups within communities around the State recognise that the liquor licensing laws can be utilised in fundraising efforts.

Undoubtedly, sporting clubs and turf clubs, which rely on the support of their members and their friends, will apply for the annual licence because this will be the cheaper option. In that case the clubs will continue their fundraising activities without the inconvenience of the former procedure. Hon Eric Charlton would have us believe that this regulation involves additional red tape, but the evidence and the regulations themselves suggest otherwise. I urge members to read the regulation and to accept my comments and understand that if the regulation is disallowed, it will not only stop the licence fees being raised by 300 per cent, but also stop a reduction in funds for the vast majority of organisations which have no other means by which to raise funds; namely, the holding of functions within club rooms or club facilities.

Members need to be aware of other matters before this major step is taken which has nothing to do with raising funds for the Government as was suggested earlier. It has much to do with the recognition of how our drinking habits have altered.

[Questions without notice taken.]

Hon TOM HELM: Although members may be attracted by the arguments raised by Hon Eric Charlton for the disallowance of the Liquor Licensing Amendment Regulations, in fact the gazetted regulations, far from increasing the money that might go into the Government's coffers, provide for a reduction in funds to the Government. Hon Eric Charlton referred to a reduction in funding from the Lotteries Commission, but that funding has in fact increased. The main argument he raised concerned the increase from \$8 to \$25 in the price of an occasional liquor licence. However, those members who have been involved in fundraising activities will know that only rarely is it necessary to apply for an occasional liquor licence. I have been told that in the town of Wickham, which has only one pub, a group of people used to obtain an occasional liquor licence at \$8 to hold a function every Sunday and to buy their liquor from Perth, thereby reducing the ability of the Wickham pub to be a viable enterprise. We have all heard Hon Eric Charlton state that we should support country towns and increase the population of those towns, and you, Mr Deputy President (Hon Garry Kelly), also push that barrow. I applaud that statement, but in the instance I have given the use of the occasional liquor licence meant that the local liquor outlet could not trade profitably.

Hon E.J. Charlton: That is totally incorrect. That is the reason that I have moved to disallow these regulations.

Hon TOM HELM: I am sure Hon Eric Charlton will explain the reason. He is seeking to disallow 24 regulations, all but one of which will allow fundraising organisations to increase the amount of funds which they raise and to reduce their outlays. However, does the member

know that the Director of the Liquor Licensing Division has a discretion to reduce the price of an occasional liquor licence if an organisation wishes to use that licence on more than six occasions during the year? Hon Eric Charlton should know also that when kindergartens, P & C groups or Scout groups apply for an occasional liquor licence, the Clerk of Courts - unless he is an exception to the rule - and the local police will do everything they can to see that they get that licence. They will put no obstacles in their way.

There must be some measure of control on how many licences are approved, how they are used, and what facilities will be offered to members of the public when liquor is to be consumed. That should occur in a safe and healthy environment. With the \$25 licence that will happen every time an application is made for a licence, although at the discretion of the commissioner. I do not see anything wrong with that step, when the \$25 licence will be used in a more sensible way. Last year between 10 000 and 12 000 applications for licences were made. The majority of the applications were for regular occasional licences. For the most part, they were for football clubs and other sporting organisations which have the ability to raise funds in that way. One could be accused of saying that the commissioner has the power to say what colour the doors will be painted. However the commissioner will now take a more commonsense approach in order to give people the ability to hold functions without all the red tape.

Before the House votes on the motion to disallow the regulations members should talk to the Liquor Licensing Board to discover its intentions. We should consider the gazetted regulations; we should see how they have affected the people of this State. Members will find, just as I have found, that the regulations will benefit the people of the State. Some entrepreneurs will say that if a club or an organisation makes an application for an occasional licence they will provide the food and the drink and give the organisation \$100 towards the kitty. Perhaps they will receive \$125 and be able to pay for the licence. In that way the entrepreneur and the organisation will make money. That should not be recognised as fundraising by a charitable organisation. It should be recognised as an individual, not a charity, making money from regulations that have been published in the *Government Gazette*; that is, it is for the benefit of all.

When considering the arguments for the disallowance of the regulations, the matter becomes more complicated. We should look at the regulations, understand what they mean and what they involve. We have been told that because the Government is short of funds the fees need to be increased to bolster the Government's coffers. That is blatantly untrue. As Chairman of the Delegated Legislation Committee I am aware of the major problems attached to moves to increase fees, and how they are presented in this place. However, this is not an area which causes a problem. In the past that committee has asked questions of departments regarding a 300 per cent increase in costs. However, when the matter is taken as a whole we discover a reduction in overall costs. It is a case of meeting the commonsense attitude which prevailed before the regulations were gazetted.

Hon Eric Charlton stated that the funds made available by the Lotteries Commission have been reduced. I have it on good authority that the Lotteries Commission has provided increased funds to sporting organisations and other groups within small communities.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Can you table that evidence?

Hon TOM HELM: I probably cannot, even though I would like to. I carried out some research to support the regulations and to rebut Hon Eric Charlton's argument. As a member who lives in Port Hedland I am aware of the importance of the ability of P & C associations, kindergartens and so on to raise funds. I was horrified when he stated that this fee had increased by 300 per cent. I understand that for many groups a \$25 licence is a large outlay when groups hold perhaps two functions per week. They would incur a \$100 outlay before bringing in a dollar, and that is a little stiff. I thought that if I did not pick up the point soon, someone else would, and I would feel a little less than adequate if I were told that a sporting group, kindergarten, playgroup or a scouting group could not make money because the fees were too high. After some research, I discovered that it was not true. I do not know to whom either Hon Eric Charlton or Hon Phil Lockyer has spoken. I am aware that Hon Phil Lockyer has been very involved in fundraising for organisations in Carnarvon and in Port Hedland. He may not be so involved now, because he cannot know what he is talking about if he asks the House to support the motion. The truth is that most of the groups in our

constituency, and in Hon Phil Lockyer's home town, would welcome the regulations. He should talk with his constituents before he considers voting to disallow these regulations. I know that Hon Phil Lockyer is a very supportive member of turf organisations. He should understand that the major means of fundraising is the sale of liquor during functions at the various race clubs. Similarly, Hon Eric Charlton must know as a football supporter that the local football clubs are in the same position. We are being asked to return to the past, where every time a game is played at home an application must be made for a licence - even for the presentation of jerseys or for a bingo night. Some clubs would have functions twice a week, which would mean they would incur fees of \$16 each week of the year. That is a lot of money. Now clubs are being asked to pay only \$105.

The police in Port Hedland do not inspect football clubs or tennis club rooms very frequently. Members of those organisations try to make the clubs as comfortable and as safe as possible so that their members can take their families to the clubs and enjoy a drink. In that way they return money to their organisations. The police understand that situation and take a commonsense attitude. The clubs may be inspected, but under this exercise that inspection will occur once a year for \$105. That is, instead of paying \$8 for each inspection - as was the case last year, and to which situation we have been asked to return as a "back to the future" exercise - we are being asked to look to the future and address the current circumstances.

Sometimes I wonder what members of Parliament do and how they spend their time when they leave this madhouse. I do not spend a lot of time in pubs but I spend a bit of time in clubs because they have a far better atmosphere and one can meet people of like mind to have a drink and relax. In the past the licence fee cost \$8 for each function, now it will cost \$25 a function. If we were able to deal with that regulation in isolation I am not even sure I would agree to disallow that one regulation, let alone all the others.

I would like to draw members' attention to an article in *The West Australian* on 10 January 1991. The headline was "Edwards seeks liquor licence crackdown" and the article stated -

Police Minister Graham Edwards yesterday called for a crackdown on the granting of occasional liquor licences in light of recent wild parties and public drinking binges.

The article followed New Year celebrations in Fremantle where we witnessed some disgraceful behaviour which may have been caused in part by the ability of the courts to grant liquor licences willy-nilly and people could have what they thought was a good time, but which encroached upon the rights of other people to have a good time especially those people who brought their families to Fremantle to enjoy the New Year celebrations. We all saw some really horrific things on television and in the newspapers. The article quotes the Minister for Police as saying -

"People have obtained licences and then staged events without proper facilities or security measures - the result being under age drinking and unruly behaviour,"

The article continues -

The head of the Liquor and Gaming Squad, Supt Frank Kirkby, said his officers would scrutinise every application in light of an end-of-year party at Bindoon last month attended by 1 000 private school students.

Supt Kirkby said he also did not want a repeat of a wild riot at Trigg last summer when 700 people paid \$10 to attend a party in a suburban house.

But Australian Hotels Association state president, Peter Eakins said if the State Government was genuine about under age drinking and its Drinksafe program, it would subject licence applicants to the same strict requirements as publicans.

On the one hand we have heard there is too much red tape and on the other that more red tape should be added. However, the fact is that it will be the same procedure except the fee has been increased to make it less attractive for some people to apply for licences and to get some control over binge drinking or wild parties. The Australian Hotels Association called for stricter measures and for more red tape to make it more difficult to get a licence. The proprietor of the Wickham Hotel, which is not very big, would not be very happy if a group of guys at the end of their shift had applied for a licence to get booze brought up from Perth cheaper than they could buy it locally and did not use the pub. The pub is open with the juke

box ready to go, the lights and the air-conditioning on and it is a good pub except that not a lot of people go there because they can get a licence to buy their booze cheap. That addresses only the increased licence fee from \$8 to \$25. The article goes on to say -

More than 12,000 occasional liquor licences were issued for \$8 each in WA last year for functions ranging from ladies' wine and cheese nights to shearers' end-of-work parties.

"The system fails because liquor licence applications are being rubber-stamped by Clerks of Courts in country areas," Mr Eakins said.

Liquor licensing director Geoff Aves said the next few weeks marked a busy period for his division.

He said the approval procedures were continually being reviewed.

"Occasionally there are some functions where the circumstances are such that they can get out of hand," he said.

The licence imposes requirements for a 12 month period and those requirements have not changed. There is no requirement for a new coat of paint or additional toilets or sinks or anything else. For the most part people take a sensible outlook to the use of these licences. They are used for the purpose for which they are obtained, not for binge drinking or wild parties. Hon Eric Charlton would agree that I know about the bush; people in the bush get licences for many functions for the purpose of raising money, to have a good time and to have a chat with a neighbour. We do not go about breaking houses, having fights or being sick.

Hon E.J. Charlton: I didn't mention any of that.

Hon TOM HELM: I agree. Hon Eric Charlton mentioned certain matters and that is why I have had to mention them. Hon Eric Charlton did not mention these other things which we are also being asked to disallow. Nobody mentioned that we are being asked to disallow -

Hon E.J. Charlton: I can't help it if you get everything mixed up when you put up regulations in one hit.

Hon TOM HELM: I did not put them up.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Yes you did.

Hon TOM HELM: I think Hon Eric Charlton was occupied with other parliamentary duties when I mentioned that I would have to think twice about agreeing to the licence fee increase from \$8 to \$25. Basically it is like other things we are faced with in this Chamber; it is part of a package of the way the department sees things in the best interest of the client group, the people who apply for those licences for fundraising and to keep their organisations viable.

Hon Peter Foss: They are better off paying \$25 a year than \$8 each function.

Hon Kim Chance: The Wickham Hotel would be.

Hon TOM HELM: Yes, if they were to have only one function a year. Hon Peter Foss has brought that to my attention. I make no comment about what people do in the city, but for people in the bush it is vitally important that we are allowed and encouraged to hold these functions, not faced with unnecessary regulations and rules.

I suggest that if we continue down the track as we have done for the past 12 years we will have a reduction in the viability of many pubs. The town of Wickham has only one pub. Why should Wickham have a reduction in its services because we have been asked to disallow one part of a regulation that has 24 parts? The fact is that 5 000 or 6 000 applications were made in this State in spite of the gazettal of those regulations in November and many more are pending at the moment. The regulations have been gazetted and are seen to be in the best interests of the people who want to use them. I ask the House to take a look at what we are being asked to do.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 pm

Hon TOM HELM: The House has been asked to disallow regulations which will increase occasional liquor licences from \$8 to \$25 and to disallow 24 other changes to fees which will ultimately benefit charitable organisations and sporting groups which obtain liquor licences

regularly over 12 months. In essence, the House has been asked to throw out the baby with the bath water. The House should be aware that the fee for similar licences in New South Wales is \$50.

It is not true that the Lotteries Commission's funds are drying up. In fact, the commission is now allocating record levels of funds to a range of new organisations, as well as to traditional recipients, as a result of the changes in the Lotteries Commission Act of 1990. For most organisations the club restricted licence will save them considerable money and effort; therefore, the furphy that more red tape will be created is wrong. There will be less red tape and the task of obtaining a licence will be less onerous. Members should not forget that the director will have the ability to assist organisations to obtain their licences and they will not have to plough their own way through the regulations when seeking licences, as happened in the past. We are not being asked to agree to regulations which will detail what will occur at a particular venue where a function is to take place. I remind the House of the 12 000 occasional permits which were being issued annually before the review of this matter. At least 80 per cent were issued to organisations which regularly required licences. The regulations encourage organisations to obtain club restricted licences and ensure that the majority of applicants for occasional permits save money and effort.

I ask the House not to disallow these regulations, but to bear in mind that, by disallowing them, clubs and organisations which rely on fundraising will have more regulations to abide by, or be subject to the regulations that were in place previously. That means they will have higher outlays before they can begin making money from the liquor they sell and it will also reduce the services and profitability of local liquor outlets and hotels in towns such as Wickham - which has only one pub - Pannawonica and many other hotels which are struggling to survive, particularly in the north west. I urge the House not to disallow the regulations.

HON GEORGE CASH (North Metropolitan - Leader of the Opposition) [7.35 pm]: In supporting the motion moved by Hon Eric Charlton on 7 April 1991 to disallow these regulations it is important that I note the comments made by Hon Tom Helm, who represented the Government on this matter. In part, Hon Tom Helm urged the House to believe that if costs were increased, as is the intent of the regulations - that is, to increase occasional licence fees for some clubs from \$8 to \$25 a licence - we could effectively reduce the costs of those clubs. Did Hon Tom Helm say that by increasing the costs now the costs to clubs in the long term would be reduced?

Hon Tom Helm: Yes.

Hon GEORGE CASH: That is an important point because Hon Tom Helm is saying that the regulations are framed in such a way that those clubs must take out multiple licences during the year and that if they apply for more than 13 licences in any one year they will be marginally better off. However, Hon Tom Helm did not say that for the kindergarten or scout organisations, and any small organisations which hold only a few fundraising functions in any one year, the increase from \$8 to \$25 each time they are required to obtain a licence for fundraising activities will significantly disadvantage them.

The opportunity exists for the Government - if the regulations do benefit the majority of clubs, as Hon Tom Helm suggests - to work out an optional scheme in which small clubs can be offered some financial advantages and in which bigger clubs - or those which require those licences more frequently - are able to benefit from the Government's desire to reduce their costs. If the Opposition were to agree to these regulations in their present form, it would disadvantage considerably the very small clubs in the community, including the clubs which require, more than most, the support of the community. They certainly do not need the heavy hand of the Government placed continually in their pockets, destroying their fundraising opportunities.

Hon Tom Helm: They do have that ability.

Hon GEORGE CASH: I assume by his interjection that Hon Tom Helm is referring to the discretion that is available to the Director of the Liquor Licensing Division to reduce fees if an organisation requires more than six licences in one year. As I understand it, that is the proposition put by Hon Tom Helm. One of the problems with having discretion written into regulations or Statutes is that, in this case, the director must be convinced that a particular

organisation is entitled to have that discretion exercised. Obviously, that would require the organisation to prove its case to the director and to convince him that he should use his discretion with its request. However, the opportunity exists for this House to frame a regulation which will provide clear options to clubs wanting these licences. These options will provide them with the opportunity to make a considered choice and to budget for suitable fundraising activities during any given period.

In framing regulations there is a need to cater for all organisations and it is not good enough for the Government to say that some clubs will gain a financial advantage when it is not prepared to recognise that many of the clubs would have a significant financial burden placed on them if these regulations were to remain.

In respect of the disallowance of regulations it should not be believed that options are not available to the Government. Options are available to the Government to come into this place, within a few sitting days, with rewritten regulations which take into account the various concerns that have been raised by members in this place. We would then have a situation where both sides of the House were happy with the regulations. It is often the case in this House when debating a disallowance of regulation motion that the Government puts the case that the end of the world is about to arrive unless a certain regulation is passed, and that a particular Government organisation will not be able to function. That argument is often used to exert pressure on members not to support the disallowance. The proposition I put to the House is that an opportunity exists for the Government to rewrite this regulation to take into account the very issues raised by Hon Tom Helm today, and by Hon Eric Charlton and Hon Philip Lockyer on the day that the motion was moved. All those issues can be addressed by the Government and, in the end, the various community organisations that will be affected by these licence fees can be the beneficiaries of a reduced set of costs, if that is the intention of the Government, instead of being subjected to the existing situation which totally disadvantages the smaller clubs.

There is a need to disallow these regulations and for the Government to rewrite them. I am sure that if new regulations were drawn up, as long as the situation of the smaller organisations have been taken into consideration, recognition is given to those clubs which require multiple licences throughout a year and the various options which are provided for in the new regulations are taken into account, they would meet with the approval of this House. The Government would then be able to tell all Western Australians that it had done a good job for community groups, notwithstanding the fact that Hon Eric Charlton and the Opposition were the people who urged the Government to provide a more equitable set of regulations. I urge the House to disallow the regulations in their present form.

HON PETER FOSS (East Metropolitan) [7.45 pm]: I listened with great interest to the speech given by Hon Tom Helm and he appeared to make a considerable amount of sense.

Hon Doug Wenn: He always does.

Hon PETER FOSS: He certainly does make a lot more sense than most members on the other side of the House and I always listen to his speeches. Having heard his argument I thought I should read the regulations to which he was referring to establish where the things he was referring to were included. I was interested in the idea that instead of having a multitude of occasional licences we should have a limited club licence. It sounded a reasonably good idea and the reason I obtained the regulations was to see where this was provided. Having obtained the regulations I find that they consist entirely of an increase in fees. There is nothing in them to do with the matters referred to by Hon Tom Helm, commendable though they may be.

What has really happened is this: There has always been the capacity to give an occasional club licence, but due to an administrative change it is easier for people to get a limited club licence because the administrators are not insisting on quite the same standards that have been insisted on in the past. There is a good incentive to obtain these club licences. Furthermore, since the regulations have been amended - the occasional licence fee has increased from \$8 to \$25 - there has been a financial incentive not to use the occasional licence, but to use restricted club licences. Nothing in the regulations facilitates what Hon Tom Helm referred to. The facilitation is contained in the 1988 amendments to the Act and in the administrative changes introduced by the Liquor Licensing Division. I commend it for the administrative changes because it is more appropriate that clubs which have regular

functions use restricted club licences. After all, they are operating as a club rather than carrying out occasional functions. It is a sensible move for the Liquor Licensing Division to do that.

However, that has nothing to do with the particular fees that have been changed in the regulations. The regulations contain an overall increase in fees. The only justification made for raising the fee for the occasional licence from \$8 to \$25 is, I understand, that the amount of inquiry required by the department to determine whether an occasional permit should be granted has increased. Apparently there has been a certain amount of abuse of that particular facility. It was intended to allow people to hold an occasional function, but some people have been making a welter out of it by offering to put on a complete function for various clubs. They have been offering money clear of, for example, \$250, paying \$8 to obtain a permit, and clearing \$1 000 on the function. Obviously that is not the intent of the occasional permit and if it is to be prevented from happening it requires further investigation by the Liquor Licensing Division.

That is its reason for saying that that fee increase is justified. If it is to be justified it is not on the ground referred to by Hon Tom Helm because it is not contained in the regulations. It is a background happening and is in no way related to these regulations. If he wishes to justify it, the basis for justification is that the increase from \$8 to \$25 is justified because of the actual work that is put in to the granting of the occasional permit. It is up to the board to say that the work is worth \$25 where previously it was worth \$8. Many of the clubs are abusing this facility and that justifies the Liquor Licensing Division's carrying out the additional investigation procedures and increasing the fee.

I would not support the motion on the basis of the argument put forward by Hon Tom Helm but which is not put forward in the regulations.

HON E.J. CHARLTON (Agricultural) [7.51 pm]: The motion to disallow these regulations has been canvassed widely. It probably would have been to the advantage of all members had Hon Tom Helm condensed his comments as we would have reached our present position sooner. Hon George Cash and Hon Peter Foss said in summary that if we wish to introduce regulations we should discuss them with people and organisations so that they can respond appropriately. The amount involved in this matter is in line with that mentioned by Hon Peter Foss, and by Hon Philip Lockyer and me when the motion was first moved and seconded. I am amazed that the Government moved to increase fees for an occasional permit from \$8 to \$25 having looked at the terminology used for a single annual licence.

It seems strange to me that the fees for genuine, one off or occasional permits are to be increased. Another example of this is that on the international women's world day of prayer, which is shared by Australian women, the Government now sponsors another women's function which is made widely known to the public through the media and other areas and which encourages people to apply for funding for such functions. We see a genuine family-type organisation trying to run a special day to raise money for families or communities and a Government which is raising charges on the one hand promoting a women's world convention-type of gathering on the other which involves such things as morning teas run in opposition to the women's world day of prayer.

This illustration was given on the radio one morning. If the Government wishes to hand out money for such events it should do so on a different day and be more discreet about what it is doing. This is the very sort of background from which some of these decisions are coming. I mention this because the Government is always saying that it is costing more to do this and that. I am giving an example of organisations being encouraged to apply for funding assistance to do something on the same day as family groups in the community are being asked to pay more to do certain things.

Hon George Cash: This is the Government that said it would not raise fees and charges more than the inflation rate. What a joke!.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: That is so. These regulations should be disallowed.

Division

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (14)

Hon J.N. Caldwell
 Hon George Cash
 Hon E.J. Charlton
 Hon Reg Davies
 Hon Max Evans

Hon Peter Foss
 Hon Barry House
 Hon P.H. Lockyer
 Hon N.F. Moore
 Hon Muriel Patterson

Hon P.G. Pental
 Hon W.N. Stretch
 Hon Derrick Tomlinson
 Hon Margaret McAleer
 (Teller)

Noes (12)

Hon T.G. Butler
 Hon Kim Chance
 Hon Cheryl Davenport
 Hon Graham Edwards
 Hon Kay Hallahan

Hon Tom Helm
 Hon B.L. Jones
 Hon Mark Nevill
 Hon Sam Piantadosi
 Hon Tom Stephens

Hon Doug Wenn
 Hon Fred McKenzie
 (Teller)

Pairs

Hon R.G. Pike
 Hon D.J. Wordsworth
 Hon Murray Montgomery

Hon J.M. Berinson
 Hon John Halden
 Hon Bob Thomas

Question thus passed.

MOTION

Road Traffic (Infringements) Amendment Regulations (No 2), Road Traffic Code Amendment Regulations (No 4), Road Traffic (Drivers' Licences) Amendment Regulations (No 4) - Disallowance

Debate resumed from 8 April.

HON KIM CHANCE (Agricultural) [7.58 pm]: I oppose the motion to disallow these regulations. In order to refresh the recollection of members about the regulations for which disallowance is sought, I will go through one or two reasons why the commissioner sought their alteration. Experience has shown that the existing legislation does not deal adequately with incidents where persons deliberately - and I stress the word "deliberately" - blockade major arterial routes such as occurred in March 1991 during a protest by farmers. The only existing provision covering such an offence is found under regulation 1102E of the Road Traffic Code, which relates to parking a vehicle so as to cause an obstruction.

It should be noted that where the parking or standing of a vehicle constitutes an offence against any by-laws in force in a municipal district, under the provisions of the Local Government Act the provisions of this regulation are negated. The maximum penalty of \$25 is not considered adequate, given the disruption caused to the community and the increased risk to road users.

Some time ago Hon John Caldwell mentioned that there may be times when my party affiliation would clash with my commitment to farmers.

Hon George Cash: And have we reached that point already?

Hon KIM CHANCE: I can assure members that this is not one such occasion and by the time I have finished even Hon George Cash will believe me. It is true that I am not ideologically opposed to either direct action or militant action on behalf of any group, provided that such action is justified. In fact, I have taken part in action which could be described as both direct and militant, and perhaps even in contravention of laws of the State; but I believed at the time that the action in which I, and in that case my fellow farmers, took part was warranted in those circumstances. I am sure the farmers from the north midlands area believed their action was warranted back in March 1991 when they blockaded Perth's main arterial routes. Whether farmers from the north midlands area believed they achieved their aims on that day is a matter for their own judgment.

Hon E.J. Charlton: What do you think?

Hon KIM CHANCE: What a good question! I do not have to answer it. I am inclined to the view that they were noticed, certainly, and their issue was noticed; but more than a few members of the public felt that the actions of those north midlands farmers were counterproductive and in fact alienated the farmers' cause.

Hon T.G. Butler interjected.

Hon E.J. Charlton: What did you say?

Hon T.G. Butler: Are you asking me a question? Put it on notice.

Hon E.J. Charlton: I am asking you to repeat what you just said.

Hon Graham Edwards: This is an excellent speech and I do not think Hon Kim Chance should be diverted by Hon Eric Charlton.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Garry Kelly): Order! Let us listen to Hon Kim Chance, who is giving a very good speech.

Hon KIM CHANCE: The only objection I have is that while I could hear Hon Eric Charlton's interjections I could not hear Hon Tom Stephens' - I mean Hon Tom Butler's. We have too many Toms.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: We agree.

Hon N.F. Moore: You can start by getting rid of Hon Tom Stephens.

Hon KIM CHANCE: Certainly some members of the public felt that the actions of those north midlands farmers were counterproductive and that they may have alienated a degree of public sympathy which the mainstream farmer organisations had spent a great deal of time cultivating. I was invited to express my point of view about whether the north midlands farmers made their point. Whichever is the case and regardless of how I might judge the issue, the motion to disallow penalties which we are here discussing will not make legal the action of blocking arterial routes. It is a matter of degree of illegality, if you like. It simply means that if this motion to disallow is carried the existing penalty of \$25 will remain and the increased penalty of \$200 set by the Government will be disallowed, but the action of blocking major arterial routes will remain illegal. No farmer, including Hon Eric Charlton, wants to see the vital arteries of transport clogged by demonstrators.

Hon E.J. Charlton: I want to see a bit of fair play for everybody, not just a few.

Hon Graham Edwards: This does not apply to just a few, it is universal. The penalty will apply across the board.

Hon KIM CHANCE: I think we should remember that the organised - and I give credit where it is due; the north midlands farmers were certainly organised - blocking of major arterial routes in March 1991 was the first of its kind, certainly in Perth. I am not aware of another industrial group or civil disobedience group ever blocking the major arterial routes and that is why on this occasion the Government has sought to increase the penalty. When Hon Eric Charlton says it should be equal for everybody I am sure that in law the right to demonstrate and to dispute is equal for everybody. Under our current laws I would hope that it is more or less equal, anyway.

I am not sure of Hon Eric Charlton's motives for seeking the disallowance, in the light of the effect that going soft on blocking major arterial routes could have on farmers. Whatever his motives, they are certainly not in accordance with mainstream farmer organisation's opinion. The Western Australian Farmers Federation and the National Farmers Federation have both taken a very strong stance against industrial action which inhibits business, and most particularly industrial action which inhibits exports and the transport of those exports. I do not know how many members here can remember that the WAFF was one of the first employer organisations to seek to use section 45D of the Trade Practices Act - the secondary boycott provision - in a situation similar to this; but certainly any interference with the conduct of export business is one which mainstream farmer organisation's opinion has been solidly against. I appreciate that since we have had Governments with credible industrial relations policies - since we have had Labor Governments in Canberra and Western Australia - farmer organisations have been less concerned about industrial disputation. I hear a few moans, but I ask those people who are moaning to check the record. How many days were lost to industrial disputation in this decade and how many were lost in the last decade? I was intensely involved with farmer organisations in the last decade and those organisations were preoccupied with the cost of industrial disputation, the thing that has disappeared from the front pages of daily newspapers today. It has hardly been an issue, unless one can develop the issue through less enlightened industrial relations policies.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Most of their incomes have disappeared too.

Hon KIM CHANCE: That is certainly an issue, and if the honourable member can tell me how this Parliament can do anything about the international collapse in commodity prices I will be right with him, lending not just an arm but a fist as well. If he can find a way and we can do it I may even shift my electorate and vote for him.

Farmer organisations are less concerned about industrial relations issues; however, farmers are still rightly concerned that access to export markets should not be disrupted. I appreciate that it may be difficult to put emotion aside in this issue, because I felt an emotional bond with those farmers who took part in that demonstration; I know why they did it and why they felt they had to draw the attention of the world to their plight, and it was in a sense an international demonstration because later the United States Consulate was involved. But, emotion aside, the motion to disallow these regulations is an issue which, if we go soft on the freedom of the roads and the freedom of access to the roads, will act against the interests of farmers and the public in general. I ask members not to support the motion to disallow the regulations because in the long term it will act against the interests of all Western Australians.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon George Cash (Leader of the Opposition).

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY - ELEVENTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed from 9 April.

HON BARRY HOUSE (South West) [8.11 pm]: I began my comments to the Address-in-Reply nearly three weeks ago -

Hon Doug Wenn: Now you have a chance to make corrections.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: There is no need to make corrections. In my earlier comments I referred to my experiences and observations on a political exchange visit to the United States of America. I was privileged to be one of 10 Australians, who were involved in politics in some form or other, who had the opportunity to study a different form of democracy. We were in America at a very interesting time during a presidential election year. We were in the State of Illinois for the primaries of 17 March, and Illinois was regarded as a bellwether State because it was fairly representative of the electoral mood throughout the nation. The primaries occur midway through the presidential election process, and they were a particularly vital and interesting set of primaries this year.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! There is too much audible conversation in the Chamber.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: In the few days leading up to the 17 March elections we spoke to a whole range of people involved in the Democrat and Republican primaries, and we were able to gain an insight into the vital role played by lobbyists in the American political system.

We were up at 5.00 am on 17 March - it was not very warm in Chicago - and it was interesting to witness the campaign team working at that time. Also, it was interesting to see the range of electoral material handed out during the elections. As well as the normal "how to vote" and "vote for me" cards, a range of negative pamphlets were distributed. One such pamphlet caught my eye and I brought a copy back with me. This is headed "Dump Judge Morton Zwick!" It reads -

Judge Zwick lets slumlords get away with murder - Send a message to him, and all other judges, that we know our rights and we will not be disrespected.

How to vote against Judge Zwick:

The campaign was not in favour of anybody in particular, but was purely a negative campaign to have the judge who was standing as a district judge dumped. It went on to explain how to vote against Judge Zwick and how to vote for any other candidate. That is typical of the type of negative campaigns waged, of which we saw many examples during our visit. The television commercials tended to be very personalised, and very brutal in some cases.

The polling booths themselves were of interest to me. We use schools and community halls in Australia, but elections in America are usually held on week days. We saw fire stations being used as polling booths; I can imagine the pandemonium which would break out in the polling booths if the fire engines were called out. We saw a stairwell used as a polling booth in a 10 storey building.

Hon Doug Wenn: Did they receive a fee?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I am not sure, but Americans are good at making a business out of anything. The Illinois primaries produced some interesting results, and they certainly clarified the presidential race for both the Republicans and Democrats.

President Bush threw off the challenge issued by Buchanan, although he is still nipping at Bush's heels. Clinton emerged as the front runner for the Democrat nomination, and Paul Tsongas withdrew after the Illinois primary - however, I have since read in the paper that he has re-entered the race. Jerry Brown, try as he did, could not muster enough support to mount a serious challenge. Clear evidence emerged in the Illinois primaries of the anti-incumbency feeling sweeping the United States in the election year. In the Democrat primary election we saw an incumbent who was well thought of and who had apparently been successfully involved in politics for 40 years, yet he was defeated by a woman who seems destined to be the first black female Senator in the Congress in the United States.

It was interesting to note that in the primary contest the person who came third was a fellow who had decided that he wanted to be a senator and had spent \$US4.2 million of his money on his campaign. It is refreshing to note that money cannot buy everything - at least some of the time - for this candidate came a distant third.

We were privileged to meet and spend some time with a State representative, Mr Art Turner. He was a former delegate on an exchange program to Australia. He is a mover and shaker around the place and seems destined for greater things in the political world of Chicago, and in Illinois in particular. He was touted in some circles as a future Mayor of Chicago, in the Daly mould. That is a powerful position in America. Mr Turner was able to show us some grass roots constituency politics in America, and this was totally different in different areas of Chicago. For instance, we saw the Chicago Board of Trade, which is the symbol of capitalism in the world, and Chicago boasts the tallest building in the world; however, within a mile of that centre was Art Turner's electorate. This is a predominantly black area with very high unemployment, homelessness and crime rates and a range of social problems which stem from that. When travelling through certain sections we were advised to keep driving because it was not safe on the street. However, with representative Turner we saw a series of community functions involving many people within the area. The community centre was a converted motor showroom which had gone broke and the building had been resurrected to provide health and recreation services for the youth of the area. Parts of it were converted to a school and it was all done in very close association with the church. It was interesting to note that church organisations were prevalent. Their function seemed to be more that of a welfare agency than of a religious nature. While we were in that area, it was also a very moving experience for me to visit the Mt Sinai hospital. We visited a ward holding about 20 babies born with AIDS. It is a sobering thought that that ward depends almost entirely on donations. That highlights one of the situations that Americans are targeting; that is, their health care system. Approximately 30 million Americans have no health coverage. Compared with the American system, Australia's health system is more than adequate. However, that is no reason to remain complacent about our health system, which is threatened with ballooning costs. In other words, we are asking the question: How can Australia afford it?

The last part of the visit involved California. We visited Sacramento and, very briefly at the end of our trip, San Francisco. In Sacramento, the State capital, we were hosted by the Governor's staff. Governor Pete Wilson can be very proud of his staff. Most of them were young people who were former interns. I will speak about that later. Their hospitality was superb and I thank them for that. More importantly, I was very impressed with their professionalism. They were very enthusiastic and very competent. I can only pay them the highest compliment. We met with agencies of the Californian State Legislature such as the food and agricultural agency, the finance department, the Californian World Trade Commission, the Californian Office of Foreign Investment and the Californian Chamber of

Commerce. From those meetings I was able to establish the importance of California as a State to the United States of America and in a world context. Hence the name of some of their agencies; for instance, the Californian World Trade Commission. That is not surprising considering the size of California. Its population is about 30 million, which is about 12 per cent of the population of the United States. It is the sixth largest economy in the world in its own right. One of its bones of contention was that even though it had 12 per cent of the United States population it has 26 per cent of the United States welfare obligation. That creates some conflict with the rest of the United States. It means that California is often out of step with Washington DC. That struck a familiar chord, particularly with me; I was the only Western Australian in our group.

We also heard complaints that Californians were frustrated by the fact that most of their Federal funding came in tied grants. They would certainly prefer global budgetary grants. That debate also occurs in Australia today. Politically, California is obviously very influential in the United States. It contributes a large number of electoral college votes - I think the figure is 52 - to the presidential election. Whoever wins the seat of California is well placed to win the presidential election. The Californian system of government is fairly streamlined. Its agencies are not that well resourced, although they are very clearly targeted. The agency we spoke to had an export orientation and it had very clear goals set for it. I was impressed with the fact that it reported clearly in a cost benefit analysis format to the Parliament in its annual report. Its policy is to promote industry generally and not pick individual winners. I believe we can learn from that with respect to our Government agencies in Western Australia.

Another sobering thought for many of us, particularly in view of the debate in Australia in the past month or so, is that Californians are looking actively towards markets in Asia such as Indonesia, Taiwan and Thailand. Therefore, we can expect some very vigorous competition from the Americans as we try to tap into those markets. While being supportive of freer world trade, Californians are aware of the effects of the export enhancement program on Australian primary producers in particular. They did not offer us much hope because they said the situation was on hold during a presidential election year and that we could not expect too much freeing up of trade. We spoke to a variety of people in California who were involved in both the Republican and the Democrat campaigns. However, our itinerary was organised by the Governor's office, who was a Republican; therefore most of our campaign information was relayed to us by Republicans. I have mentioned briefly the role of the lobbyists. One of the most interesting observations came out of discussions with a couple of State senators. We were introduced onto the floor of the State Senate in California during a session. The three of us who were members of Parliaments in Australia took that as something of an honour.

Another very interesting observation was that as a result of a citizens' initiated referendum limits of two four-year terms were introduced for congressmen and State senators. That was very popular among the people who supported it in the referendum and it was popular with the Republican Administration. However, not surprisingly, it was very unpopular with most of the sitting congressmen and senators. I can sympathise with them a little; I had many reservations about the system. If Western Australian Legislative Council members were restricted to two four-year terms they would spend most of the first term learning the ropes and in the second term they would be regarded as lame ducks.

Hon Doug Wenn: Did they get the opportunity to stand again?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: No; members can move from the Senate to the House of Representatives. That is the only opportunity they have to serve more than eight years.

We could learn from some of the things I saw on this trip. We can certainly gain something from elements of the American system. However, on balance, our system probably delivers a little better than the American system, although I realise that is a subjective analysis. Who knows which is the best democracy? I was very taken with the idea of elections being run on a strict timetable.

[Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.]

Hon BARRY HOUSE: For instance, the primaries are run on a predetermined timetable and each State knows on a rolling system exactly when its election will be. The major election is

held on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November. That election involves everything from the presidential election, to State and local elections, county elections, and the election of judges and other officials. In Western Australia a couple of weeks ago we had a referendum on daylight saving at a cost of \$4 million.

Hon Reg Davies: I think that was "pay as you earn". We will get the revenue back through fines.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: We will wait and see how much is collected. However, we had a referendum a couple of weeks ago, we will have local government elections on 2 May and some time in the next nine months we will have a State election and a Federal election. I have become an advocate of a strict timetable for elections because of the obvious advantages.

The visit also confirmed my support for voluntary voting. We have heard rumours that the State Government will attempt, through amendments to the local government legislation, to impose compulsory voting for local government elections. I maintain that we should do the opposite; that is, we should extend voluntary voting to State and Federal elections rather than extend compulsory voting to local government elections. Voluntary voting makes political parties and candidates pitch their message at a majority and not at a minority.

Hon Fred McKenzie: Local government is a good example; it gets a 25 per cent turnout at elections.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: It gets what it deserves. People have the opportunity to vote and they can exercise it if they wish. I cannot see any advantage in our system of compulsory voting over a system of voluntary voting in the United States.

Hon Mark Nevill: Most campaign funds in the United States are used to get the voters out.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: That is right.

On the morning of the Illinois primaries, we arose early and watched the campaign team in operation. It was a Democrat campaign and there were something like 950 names on a list. The activity throughout that day was geared to getting the 950 registered Democrat voters in their precincts to vote and to get others to vote.

Another aspect of the US system which appealed to me was that the individual voter was empowered to have a more direct input into the system. The individual voter first of all has the opportunity to have a say in who will be the candidate and, secondly, in the major election who will be his Federal representative. Our system is dominated by parties. Candidates are selected by all major parties through small numbers of people, often in back rooms, who do deals and crunch numbers. I think the system where people are given a say in who will be their candidates is far more healthy.

Hon Fred McKenzie: How many Independents are there in the American Legislature?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: None that I am aware of, although every member is virtually an Independent. They all have a far looser affiliation to their political parties than we in Australia have.

Hon Doug Wenn: That is why there is a huge lobbying industry.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Yes, the lobbyists support candidates in both major parties and, in a sense, everybody is an Independent in American politics.

The parties in our system raise the majority of funds. I guess it is debatable, but funds are raised by a number of different methods in the United States. One problem to avoid is the major influence of money and the enormous cost involved in an American election campaign. Nobody can consider a candidacy at the major level without huge personal resources and/or some sort of financial backing from supporter groups and so on. I do not necessarily think that is a good move although, as I said before, it was refreshing to see a candidate who spent \$4.2 million of his money for a Senate seat in Illinois come third out of three in a Democrat contest.

Hon Doug Wenn: That was a tax dodge.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I am not sure about that. Also, recently, we have read about a Texan billionaire by the name of H. Ross Perot who has decided he does not like President Bush or

Bill Clinton and wants to be President. He has committed himself to spend about \$100 million of his own fortune and has virtually no chance of success. He will run as an Independent and, if he has that sort of money, it is his option.

Hon T.G. Butler: Isn't it a weakness of the system having to be a millionaire to run?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Yes, that is what I am saying.

We can certainly do without a lot of the hype of the election campaigns which are dominated by television. I do not go along with our Federal Government's legislation which has effectively banned television advertising in election campaigns in this country. However, the other extreme was very evident in the United States. There is almost continuous coverage from morning to night and the television commentary is almost incestuous; that is, one television commentator interviews another television commentator as if they are gurus on the topic and there is very little attempt to go directly to the source or to make an objective analysis of the situation. Unfortunately, I can see this trend occurring in Australia and it is a trend that I do not particularly enjoy.

Hon T.G. Butler: Is that not as a result of voluntary voting?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I do not think voluntary voting has anything to do with it.

Hon T.G. Butler: Constant publicity and advertising of the various candidates would be necessary with voluntary voting.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I would go along with paid advertising. However, this occurs constantly on all television channels morning, noon and night. One does not have to watch it I guess because there is plenty of variety for one to watch.

I also have reservations about the division of power as it exists federally in the United States at the moment with the Republican Administration and a Democratic dominated Legislature. That occurs also in some States including Illinois and California and often the situation is reversed. We saw that a vacuum had been created as a result of that and it makes it almost impossible for candidates to deliver on a commitment during an election campaign when they know there will be a deadlock. Most successful politicians seem to be those who ride with the punches and assess cleverly community opinions and for whom principles and philosophies come a distant second.

I refer now to the issue of taxation. A bewildering array of taxes are imposed and collected at all levels by Federal, State and local governments, county boards, education boards and public utilities responsible for power generation, water supplies, and waste disposal. The advantage is that taxpayers know exactly where their taxes are going and those taxes do not disappear into some anonymous black hole called consolidated revenue.

I also refer to internships. I was very impressed by the number and quality of young people who were directly involved in the political process in the United States. Most of those young people seemed to become involved through a system of internships with political organisations or individuals, such as senators or congressmen. They are given credit as part of their college courses on, for example, political science, and they work for a restricted wage for a period from six months to two years. Often their incomes are supplemented by their parents at that stage. Apart from giving many young people an enormous opportunity - which would be good for young people in this country - I saw many advantages in this system. The young people gain extensive work experience and are in the best place to gain permanent employment in a responsible position. Many of the people employed in Pete Wilson's office were very capable people in their early 20s who were in responsible positions. The tip among many of those in California is that Governor Wilson may be a presidential candidate in 1996. Some of those young people may follow him to the White House if that eventuates. I am pleased that an internship program has been introduced in Western Australia, but I am disappointed that I did not score an intern.

Hon Doug Wenn: You have one in the south west that nobody else got.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: He approached me, not on the basis of an internship program, but rather of the teachers' work experience program. It was a great advantage to me and I hope to him also. The reservation I have about the scheme is that it perhaps would not work in Australia because we have such inflexible labour market conditions which are imposed and supported by Labor Governments in this country. Those conditions might not allow it to

work in Australia, although I hope that is not the case. I see many advantages for young people in this scheme.

I have not taken the normal course in Address-in-Reply speeches of dealing with electorate matters. I could have discussed education, health and many other matters relating to my electorate. However, I elected to adopt a different approach this year because I was privileged to take part in the program and I wanted to share my experience with members in this House. It was certainly very hectic, but it was a very interesting and educational time for me. I urge anybody in this Parliament who has the opportunity to be involved in programs such as this to grab the chance. I would be only too pleased to assist them wherever I can. I hope that I can adapt the things I have learned from this program and play a small part in producing a better system of democracy in Western Australia. I support the motion.

HON DOUG WENN (South West) [8.45 pm]: I support the motion, as did other members, and I congratulate the Governor, Sir Francis Burt, on the Speech he gave on the opening day of the Parliament. It seems that Parliament opens once every year, and we should perhaps give some consideration to this arrangement. I have met Sir Francis and Lady Burt on a number of occasions when they have visited the south west of this State and his competence is appreciated by all who meet him. We seem to meet most often on his visits to Collie. I am not sure whether people realise that Sir Francis Burt has close connections with Collie. He has visited it many times and some of the stories told when he and the ex-member for Collie, Tom Jones, get together are very amusing. Sir Francis Burt is very close to the people and it is easy to like him. It will be a sad day when he retires, and he will be a huge loss because he has great rapport with people and he is able to talk to people on any level. It is a great attribute, which is clearly evident when he speaks to schoolchildren in such a way that they can look up to him for the great man he is. I wish him and Lady Burt well when they take that step into retirement.

I take this opportunity to refer to a successor for Sir Francis Burt; in my opinion Mrs Ruth Reid would be a great asset to Western Australia in that position. If she were willing to accept a nomination to that position it would be of benefit to this State. She is a wonderful person. I have seen her work with the Community and Family Commission and met her on a number of occasions when she and her husband, the late Professor Gordon Reid, were fulfilling their duties in the country areas of Western Australia. I hope that those who nominate persons for this office will approach Mrs Reid. She is already proving a great attribute through her work with the commission and, in a similar way to Sir Francis Burt, is able to communicate with people at all levels - from schoolchildren, to the elderly, to business people. Mrs Reid is a wonderful and great person. I have started the ball rolling by putting forward her name for that position.

Hon Reg Davies: What about an Aboriginal this time?

Hon DOUG WENN: I could start again and nominate a few people from the Collie area who would be very suitable for the position. However, at the top of my list would be Mrs Ruth Reid.

Hon T.G. Butler: You might be interested to know that on the "Bob Maumill Show" the other day Hon Fred McKenzie was mentioned for the job.

Hon DOUG WENN: I have more sense than to listen to Bob Maumill. I understand that his program will now be broadcast in country areas, so my habit of listening to sensible radio programs will be interrupted. I have to admit that I am an ABC fan and I stick with the ABC because it comes up with some good stuff.

Hon T.G. Butler: You have to admit that some of his listeners have intelligence.

Hon DOUG WENN: It must have lifted the standard of the program if Hon Fred McKenzie was on it.

I turn now to the retirement of Hon Jim Brown. Hon Jim Brown and I have been great friends from the day that I came into this place. Hon Jim Brown, along with Hon Fred McKenzie and Hon Tom Jones, was able to take hold of the new people and give us instructions about how to be presentable within this place and how to conduct ourselves. I wish him a great retirement. It may be only a retirement from this place because, knowing his foresight, he will be working in another area. The day that Hon Jim Brown retires will be the day that we all go to his funeral, because he loves to work and will continue to do so.

I take this opportunity to welcome to this place Hon Kim Chance. I have heard him speak twice now, and this afternoon he certainly put the Opposition in its place and did that very well. It is obvious that he will have a great future here. I wish him well, and I also wish his family well because his family will bear the brunt of the responsibilities that this job entails. Even though I will not at this stage go to the extent to which Hon John Caldwell went in referring to the monetary side of being a member of Parliament, Hon Kim Chance will have noticed already the dramatic impact on his family life. That is very different from the impact that an 8.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Friday-type job would have.

It is very disappointing that the people of Western Australia see members of Parliament in the light in which they are seen. A while ago, there was a mad flurry in the Press Gallery, and we wondered who would be speaking next because we thought something must be happening. I do not know what people are expecting from me, but at the moment I will not be providing a great deal of headline grabbing stuff. I hope that if the members of the Press are all trainees, they will not follow the lead of some of the people who have printed untruths as facts. Members of Parliament put a lot into their job and do not deserve all the brickbats that they continually cop.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Hon Garry Kelly on his election as Chairman of Committees. I do not know how many times members opposite have had victory in their hands and lost it. There seems to be a continual fight on the other side. Members opposite do not seem to look after one another. Hon Garry Kelly's win came as a surprise to us, and I am sure also to members opposite, but I believe that the right man has been chosen, and we will be looking to Hon Garry Kelly for direction.

What I have to say is not all happy, because we have lost a true friend from this place with the death of Pam Buchanan. It is appropriate that I read from an article which appeared in the *Sunday Times* of 5 April, on page 30, and which states, under the headline "Caring Politician battled to the end", that -

Pam Buchanan, who died this week at the age of 55, was originally a reluctant politician, yet served her tough electorate tirelessly.

Unlike most politicians, she was not garrulous by nature. She was known to be somewhat shy at social gatherings.

The daughter of Labor supporters, Mrs Buchanan joined the Labor Party in 1976 and served as both president and secretary of the Wickham branch. Her first taste of parliamentary life was as electorate secretary to former Premier Peter Dowding, then MLC for the North-West Province.

She was persuaded to stand for the Pilbara seat in 1983 and held it easily. When the seat was divided in a boundary reshuffle, she won Ashburton in 1989 . . .

Married in 1957 to George Buchanan, she is survived by her husband and two daughters.

We do not always say cheerful things in here, and Pam's death is one of the saddest parts of my brief life in this place. Pam Buchanan was a caring person, and she was a true believer in the Labor Party. She believed in what she was doing, and she worked tirelessly for her electorate. On behalf of my family, I offer our condolences to George and to her two daughters, and we share in their sad loss.

The retirement of Pam Buchanan led to the Pilbara by-election. I will not go into that as deeply as did Hon Tom Stephens because he covered that matter fairly thoroughly, but we did not expect to win that seat with Fred Riebeling. We thought members opposite might have got their act together, but they just make a mess of everything that they try to do. The public are waking up to that. We may not be the greatest Government, but look at what is the alternative - absolute rubbish! The Opposition cannot get its act together. It really is a mess, and it demonstrates that at every by-election. Hon Barry House referred to the proteges who are coming into the Liberal Party. One cannot always believe what one reads in the Press, but if what the Press says is correct, I do not think members opposite want those little proteges in the Young Liberals coming behind them, because they are coming out with the knives. They have their own ambitions. At least we on this side get together, talk to one another and come out with winning deals. We seem to be able to make it, but the Liberal Party keeps running into brick walls.

Hon N.F. Moore: You might be able to win a by-election but you are terrible at running the State.

Hon DOUG WENN: What happened to the Fightback WA program that the Liberal Party put forward for the Pilbara campaign? What Fred Riebeling said is absolutely right. It is not the Fightback program any more; it is the "Punch drunk" program because the Opposition has gone in swinging so hard and has missed so often that it has copped it straight back on the chin. The Opposition has lost it.

Hon N.F. Moore: We will tell you all about it in due course.

Hon DOUG WENN: Undoubtedly.

I appreciate the report that Hon Barry House gave about his trip to the United States. I read the *Hansard* report of his speech, and it was interesting reading. The final part of his speech tonight was also interesting, but he closed by saying that he had taken up so much of his time talking about the American trip that he did not have time to speak about all the good things that were happening in the south west region. I will take most of my time tonight to refer to what is happening in my electorate, some of it good and some of it bad.

Recently, I invited Hon Tom Helm to speak to the Collie Aboriginal Advancement Association about how Port Hedland has handled its juvenile crime problem. However, when we got to Collie, accompanied by Hon Muriel Patterson, both he and Hon Muriel Patterson were amazed at how the CAAA had achieved what it had achieved over the last few years. The association has been working since 1976; it all started to come together in 1987. At that stage the CAAA occupied a building in Collie and its activities were open not only to the Aboriginal communities but also to the wider community. The association has everything going for it; it runs courses, and has a very good set up. The beauty of it is that the association has done this on its own. It may have come to me or the member for Collie for assistance to fill out forms and so on but on the whole it has achieved everything on its own. The CAAA title is well deserved.

Hon Barry House: Does the association support the Jasper project?

Hon DOUG WENN: It is not part of that scenario. The Jasper project belongs to a Busselton Aboriginal group of which Mike Hill is the main leader. The association has very little to do with that. I suggest to Hon Barry House that the program is on the same level anyway because it is able to look at juvenile problems. As the president, Barry Hart, told us the other day court appearances have decreased from 30 to one a week. The association works in the community. Its members drive up the street and if they see someone hanging around they bundle them into a bus and take them to the centre where they are lined up for an education course. If they do not wish to do that at least they mix with people in the association and perhaps may be convinced that they should not wander around the streets. They may become part of the system which has been working very well.

The original organisation was housed at 71 Throssell Street in Collie. However, the facilities were so small that the association had to look for another site. It is now housed in an old takeaway food building in Forrest Street. The association has made many submissions to Government departments and through Aboriginal bodies to achieve its funding. The Nyoongah people supported the purchase of the new premises. As a result of the association's system it has achieved much in a short time and the building has become inadequate once more. The association is now looking for an extension of its premises. Without doubt, that situation has not occurred without a very good committee. The executive committee of the association consists of Chairman Barry Hart, the Vice President Eric Wynn, the Treasurer Joan Hansen, and committee members Vanita Hart, Irene Khan and Joe Northover. Previously Joe Northover senior was a member but unfortunately he passed away recently and Joe Northover junior has taken up his role and continues his father's work.

The aims and objectives of the association include to promote the overall community development, to achieve the total self-support of the community by the development of viable economics projects and industries; to provide adequate education, vocational training, health services, employment and housing for the community; to assist and encourage the community to develop an effective system of government at large; to assist and encourage the individual members of the community to preserve and renew their traditional culture; to encourage interaction between different tribes - and they have started to do that; to receive

and expend grants and be accountable for the money from the State and/or Commonwealth, and to do all such other lawful things as are incidental or conducive to the objectives.

Joan Hansen has been the driving force behind the organisation since 1976. She has worked for the association on a voluntary basis after a training program provided by the Department of Employment and Training. I understand the position has been refinanced and that she now works in a paid position. Another person who has worked very hard is Carol Jones, who is employed by the association as a community resource worker. The position is funded by the Alcohol and Drug Authority. Those two people, with Joe Northover and Barry Hart, have been able to achieve a great deal. Their achievements prove just what a community can do if it wants.

I remember during a debate in this House Hon Derrick Tomlinson said that we cannot give Aborigines money because respectability cannot be bought. Here is a group that has earned respectability. It has worked for it and it has achieved it. The association runs lectures at all times at its premises. One such activity is lessons in truck driving. It has become a big thing in the community particularly for Aboriginal boys but it has also become a big thing for the senior, middle aged Aboriginal women who have undertaken the truck driving course. I have a photograph here of Marlene Ugle cutting a cake after receiving her B class licence. The courses were a Skillshare project which was coordinated through the Commonwealth Employment Service over six months. I understand that five or six people are now working in the community as a result of that course.

Hon Muriel Patterson and Hon Derrick Tomlinson serve on the Select Committee on Endeavours and Achievements of Indigenous Peoples of Australia and they would realise that this is a group that has put its heart into a very good project. The association is able to mix with Aboriginal children and the white community. It runs various classes. I also have a photograph of a mixed class of white and black children learning Aboriginal skills and bark painting. That may not seem such a great achievement but the fact that these people can work together cuts down a lot of the antagonism between blacks and whites in Collie. As I mentioned earlier, court appearances at Collie have dropped from 30 a week to one a week and that indicates the level of achievement reached by the association.

Another aim of the association is a pensioners' village. Mr Barry Hart showed us where the land has been allocated. The plans have been drawn up and they await the commencement of the Aboriginal pensioners' homes. The village will be part of community housing. Homeswest officers meet with the association every two weeks to discuss housing problems and generally find a solution. In my initial foray into Collie my first two or three jobs concerned the Aboriginal housing problem. I have found over the last year or so that the problem has reduced dramatically; now if I hear of a problem I refer people to the CAAA, which can handle the situation.

Education for young people has become a big part of the association's activities. The association is represented on the joint education committee in Collie and works closely with Aboriginal groups. The Department of Employment, Vocational Education and Training is involved with village restoration funding and the provision of training such as silk screening, sign writing, arts and crafts. About three weeks ago an Aboriginal arts festival was held in Perth. Very little art was sold apart from the work of the Collie group. One article remained but it was eventually sold because Hon Tom Helm was very sympathetic. The painting stood apart on its own and Hon Tom Helm finally bought it.

The centre's newsletter has a photograph of the members of Skillshare's B class licence course, who are certainly happy. The Collie Aboriginal Advancement Association runs many courses. One course concerned sexually transmitted diseases and operated in conjunction with a Department for Community Services group in Collie. The CAAA runs bridging courses for entry to university, which are working very well with a lot of cooperation from government departments in Collie and Perth. The CAAA encourages school holiday activities and conducts activities at the centre and trips away for school age children, including cultural visits to the Moore River settlement, Moora and New Norcia. Those activities are ongoing. That is what the centre set out to achieve and has achieved over the past couple of years. The centre has a bridging course for entry to Edith Cowan University and 20 students are enrolled in two stages: Stage one is the tertiary entrance examination and stage two is the achievement certificate. Jobstart operates from the centre

and its aim is to prepare 15 to 20 year olds for the work force; 35 youths, both Nyoongar and white, attend twice a week. The program is based on the cadet system, and a senior officer from the Bunbury air cadets instructs them on disciplinary matters. The centre has a large car park where a fall-in, flag raising and march past similar to the air and naval cadets system is conducted each evening. It is certainly bringing them a lot more discipline, which they have not had before. I have mentioned the CAAA workshops on AIDS and domestic violence and that both males and females attend and take advantage of everything that is made available to them.

I congratulate the people involved in the centre, particularly Joan Hansen and Joe Northover, and the whole community which is well and truly working together. I recommend that the Select Committee on Endeavours and Achievements of Indigenous Peoples of Australia chaired by Hon Muriel Patterson look at the Collie Aboriginal Advancement Association as a role model for this type of centre.

One can go on about people's sitting back and demanding things from Government departments but I want to refer to a community group in Greenbushes which does a similar job to that done by the CAAA. The Greenbushes community group has been able to purchase a 20-seater bus for the use of groups such as aged persons. Previously the aged persons' group paid something like \$100 for a bus to come from Bridgetown to collect them and take them back to Bridgetown to do their shopping; so it was costing those people a fair few dollars. I met with the aged persons' group in Greenbushes, which, like many country towns, has an increasing aged population. They do not want to leave the town in which they have spent upwards of 40 years. They want to spend their last years in a place where they are known and where they have friends. We started our discussion on aged persons' homes and, as a result of a meeting with the Minister for Housing, Mr Jim McGinty, and me, Greenbushes will have three aged persons' homes. The land is available, plans have been drawn, and the money is on the way. The discussion came around to buses and I suggested that the group get its own bus. The group said that it did not have the money. The Greenbushes community group was able to purchase a 20-seater bus and it is being well used by the whole community ranging from the aged persons to the junior netball team. I am happy and proud to have been part of that achievement. These people achieved all that themselves. They were able to raise funds in their local community. They had a street stall that raised over \$1 300, and in a community the size of Greenbushes that is a heck of an achievement. A few people in Perth would like to be able to achieve that with a street stall. I want to add my congratulations to community groups such as the CAAA and Greenbushes community group which have been able to achieve great results without begging. They have worked their hearts out.

The last time I spoke in this place I mentioned my pet subject of Telecom. I worked for Telecom for 14 years. I found Telecom to be a disgraceful employer but it was a job. Telecom is still the biggest disgrace ever to have existed on this earth. The sooner we get private enterprise telecommunications the better off the people in Western Australia will be.

Hon George Cash: Hear, hear! We support that.

Hon DOUG WENN: I was born and raised in Bunbury and many of my friends who worked with Telecom when I was with it are still working for Telecom. A headline in the *Leschenault Reporter* reads "Telecom takes a hard line over staff cuts".

Hon E.J. Charlton: The Government has forced that on Telecom.

Hon DOUG WENN: That has nothing to do with the Government. If Hon Eric Charlton does not understand that, he would be better off if he said nothing. It has nothing to do with the Government; it is Telecom.

Hon E.J. Charlton: It is because the Government has done a deal to deregulate Telecom.

Hon DOUG WENN: It has done no such thing, and Hon Eric Charlton knows that.

With the permission of the House I will read some of the comments made by a journalist in the *Leschenault Reporter* of 15 April. The article states -

Another 15 jobs were slashed from Telecom's Bunbury operation last week bringing the total number of positions lost to 66.

The last time I spoke about Telecom in this place I reported on the number of jobs which

would be lost by shifting the manual assistance centres from Bunbury and Albany to Geraldton. Telecom had said that it could relocate all the workers involved to Geraldton. We are talking about middle aged women who have their families in Bunbury, Dardanup and Boyanup and who would have no opportunity to move to Perth or to Geraldton, of all places. The argument the new "you beaut" Telecom character put up was that there was more room in Geraldton, which was a great farce because there was much more room in Bunbury, so that did not matter. It is the beginning of Telecom's decentralisation - or should I say centralisation - to Albany, then Perth, and the final move will be to either Sydney or Melbourne. If members want confirmation of this sort of policy they have only to look at the radar operations in Western Australia. There is no doubt where they are heading. Only two weeks ago we saw a major breakdown of one of the communication towers just out of Perth and all the screens went down. The only factor which saved Western Australia from a major disaster was that every aircraft was heading out of Perth and was already in the air. Telecom is about to do the same thing. It does not give a damn about workers. It did not give a damn 20 years ago. We did our job and we did not ask questions. The article in the *Leschenault Reporter* stated -

Workers in the technical design-drafting and support divisions were told to accept redundancy payouts or relocate to Perth, where their positions would still not be guaranteed.

The staff, who together have worked for Telecom for a total of 401 years, say they doubt that more than one person will take up the relocation offer.

The closure of the Bunbury manual assistance centre, which employs 27 people, was announced last year and the loss of 24 customer service jobs was confirmed two months ago.

A spokesman for the group said the latest cuts came despite an internal investigation that showed it would be \$130,000 cheaper to run the services from Bunbury.

I would like to come back to that point at a later stage. The article continues -

But he said WA consumer general manager Mark Babidge told the workers the measure was part of a nationwide rationalisation of Telecom, and savings in Bunbury would not affect the "philosophical picture" of making Telecom more efficient in the long run.

The spokesman said Mr Babidge admitted last week that Bunbury telephone connections that now take up to three days could take 20 to 30 days under the new system.

Members should take note of this because it is beginning to occur not only in Bunbury but also all over Western Australia. Just imagine waiting 30 days under the new scheme because the Telecom installation team is not in Bunbury. Telecom will wait until there are a minimum number of orders and will send an installation crew from Perth to Bunbury. If an installation team is sent down and it cannot do the work in one day, the workers will have to be paid a travel allowance, vehicle costs and an accommodation allowance. I wonder about the mentality of these people in the hierarchy who are working out the figures. The article states that Telecom will have to wait for at least four orders to come in before it sends a team. I predict that more than four orders will be required before a team is sent from Perth. Of course, Mr Babidge refused to confirm or deny the workers' claim. He is quoted in the article as saying -

"We have discussed this with staff and there's nothing more to say," he said.

Hon David Smith, Mr Phil Smith and I have been deeply involved in this issue; I do not know whether members of the Opposition have been involved. Nevertheless, the three of us met with Telecom management and it was nicely put by Hon David Smith when he stated -

"Past experience shows that Telecom approaches every meeting on this subject with closed ears." . . .

"Telecom is just continuing with a course of conduct that began when it moved the regional staff to Perth from Bunbury three years ago.

"They try to justify every time that it has to do with their preparation for new competition but a lot of what they say doesn't hold water.

"I can't believe they can service country people more efficiently and economically from a Perth base."

I do not think any member in this House would believe it either. It is a nonsense; what they are doing is absolutely atrocious.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Why are they doing it?

Hon DOUG WENN: Telecom was calling it rationalisation, but now it has given it a new label - "a philosophical picture". The aim is ultimately to close down most of what is happening in Western Australia and move it to the Eastern States. Does Hon Eric Charlton know what happens when one dials 013 nowadays? A person introduces himself and asks for the suburb and name; a recorded voice comes over the line from the Eastern States. It is not coming from Western Australia.

Hon P.H. Lockyer: It is clever.

Hon DOUG WENN: It may be clever but is it not great when someone rings 000 in an emergency and requests that an ambulance be sent to Gelorup immediately? It is more than likely the operator will ask where Gelorup is and want to know if it is near Perth or Bunbury. That has happened in the south west.

The photo accompanying the article shows the workers who have been with the company for a long time. It shows Peter Old, who used to play for Swan Districts and South Bunbury but who has now retired. Doug French, George and Ron Randall, and one of my best mates from the south west, Stan Willis, are also pictured. Stan Willis has always been dedicated to his job and is a man people would look up to. He lived and breathed Telecom and look what has happened to him. He is being screwed, as is every one of these people, not only those in the south west but also those in other areas of Western Australia.

An article in the *South Western Times* of Thursday, 16 April, is headed "More job cuts at Telecom", and states -

Telecom has axed a further 15 jobs from its Bunbury services and will not rule out the possibility of more cuts.

In less than two months Telecom has axed nearly 70 jobs in the Bunbury area.

The article is saying a similar thing and goes on -

The cuts are part of a nationwide program by Telecom to centralise its staff in the big cities.

That is plural, not singular. It continues -

There have been strong objections to the program from local politicians but, so far, to no avail.

Cuts to administrative and customer services positions in Bunbury have been announced over the past two months.

There is now speculation that depot staff in Bunbury may be next.

The depot staff are the line staff and they are the next on the list. They are the boys who dig the trenches and run the line from the main to the house or shopping centre. They will be the next to be sent to Perth.

Hon E.J. Charlton: I wanted my telephone changed and Telecom informed me the other day that it could not do that until 7 May. I have already paid for that service.

Hon DOUG WENN: The best statement in that article is that morale among Telecom workers is low. That is the biggest understatement produced by the *South Western Times* since its origin. Morale has been low for many years. When I was with Telecom 20 years ago workers were wondering whether they would have jobs in five years' time. Now they are being told that if they want a job they must be in the hierarchy, because they are the ones dictating the terms. How could there be morale when the article also states -

The 15 staff in the technical design-drafting and support section have been told -

People in the technical design-drafting areas are highly qualified. They have completed night courses at their own expense and have worked their way to become the best they could for Telecom, yet this is what they are being told -

The 15 staff in the technical design-drafting and support section have been told if they did not move to Perth, accept a pick and shovel job at the depot or take voluntary redundancy, they would be retrenched.

Hon E.J. Charlton: How many pick and shovel jobs are in Telecom?

Hon DOUG WENN: There are very few and the way things are going there will not be many of them left. The article then continues -

Those who move to Perth are not guaranteed a permanent position and none of the latest 15 are believed to be interested in the shift.

That is for obvious reasons. Those people have established their lives in that town and do not want to leave. It also states in the article -

Telecom wanted to close the Bunbury section for designing new telephone connections by May.

This has now been extended until January 31 next year, when voluntary redundancies will cease.

That is hard to cop, especially when looking at the picture which appeared in the paper with the article showing a man holding a beautiful new mobile phone with the caption -

In the cold: Head of Telecom's Bunbury design team Doug Baskerville is looking for a new job after 32 years.

Hon P.H. Lockyer: I know him well.

Hon DOUG WENN: Doug is one of those people who is absolutely committed. He has come through the ranks, has been to technical school and done all the right things at his own expense and in his own time to do a magnificent job for Telecom. This is what Telecom is doing to him after 32 years. It does not want him any more and is offering him a few dollars and asking him to dig trenches.

Hon E.J. Charlton: What about competitors who are supposed to come to the system? Will they take on any of those people?

Hon DOUG WENN: If they move into the south west and take over the installations they will have access to a huge business. That is why many small companies are cropping up everywhere. The employees of the Total Telephone Company in Bunbury are ex-employees of Telecom. Through their efforts the company has accumulated a high degree of technological information and is finding that it cannot keep up with the work. My mate John Kukulka was working from 6.00 am to 9.00 pm, six days a week, for Telecom and he saw the light and left. He is making dollars which Telecom is losing because of its stupidity.

I come back to Doug Baskerville because his plight illustrates the direction which Telecom is taking.

Hon Barry House: I thought you were going to tell us about the Government's achievements in your region?

Hon DOUG WENN: I am talking about my region and the people who live in it. These people are being screwed by a company which has lost its way. Telecom keeps saying that it has to revamp its operations and get itself together before private enterprise is able to compete with it. It is withdrawing its services from certain areas and private enterprise is saying, "You beauty. As soon as we gear up we will move in and we will make money which Telecom should be making." That is the reason I will refer to the following article about Doug Baskerville's project. As I said previously, he has been with Telecom for 32 years and his loyalty to that company amounted to nothing last week. The article states -

Mr Baskerville, and many who work alongside him, have been told to go. Telecom no longer wants him.

He gave that company 32 years of service and he was told, "Out you go". The article continues -

For some weeks now Mr Baskerville has lived in hope that the design area in Bunbury would be spared the redundancies sweeping through Telecom in regional areas.

He was told if a decent case for keeping the design team in Bunbury could be demonstrated there was some chance.

Believing this, he spent much of his own time working on a report that proved Telecom could save about \$130,000 every year if the design team was not moved to Perth.

I am talking about Bunbury, not Albany, Geraldton or any other country centres. If this has happened to Bunbury, I am sure it will happen to other areas. The article continues -

The report was ignored.

Mr Baskerville said Telecom believed it was philosophical and not economic considerations which were more important.

The job market has changed dramatically since 1960 when he last searched for a job.

Mr Baskerville knows there are not many jobs available in Bunbury, but he feels he must leave the communications giant in the throes of privatisation.

The article then goes on to express the feelings of Doug Baskerville. It continues -

"I don't expect my wife to make any more sacrifices," he said.

The limited amount of jobs offered at the depot doing pick and shovel work is not an option either.

Mr Baskerville has been controlling officer for the depot for the last 12 months.

He will take the redundancy package of 84 weeks pay and look for another job.

The problem is that when one leaves an area he leaves his friends with whom he has been associated for many years.

Every member in this House must look at what Telecom is doing to Western Australia. When we consider an installation taking from three days to as many as 30 days we see we have a real problem and this is only the beginning. Small business will suffer if there is a breakdown in telephone communications and there is a need to re-cable a building. When I was employed by Telecom it was my job to re-cable buildings in which the cables had been destroyed by rats. The telephone communication system on which small business is totally reliant could go down for a long period because Telecom will be in a position to say that it cannot service a building until there are four jobs to do, which would make its visit worthwhile. I predict that the required number of jobs will be more than four before Telecom will send a team to service the telephone communication system in a country town. It is something about which all members should be concerned. They must tell Telecom that they are not happy with what it is doing and that it should review its situation. If a local engineer can estimate a saving of \$300 000 in one year, surely Telecom's gurus can come up with a larger saving. The facts and figures available to this engineer would have been limited. Doug Baskerville must be congratulated for the amount of work he did to show how this heartless company is affecting local people, not only individuals but also companies; and when their communications systems start to break down it will become a big issue.

I know from my friends the amount of work that Telecom does at Cable Sands (WA) Pty Ltd. Members can imagine the number of telephone lines the company has, and its communication system breaks down regularly because of vibrations from the company's operations and dust which collects in the equipment. I am sure that it will not wait 30 days for the system to be serviced. It will be screaming like a stuffed pig.

I have had my shot at Telecom and I hope someone will note what I have said and will review what it is doing to the people in the south west. How can people of the calibre of Doug Baskerville find another job in this economic climate. I will not be surprised if the Total Telephone Company does not snaffle them up, even if it is on a short term basis.

Hon Barry House asked me to comment on the Government's achievements in the south west. Recently I had the good fortune to chair a community group in Busselton involved in the community centre program. Once again, this group illustrates the achievements of a few individuals who are working towards the establishment of a family centre in Busselton. The group wanted to advise the community what they could achieve from the use of a building and how they could become the masters of their own destiny. The family centre program

was announced in 1988 and the Government put a lot of work into it. Although the prime function of the program is the provision of services to four year old children, other community groups can use the facilities and create a sense of belonging to and pride in their local neighbourhood. More than forty people attended the meeting I chaired and they are looking forward to the development of a new centre which will meet the needs of the community. The management committee will play a role in planning the use of the centre to meet the varying needs of the community. The people will have a say in the facilities which are required for the children in the area. The committee and the parents will work together to achieve what is required for four year old children and community groups. The group's reaction was promising and at the end of the meeting a temporary committee was appointed to consider what they feel is necessary.

Hon Barry House: The family centre has had the support of the local shire and other parliamentarians.

Hon DOUG WENN: Absolutely and I did not say otherwise. One of the major problems of the community group is that the facilities at the health centre were similar to that of the CAAA in Collie. The facilities are ideal for smaller groups. Hon Barry House will agree with me that in the past this was a service for the elderly community, but it is now for young people and their families. That is one of the reasons why people such as Ann Mills and a few of her friends in the community set out to get that family school. At present the 22 family centres operating around the State reflect the needs of the community wherever they may be providing space for activities such as youth groups, family play groups, activities for seniors, after school and vacation care, classes in craft or parenting skills, and community functions such as birthday parties and, if they feel the community is big enough to handle it, weddings. It will be some sort of centre!

Hon Barry House asked what this Government had spent in the south west, so I will tell him. It has allocated \$4.3 million of capital funding for the family centre program to ensure implementation and construction of the family centre approved during the 1990-91 and 1991-92 Budget sessions. Presently, 22 family centres are operating and a further 17 will be completed by 1993. It is envisaged that about 4 000 four year old children will be able to access a program for four year olds. The facility will also be available for other community uses. Under no circumstances will this involve compulsory attendance for this age group. As stated previously, we are striving for balance in the development of preschool services by acknowledging the varying needs and wishes of the community. I will summarise my key points. This program was announced in 1988. As I said previously, there are presently 22 preschool centres operating and a further 17 are to be completed by 1993 making a total of 39 centres throughout Western Australia. The program will cater for approximately 4 000 four year old children and accommodate other community activities. The centres will be community managed with management committees being supported through the development stage. The program for four year old children will provide two, two and a half to three hour sessions per child. It will provide for five groups of 20 children and will be staffed by one professionally trained and one untrained worker employed by the management committee which will receive funding related to salaries. Buildings will be of standard design and their location will be determined on needs and base planning. The demographic data - that is, the number of four year olds - has already been compiled by the community, which had the figures to show that a need existed for one of these buildings. It will fill the gaps in existing service provisions and provide a response to strong community expressions of need for multi functional services and will expand the range of services available to local communities. That, Mr House, is what the Government is doing for that community. What a shame we do not have Opposition support for this.

Hon Barry House: Who says you do not have Opposition support?

Hon DOUG WENN: That was said by Mr Omodei and Mr Nicholls. They argued in the Parliament against the child care facilities being provided in communities such as Busselton and Collie. That is recorded in *Hansard*, from where I got this information. Those members have supported the idea that women should not expect child care facilities to be provided. I asked through a Press release that the Opposition parties state where they stood on this matter. I did that in February this year but have received no response from either the National Party or the Liberal Party.

Hon Barry House: Did you send a copy to Mr Nicholls?

Hon DOUG WENN: I am pretty sure that both members got a copy of that Press release. The Federal Government plans to implement changes in plans to bring in a uniform fee relief system for long day care centres through its Budget this year. I approached Hon Eric Ripper, the responsible State Minister, about this matter. He, in turn, contacted the Federal Minister, Mr Peter Staples, who accepted that there needs to be a review of these changes. Hon Peter Staples undertook that review. He withdrew the approaches for changes which are being studied by a committee at this time.

I again congratulate the people I mentioned previously - that is, Sir Francis and Lady Burt - and emphasise the fact that Ruth Reid would be a great Governor of the State. I wish Hon Jim Brown, Kim Chance and Hon Garry Kelly and the CAAA and Greenbushes people all the best. I support the motion.

HON SAM PIANTADOSI (North Metropolitan) [9.45 pm]: I support the motion to present the Address-in-Reply to the Governor. Like other speakers I take this opportunity to congratulate Sir Francis and Lady Burt for a job well done on behalf of Western Australia.

I congratulate Hon Kim Chance on his appointment to this House and Fred Riebeling on his election as member for Ashburton. I also congratulate Hon Garry Kelly on his election as Chairman of Committees following the resignation of Hon Jim Brown. I wish him well in that position. I am sure that he will follow in Hon Jim Brown's footsteps and do an excellent job.

A tribute must be paid to Hon Jim Brown, who served this Parliament not only in this House but also in the other place for a number of years. He served his constituents and members of both Houses well as our representative on the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal and the Superannuation Board. I am sure that all members are grateful for Jim's efforts. I am sure I speak for everyone when I wish him well in his retirement.

I turn now to some matters affecting the North Metropolitan Region, which I represent. The first matter relates to the Stirling Ethnic Aged Homes Association, which I founded about two years ago to meet the needs of ethnic aged in the north metropolitan area. I am happy to say that at long last work has started on the site of a 40 bed hostel. If all goes well, we hope our target completion date of December 1992 will be met. I pay tribute to some of the people who have given great service to the association: Dr Len Vlahov, vice president; Rosalyn Byrne, secretary; Con Contopodero, treasurer; and Nick Karsakis, George Zrinski and Lucky Luglio, who form the appeal committee. They had a difficult task in the current economic downturn but still managed to raise about \$600 000 for the association. Special mention must be made of John Rinaldi, the appeal campaign chairman, who worked tirelessly for the past six months on behalf of the project and who will continue to do so to ascertain whether the shortfall can be made up. Many other people contributed and I extend my thanks to them. I am sure that the three communities represented by the association - the Italians, Yugoslavians and Macedonians - appreciate their efforts very much.

Between 1 and 3 May the Oceanic Overseas Chinese Organisation will be holding a conference at Perth. The conference venue is rotated to different countries in South East Asia each year. I attended the meeting last year in New Zealand as a member of a delegation where we lobbied hard for this year's conference to be held in Perth. Part of my imprest account money was used for that purpose. That was mentioned in the media some time ago when the media was having a go at all of us. I hope the media take the same interest in covering this conference because it is estimated that about 300 people will come from interstate and overseas to attend thereby generating income for the local community. I am sure it is a very worthwhile investment and I hope the conference is supported.

North Metropolitan Region has a significant primary production base. I am sure Hon Derrick Tomlinson, whose region is also involved in primary production, will support what I am going to say.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: It is exceedingly significant.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: It does not receive the recognition it deserves. When people talk about agriculture they forget about orchardists, fruiterers and vegetable growers. It is time we considered the export dollars generated by this industry. In the areas Hon Derrick Tomlinson and I represent significant growth has occurred in the export markets and the

returns to Western Australia, but the recognition and assistance received by those industries does not compare with that provided to mainstream industries. I am having a bit of a dig at Hon Bill Stretch, who said that not enough assistance was given. He said his was an export based industry generating many dollars and that there was a need for some moneys to be returned to the industry. The horticulture industries have had very little attention paid to them, yet through the initiatives of people involved they have managed to snare some markets, especially in South East Asia. At times I wonder about a conflict of interests, because we are led to believe that members opposite are supporters of free market proposals and believe in a variety of things, but when I look very closely at the nature of some industries I see that people such as Hon Bill Stretch support closed shop situations.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Do I?

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: The Potato Marketing Authority is a very good example. Hon Bill Stretch believes in controlled markets and controlled work situations.

Hon W.N. Stretch: I moved amendments to break up your potato authority monopoly.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: In 1986, in his farewell speech to this House, the then member for South-West Province, Hon Graham MacKinnon, singled out Hon Bill Stretch and Hon Sandy Lewis as two people who should take up the issue of the potato board. Hon Bill Stretch can check it in *Hansard*. His own former colleague, a former Minister of the Crown, said that, not I. He went on a tour of the fruit and vegetable industry led by Hon Philip Lockyer. I am sorry that Hon Philip Lockyer is not here at the moment because he would support my comments. Obviously Hon Graham MacKinnon saw that problems existed, such as restrictive practices which needed to be changed, and he saw two people who represented the area and who, in his opinion, were fit people to bring about change in those industries.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Which we did.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: Hon Sandy Lewis is no longer here. Hon Bill Stretch is the only survivor.

Hon W.N. Stretch: And we brought about those amendments that allowed a processing industry to go ahead.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: Obviously Hon Graham MacKinnon had great faith, but perhaps he should remind Hon Bill Stretch about his views because the changes have not come about. During Hon Bill Stretch's contribution to the Address-in-Reply I asked him whether he supported imports or exports and he answered that because there was a self-interest he supported exports and not imports. He said during his speech that problems existed in the agricultural area and that there was a need to look after growers as there were considerable losses because of the loss of exports. Due to restrictions on issuing licences there was a need to import potatoes from the Eastern States, and potato imports from the Eastern States increased by about 17 per cent. Western Australian growers who want to grow potatoes have been restricted and have not been issued with licences, but Western Australians are paying subsidies to the tune of \$340 a tonne. Where potatoes have been imported from the Eastern States, namely South Australia, the subsidies were only \$178 a tonne. That represents a subsidising by Western Australians of a closed shop situation, which Hon Bill Stretch supports.

Hon W.N. Stretch: I am flattered by your attention. You have been in Government for nine years, and the only changes that have been made to the potato marketing industry have been made by the Liberals.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: The only person on the other side of the House who supported the proposal was the then Opposition spokesman on Agriculture, Hon Colin Bell. But what did the Liberal Party do to him? He is no longer here; he was not re-endorsed.

Hon W.N. Stretch: But before that, as shadow Minister I put through those changes which allowed processing potatoes to be bought outside the board. If you think it is wrong you should take it to your Government. You have had nine years.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Garry Kelly): Order! The speaker should direct his comments to the Chair.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: I will try to, Mr Deputy President. I need your protection.

For some years I have been pursuing this issue of potatoes. Prior to the recent parliamentary recess Hon John Halden made an interjection and I recall a statement from the proponents of agriculture on my right to the effect that Hon John Halden did not know what he was talking about because he came from this side of the House. Similar comments were made to me when I first came to this House. I was only a ratbag unionist. Perhaps they expected me to have knowledge of trade unions and nothing else. But what do members opposite know about horticulture? I believe they know very little. With the exception of Hon Derrick Tomlinson I have not heard one member opposite ever mention horticulture. That is how up to date members opposite are. It reflects on all of their policies because they are completely out of touch with what is happening, in all areas.

Hon W.N. Stretch: It is just as well Hon Philip Lockyer is not here.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: I extended an invitation to Hon Philip Lockyer to be present during my speech as I would be mentioning Carnarvon, an area very close to his heart. Obviously he was not really interested.

During Hon Bill Stretch's contribution to the Address-in-Reply I asked him whether he supported imports or exports for this State. He said exports, but because of the situation that he and other members opposite condone, the import of potatoes has increased by 17 per cent; yet markets have been seized in South East Asia, on the coast of Africa, and even Mauritius, so there has been an increase in exports. Obviously, a market exists for that product, but the growth of that market was stifled by the greed of a number of growers who had a monopoly - it was a closed shop.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Terrible! We cannot have that.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: It is good to hear that Hon Eric Charlton has finally decided to try to muscle into the debate.

Hon E.J. Charlton: You told me to be here to listen to your terrible speech.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: It is people like Mr Charlton - as is obvious to anyone who reads the papers - who want the protections retained, and I refer to the tariff issue. I wonder what will happen in that regard.

Hon E.J. Charlton: I look forward to the day when you have some guts to take away some of the protections for people who you have been promoting all the time!

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: The test will soon come for the members of the coalition: They must decide whether to close ranks or to continue to be divided.

Hon P.G. Pental: Mr Keating has done a back flip.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: The members of the Federal coalition will be at each other's throats.

In his speech Hon Bill Stretch referred to the fact that we cannot afford to cut back our position on the agricultural industry. He made his position clear yet again; he indicated that the industry needed to be further subsidised.

Hon W.N. Stretch: I think you are putting words in my mouth, my friend.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: The member is asking consumers to continue to subsidise the Western Australian marketing boards.

Hon W.N. Stretch: I said no such thing.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: Even Mr Stanley Etherington, the Chairman of the Potato Marketing Authority, clearly stated in his report that many opportunities were lost in potato production. At one stage supplies could not be met because the potatoes were not available. Some crops were lost to floods and the industry was unable to supply many markets which would have generated income for Western Australia. Therefore, Western Australian retailers and marketers were attracted to imported potatoes because of the cost differences; they were able to purchase imported potatoes virtually 50 per cent cheaper than the local produce.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Are you saying that I said that we should protect and support the Potato Marketing Authority?

Hon E.J. Charlton: Mr Piantadosi is saying that he cannot get a word in with his Government and he is trying to get us to do it.

Hon W.N. Stretch: If that is what you are saying, you are wrong.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! Only Hon Sam Piantadosi has the floor at present. I suggest that he direct his remarks to the Chair and that he ignore the unruly interjections - he will certainly not receive any from me.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: I am confident of that, Mr Deputy President. However, unfortunately occasions arise when one needs to try to educate other members -

Hon E.J. Charlton: Especially within your own party.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: - and to inform them of what they need to know so they may be in a position to give support in the future. Two weeks ago I asked Hon Bill Stretch whether he supported a closed shop, and he said that he did.

Hon W.N. Stretch: That is not true.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: It is here in *Hansard*.

Hon W.N. Stretch: I challenge you to read my comments in full and in context.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: I suggest that Mr Stretch read his comments. By interjection I raised the point about a closed shop and asked him whether he supported imports or exports. He very clearly indicated his support for exports; however, he is supporting a situation which is allowing more imports into the State.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Your logic escapes me.

Hon E.J. Charlton: That is because there is none.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: A review is taking place this year, and I will certainly be making a submission to the Minister and to the review committee. I hope that members opposite will support my call for the abolition of the board.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Are your people supporting you?

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: A number of people are supporting my proposal.

Hon E.J. Charlton: In Government?

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: I will be taking my paper to Caucus to test the waters. I challenge Hon Eric Charlton to take up the same issue with his party.

Hon E.J. Charlton: We already have.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: We are aware how the National Party at a national level regards this issue, and I doubt very much whether Mr Charlton will have the fortitude to take up this challenge.

Hon W.N. Stretch: If you are saying what I think you are saying, I will support you. I am just a little confused.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: I am calling for the abolition of the Potato Marketing Authority, the Egg Marketing Board and a few others. I recall when the Onion Marketing Board was abolished some 23 years ago growers thought that a glut would follow. Problems arose after the abolition of that board, but eventually the market sorted itself out and the quality of the product is now second to none; it is one of the vegetables Australia-wide which receives the greatest recognition. A few other boards will need to go.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Like that of the R & I Bank.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: The potato industry experienced a \$4 million drop in revenue resulting from the imports from other States. I remind members opposite that consumers are sick and tired of having to pay \$337 a tonne for Western Australian potatoes when imports from South Australia cost \$178. That situation has led to many of the problems in that industry. This situation must be addressed. I solicit support for my view from members opposite, as I do from members on this side of the House.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Make sure you play that tune loud and clear to Ernie Bridge.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: I will make a public statement in that regard; I have no problem with that. I invite Hon Bill Stretch and Hon Eric Charlton to do the same.

I will now take issue with some of Hon Murray Montgomery's comments regarding the drop

in fishing catches around the Albany area. These comments repeat those of Hon Bob Thomas. An industry and market has been developed in the Albany area for mulies, and a company in Fremantle, Mendolia Seafood, has started to market this product quite successfully; it has a good future, as you would be aware, Mr Deputy President (Hon Garry Kelly). At one stage this fish was considered as only suitable for bait; however, an increased market has been developed and the industry is expanding.

A drop in the salmon catch at Albany and the rest of the State was mentioned by Hon Murray Montgomery. He suggested that the fishermen had missed out because of the restrictions imposed by the Government. However, I have figures which suggest otherwise; and these may be tabled for the information of members. Those figures show that in the south and south west areas the catches did not decrease. The figures demonstrate quite clearly that control of an industry will ensure that it will continue to be viable in the long term for the people in Albany.

Another industry in that area will shortly take off: Albany is not in my area, but a boom is expected in king crabs caught off Albany. The Asian markets are being tested and I believe a number of Japanese, Hong Kong and Singaporean people are looking forward to enjoying that delicacy. We look forward to another industry which will generate a few more dollars for Western Australians. I am pleased to note, Mr Deputy President, that you have tried these crabs; so have many others.

I refer now to the Kimberley water pipeline proposed by Ernie Bridge. Many people have scoffed at him and said that he is probably living in fairyland. No doubt the same people would have scoffed at C.Y. O'Connor and said that his pipeline would never get from Mundaring to Kalgoorlie.

Hon N.F. Moore: One of them is sitting behind you.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: Had Hon Norman Moore been listening he would have heard me refer to people; I included everybody.

Hon E.J. Charlton interjected.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: Hon Norman Moore and Hon Eric Charlton can name all the people who are against that idea. Perhaps Hon Mark Nevill has that point of view.

Hon P.G. Pental: You know your party is not dinkum on the Kimberley pipeline. You are committed to the publicity, not to the pipeline.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: It is unfortunate that Hon Phillip Pental -

Hon T.G. Butler interjected.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: In this House, he is Hon Phillip Pental. It is unfortunate that he decided to give his two bob's worth. If he has an opinion on the pipeline I would like to hear it. He is a knocker, we know that; he knocks continuously and has yet to offer a constructive point of view.

Hon E.J. Charlton: The National Party is in favour of Ernie Bridge's pipeline.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: I know where Hon Eric Charlton stands on certain water supplies. He and I share the same views.

Hon P.G. Pental interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! Honourable members who do not have the floor should cease making cross-Chamber comments. One person is entitled to speak and we should hear him in silence.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: Thank you, Mr Deputy President. I will address the Chair.

Weekly our attention is drawn to problems of ground water pollution. The latest problem occurred at Jandakot Airport where petrol leaked into the Jandakot mound, which is one of the main sources of water for the Perth metropolitan scheme.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: How many litres were spilt?

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: I am not aware of the exact amount.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: You should inquire about the two spills at Perth Airport.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: Jandakot was the only area we were made aware of. Checks would reveal that most petrol stations throughout the metropolitan area - probably every one of them - at one time have leaked and caused pollution to ground water supplies.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: I cannot comprehend Ministers who will allow a petrol station to be built above a ground water mound.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: The more we draw from our ground water supplies, the further we drag pollutants into ground water streams. That is one reason that the pipeline proposed by the Minister for Water Resources is not fantasy, but a necessity. We must look at how we can utilise our ground water supplies bearing in mind that one of the greatest pollutants - to which little attention is paid - is the road system. It introduces many pollutants, including oil and dirty water. One becomes only too aware of that when it rains after a long dry spell. The grease on the surface of the road is washed into the soil and it builds up. That is not taken into consideration. The only pollutants taken into consideration are major oil spills.

Hon E.J. Charlton: That is why we should not be thinking of doubling the population of Perth.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: Our future sources of water should be planned for very carefully. I say sincerely that I believe in Ernie Bridge's dream for a pipeline because we can certainly do with it. When I was associated with the water supply union I remember vividly that the Government of the day scoffed when I suggested that ground water at Gnangara would be polluted. Within two years traces were found in ground water streams because of liquid waste dumping. Two bores within the immediate area had to be closed.

Hon E.J. Charlton: What percentage of metropolitan water comes from under the ground?

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: Seventy per cent.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Is that during all seasons?

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: Yes. I suggest that we also examine the possibility of filtering the drains to minimise pollution of our ground water supplies.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: The Main Roads Department is taking note of that in its current highway designs.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: To a certain degree that is being taken into consideration. However, most of the roads in the metropolitan area were built many years ago. Even Hon Derrick Tomlinson would agree that an example of bad road drainage is the system in Bayswater where the drainage is dumped in the river because of lack of controls. Unfortunately, in the past, successive Governments have opted for the quick fix.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Most pollution in the Bayswater drain is caused by garden fertilisers.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: And also heavy metals. Because of the nature of the area through which the Bayswater drain runs, acids from batteries and other materials run into the drain. We must do something about this area and impose severe penalties on businesses that pollute it. Some of the responsibility for cleaning up that drain must be placed on businesses which use it as a quick fix solution to their rubbish problems. I recall an instance in Kewdale with Jason Australia, which uses galvanised iron in its production, pouring its waste into the sewer. The acids in the waste burnt the soles off the shoes of a couple of young workers half a kilometre away. The acids were put in tanks and broken down. Many people forget the harm that can be done to workers by those irresponsible actions. Twelve years ago, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital was pouring radioactive isotopes into the sewer. However, when the Government took action, the isotopes were placed in tanks and were broken down before they were dumped into the sewer.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: How did they break down radioactive isotopes?

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: In tanks. We must stop many of those actions if we are to protect our environment. If we do not take steps now, the decision will be made for us. We will not have to worry about the decision; we will have to worry only about the people who live in Western Australia. Once those resources are gone, they will be gone for ever. Because of

the draw of water from the Gngangara mound, it will not be permissible to draw water for market gardens around Wanneroo. A water management committee has been established and is imposing restrictions on the use of water. Unless we become better managers of our resources, we do not have much of a future in WA.

Hon E.J. Charlton: I think the State owes about \$11 billion all up and a ballpark estimate of \$8 billion has been given for the pipeline. Considering the benefit that could be for Western Australia, I support putting up another \$8 billion and getting on with it.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: I support Hon Eric Charlton. The Ord River scheme was considered to be a white elephant. However, last year it generated approximately \$30 million of export income for this State with watermelon and rockmelon sales to South East Asia. Some people estimate that the figure for this year will be closer to \$80 million and that, by the end of the decade, that industry will earn closer to a billion dollars. Areas such as Wiluna also produce quality products. Wiluna has a good source of water.

Hon Mark Nevill: It does now; they put down bores.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: I am talking about the whole of the area, not only Wiluna.

Hon E.J. Charlton: What you are saying is that what Wiluna has, all other places have also.

Hon SAM PIANTADOSI: That is right. Income from that area has grown by 30 to 40 per cent a year. Horticultural areas are generating export income and I hope that all members, including Hon Mark Nevill support my call for the pipeline. He may not agree with me but I will guarantee that by the time I am finished with him he will be better informed and in a much better position to consider the debate. The pipeline is the way to go. We must take advantage of those industries and a number of new industries which can generate income for our State. I ask Hon Eric Charlton, Hon Bill Stretch and others who advocate the free market system to support the abolition of the Potato Marketing Authority, the Egg Marketing Board and other boards just as they are always at the Labor Party to deregulate the work force because it is always being accused of supporting closed shops. The Opposition must look at our argument now. If it decides to support the closed shops of the Potato Marketing Authority and the Egg Marketing Board, maybe we can work out a deal.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Mark Nevill (Parliamentary Secretary).

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE - ORDINARY

HON GRAHAM EDWARDS (North Metropolitan - Minister for Police) [10.27 pm]: I move -

That the House do now adjourn.

Adjournment Debate - Ashburton By-election Campaign

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral) [10.27 pm]: Because the new member for Ashburton made some disparaging remarks about the Liberal Party and about me in a speech in another place earlier today, the House should not adjourn until I comment on those remarks. It was not my intention to refer in this House to matters relating to the Ashburton by-election mainly because the Premier had so cleverly portrayed our initial comments as being those of poor losers or whingers, or as sour grapes. I had decided not to discuss the by-election for the time being until the situation surrounding it had passed and wiser thoughts prevailed. I had decided not to talk about the lies and misrepresentation that the Labor Party used during the election or the excessive bias of the media. I had decided not to talk about the schooling of Aborigines in Roebourne or about Aboriginal voters going to a Roebourne polling booth with draft ballot papers on which they had been practising how to vote or about the use of taxpayers' funds for political purposes, which was a hallmark of that by-election. I had decided also not to talk about the countless ministerial visits and the almost continuous use of a Government aircraft to ferry people backwards and forwards to the electorate.

I had decided not to talk about the stop-work meeting caused by the Minister for Productivity and Labour Relations. I had decided not to talk about her use of that occasion to promote an attitude towards the Liberal Party's industrial relations policy that was grossly inaccurate and improper. I had decided not to talk about the pamphlets and rubbish churned out by the union movement during that by-election, which were blatantly wrong and blatant

propaganda. I had decided not to talk about any of those things, until I heard about the comments of the new member for Ashburton, and something that made me very angry which happened in Ashburton after the by-election.

A member of the Liberal Party in Karratha received a telephone call at work on the Friday after the by-election. It was an anonymous call - for reasons which will become apparent - and he was asked how he liked his car before the caller hung up. The person receiving the call was worried and went home to find his car parked in the carport had been damaged with phrases such as "Libs sucks", "We won", "Up Labour" and "West lost" having been gouged out on the car panels, apparently with a screwdriver. Only one panel of the car was not damaged; all others were either written on or had gouge marks on them. The damage to the car amounted to \$2 000, and that damage had been inflicted by some person who decided he had to get a message to the Liberal Party that he supported the Labor Party. That took place in Karratha five or six days after the by-election.

Hon T.G. Butler: We agree it is a disgrace.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I know it is a disgrace, and I am telling members opposite what causes that sort of thing to happen. They should look at what their supporters did in the Ashburton by-election campaign to arouse the passions of people to such an extent that they would do such things as this. Many years ago when I was a very young member of Parliament - it seems a long time ago now - I went to Fremantle to watch a big public meeting that had been called by the union movement. I listened to the union leaders haranguing the crowd and arousing their passions to a fever pitch; to the point at which I was scared that that kind of thing could happen in this country. I watched the reaction of those union members to the way in which they were provoked by their leaders. The same sort of thing is going on day after day in the union movement, and in Karratha, Dampier and all areas where the by-election was taking place there was evidence of union propaganda. Pamphlets were issued carrying headings such as "You will soon be at war". The pamphlets referred to the so-called dreadful people of the New Right, as though they were some type of new plague.

Hon T.G. Butler: They are.

Hon N.F. MOORE: That demonstrates the stupidity of people such as Hon Tom Butler, who cannot debate an issue.

Hon T.G. Butler: You would have to admit that what stirs up the passions of the workers is the Liberal Party's industrial relations policy.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon J.N. Caldwell): Order!

Hon N.F. MOORE: The workers of this country are not stirred up by the policies of any political party, but rather by the rhetoric, the haranguing and the rousing speeches of union leaders. I have heard them do it. They do not talk about facts but about general ideas. They talk about their broad perceptions of things but they do not talk about the reality or the facts of the policies. If union leaders were prepared to talk to the members about the facts of industrial relations, instead of trying to get across a broad message which is basically propaganda, we might have a decent debate about industrial relations in this country. However, they will not allow that to happen. The union leaders told the workers of Ashburton that they would lose their jobs if the Liberal Party got into office. That happened at a time of 11 per cent unemployment in this State. At the same time, and even worse than telling lies, the Labor Party aroused the passions of people to the extent that somebody in Karratha was prepared to inflict \$2 000 worth of damage on another person's motor car. I am worried about the sort of thing that Labor Party supporters will do. I can guarantee that it was not done by a Liberal Party supporter. That person went to somebody's house and with a screwdriver ruined every panel of the car. That is not acceptable. The message I want to convey to members opposite and their supporters is that when they attack people in the Liberal Party, as they did in the Ashburton by-election, and arouse the passions of the people in the way they did, they must expect this type of thing to happen. I suspect it will not be the end of the matter because a lot of passions were aroused in that by-election and a lot of anger remains. People such as Hon Tom Stephens, who was heavily involved in that election campaign, know the extent to which the Labor Party went to win that by-election.

Hon Mark Nevill: I did more than he did.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I did not notice Hon Mark Nevill. If he were involved, then my opinion

of him would diminish considerably. I expected Hon Tom Stephens to behave as he did. I advise members that Hon Tom Stephens and his wife, at their address in Shenton Park, were on the Northern Rivers electoral roll until recently, as is their right. Members of the upper House may be enrolled on the electoral roll of any lower House seat in their electorate. Surprise, surprise, in March this year prior to the by-election, who changed from one electoral roll to the other? Hon Tom Stephens and his wife.

Hon Mark Nevill: Did you do the same?

Hon N.F. MOORE: No, I happen to have some morality in this matter. Did Hon Mark Nevill change his enrolment?

Hon Mark Nevill: No, I am still on Kalgoorlie but I might change to Northern Rivers.

Hon N.F. MOORE: That is what he would do. That is an indication of the morality of Hon Tom Stephens. On the subject of morality we should talk more some time about the work he did in Roebourne and the way he organised Aboriginal people to vote. He told members of the Liberal Party not to hand how-to-vote cards to the Aboriginal people. I have sat and said nothing about the Ashburton by-election because I did not want to be called a sore loser. I am not a sore loser, but I get very angry when people provoke poor, simple folk in the community who become so aroused in their attitudes and passions that they do \$2 000 worth of damage to a motor car. It is absolutely reprehensible, and I suggest that members opposite talk to union leaders and tell them of the results of their actions.

HON TOM STEPHENS (Mining and Pastoral - Parliamentary Secretary) [10.38 pm]: I firstly express my dismay that anyone should damage a car belonging to another person, even a person from the other side of politics. I express my dismay and disgust at those actions, and I hope the member who has raised this matter will encourage his informant to lay a complaint.

Hon N.F. Moore: That has already been done.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I undertake to be of any assistance that I can in dealing with that complaint. However, I suspect that the people associated with the attack were nowhere near the campaign team with whom I worked, or the supporters with whom I associated in the process of the Labor Party's campaign to win the seat of Ashburton. The campaign team and the members of the Labor Party associated with the candidacy of Fred Riebeling are of the highest calibre and behaved as such when campaigning to win that seat. They were regularly faced with events and accusations that inflamed their passions also, but they showed remarkable restraint and avoided entering into the fray. Even Hon Norman Moore will appreciate now that we have elected in the other place a member of Parliament who, during the election campaign, was subjected to the most extraordinary vilification and rumour, going to the hearth of his home. People were making quite unfounded allegations.

Hon N.F. Moore: By whom were they made? Do not make an allegation that you cannot substantiate.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I have not made an allegation. Sit back and listen for a moment.

Hon N.F. Moore: You are making an allegation.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I have not made an allegation at all. Sit back and listen.

Hon George Cash: You made an allegation during the Ashburton by-election, and you had to come into this place and apologise.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: If members opposite want to get my ire up -

Hon George Cash: Do you want me to repeat it?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: An allegation was made a few moments ago where Hon Norman Moore accused me in this House by relaying allegations from people associated with his campaign at the Roebourne polling booth. Nothing could be further from the truth than that allegation.

Hon N.F. Moore: Rubbish!

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I know exactly what I did. I categorically deny Hon Norman Moore's allegation, and if he had any gumption he would now apologise and withdraw this accusation in this House. I am pleased to say that I have colleagues who were with me at the

polling booth, members like the Minister for Housing, who, like others, could tell Hon Norman Moore that nothing could be further from the truth. I champion the cause of Aboriginal people having the democratic right to cast a vote for the candidate of their choice. I have to raise my voice because of the continuous interjections of Hon Norman Moore. Nothing could be further from the truth than Hon Norman Moore's allegation, and I categorically deny the accusation. If Hon Norman Moore has any gumption, he will apologise to me and to the House for his misleading the House with that complaint against me. I give Hon Norman Moore the opportunity to apologise now.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! I think the interjections have gone far enough, and probably a bit too far. I ask Hon Tom Stephens to address the Chair and attempt to ignore any interjections, but I would prefer no interjections at this late stage in the sitting.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I hope that before the night is out, or when the member has time to reflect on his accusation, in a context where I deny categorically that any truth is associated with that complaint about me, he will have the good grace to withdraw that accusation. I am a champion of the cause of Aboriginal people being involved in the democratic processes of this State and this nation, and I have taken great delight in watching Aboriginal people cast their vote in the current decade with pride, dignity, and with a measure of independence that was unheard of in previous decades. In that context, we have watched the Aboriginal vote being cast with increasing confidence in the elections of this State, substantially for the Labor Party - and I take great delight in that - but at that polling booth in Roebourne, and also in Onslow, we saw the casting of votes by some Aboriginal people which were clearly protest votes against the Labor Party. They went to the Greens, and I salute the Aboriginal people for participating in the democratic processes freely and for making their decisions along with the rest of the electorate. I might add that Aboriginal people had the good sense not to cast their votes in any great numbers for the Liberal Party, and is that any wonder when the Liberal Party has among its ranks people like Hon Norman Moore, who is a sore loser if ever there was one, and where, instead of his being a graceful loser, he has come in here and blamed everybody else for the passions that were raised in the process of the Ashburton campaign?

How do members think the new member for Ashburton felt about the accusations that were made about him and his personal life and which bore no similarity to the truth? How do members think he felt when he found that the car park at a function that he attended on the night before the poll was littered with material from a photocopier? Photocopiers in Karratha produced that material, and it is pretty easy to work out from where some of this unauthorised and unidentified material may have emanated. However, there is one flaw in what happened on that night which members opposite will hear more about over time. There is one flaw in the context of people creeping out to a car park and putting under the windscreen wipers of cars some unidentified and unauthorised information which made accusations against the Labor Party and the Labor Party candidate. Members opposite may hear more about that in time too in the context of where there was a slip up in what was produced and distributed around the car park that night, which interestingly enough seems to have brought with it some identification that may come back to haunt people over time.

The lessons of Ashburton are as follows: We on this side of the House had a better candidate, better policies, a better leader and solidarity on the part of our team. We had the policies behind that candidate and that leader, and members opposite are sore losers because they cannot reconcile the fact that the people of Ashburton have spurned their policies, their people and their leader, and the whole kit and caboodle. Members opposite went around the electorate and attempted to scare the electors with the accusations that they made, but instead they have had to come back into this House with nothing more than this scurrilous accusation.

With regard to my position on the electoral roll in this State, I have looked through the Electoral Act and the amendments that have been made to section 17 over the years. Section 17 entitles me to be on the electoral roll in any part of my region, and I have noticed that in not one debate about this section has anyone challenged the right of a member to be on the electoral roll for any part of the electorate that he chooses to be in. I consulted with the Chief Electoral Commissioner before I took the step of transferring my enrolment so that I and my wife could cast our votes in the by-election for the seat of Ashburton. I am pleased that I had the opportunity of casting my vote because we believed it would be a close contest and I

would have kicked myself if we had lost by two votes without the votes of my wife and myself. I am pleased that our votes were added to about 552 others that represent for us a landslide victory, about which Hon Norman Moore continues to smart, as the defeated campaign organiser for Ashburton. He should be ashamed of himself, and apologise.

HON MARK NEVILL (Mining and Pastoral - Parliamentary Secretary) [10.47 pm]: Perhaps I am not a very passionate person. I am quite amazed at the debate which has occurred tonight because I listened to Fred Riebeling's maiden speech today in the Legislative Assembly and I thought it was very good. He made some fairly general comments about the Liberal Party's campaign in Ashburton but there was nothing specific in his comments. Hon Norman Moore did not say what he thought was particularly offensive about the new member's remarks. I cannot understand where this passion comes from. I was fairly heavily involved in the campaign, and I thought it was pretty passionless. I certainly know that no-one who was closely involved with our campaign would have done the damage to that car.

Hon N.F. Moore: Nobody said that you would have.

Hon MARK NEVILL: I know that, but I know a lot of those people and I am confident that whoever did that damage is obviously a bit of a -

Hon N.F. Moore: Are you saying he is a Liberal?

Hon MARK NEVILL: No, but I am not saying it has to be a Labor Party supporter either. It could be a Trotskyite. We cannot judge. Hon Tom Stephens mentioned the terrible rumours that were going around the town. I would not attribute them to anyone, but the fact is that they were very hurtful to Mr Riebeling's wife and to other people.

Hon N.F. Moore: They were not started by the Liberal Party. It is a pity Hon Tom Stephens could not have said that.

Hon Tom Stephens: You are the last person to start talking about truth in this place.

Hon MARK NEVILL: I would not accuse anyone when I do not know who started them. All I know is that they were hurtful rumours, and I do not think any self respecting person would start that sort of rumour. All election campaigns involve a bit of licence. When I crossed swords with Hon Norman Moore in Murchison-Eyre in 1980 I was accused - not by Hon Norman Moore - of selling Russian watches in the Leonora reserve. I thought it was humorous at the time but the problem I faced was that many people believed the rumour.

Hon George Cash: People are still looking for you to get their money back.

Hon MARK NEVILL: I possess a Russian watch. I bought one in St Petersburg.

I cannot understand the passion here. The election has been fought and won. I do not feel that any side took undue advantage or that anything outrageous occurred in the campaign that was not the normal run of the mill.

Hon N.F. Moore: Don't you read the newspapers?

Hon MARK NEVILL: I would have liked to see *The West Australian* support us the way it supported the member's party.

Hon N.F. Moore: You should read the local newspaper.

Hon MARK NEVILL: A lot of the coverage in the local newspaper was attributable to the member's campaigning and the Liberal Party's own campaign.

Hon N.F. Moore: Rubbish!

Hon MARK NEVILL: We could argue about that. Many of the comments tonight were unwarranted and undeserved. From my observations both candidates conducted themselves creditably. I heard nothing but good reports about both the Liberal candidate, Joy West, and the Labor candidate, Fred Riebeling. Any campaign has a few people on the fringes who go to extremes, and the things we are talking about now fall into that category. They are not attributable to any political party in any way.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 10.52 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

SCHOOLS - ASSISTANCE FOR ISOLATED CHILDREN SCHEME

Kent Street and Como Senior High Schools Refusal

8. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the Commonwealth and State Government subsidy is not available to students living away from home and attending the Kent Street Senior High School - specialist school for cricket - and the Como Senior High School - specialist school for hockey?
- (2) Why is the subsidy not available to these students when it is freely available to other students attending other specialist schools in Perth to pursue art or academic courses?
- (3) When will this anomaly, which prevents students pursuing excellence in sport, be corrected?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Commonwealth Government selects the courses to which the assistance for isolated children scheme will apply.
- (3) I have approached the Federal Minister seeking a review of the guidelines for courses covered by the assistance for isolated children scheme.

CERVICAL CANCER - HEALTH (CERVICAL CYTOLOGY REGISTER) REGULATIONS

Results of Testing - Advice to Patients Responsibility

32. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Under the Health (Cervical Cytology Register) Regulations 1991 published in the *Government Gazette* of 3 January 1992, will the results of such testing be conveyed to the patient by the Commissioner for Health and not by the patient's doctor?
- (2) If yes, how long will the patient have to wait before receiving the results?
- (3) Will the commissioner then contact the patient's own doctor to advise that cervical cancer has been detected and appropriate action taken?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Health has provided the following reply -

- (1) No. The results of any testing will be conveyed to the patient by the patient's doctor.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY REGISTER - MAINTENANCE

Health Department Staff Statistics - Establishment and Maintenance Cost

33. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many Health Department staff will be required to maintain the Cervical Cytology Register?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of establishing and maintaining this register?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Health has provided the following reply -

- (1) At least three staff.
- (2) It will cost \$150 000 to establish and \$215 000 per annum for maintenance.

**CERVICAL CYTOLOGY REGISTER - REGISTRATION REFUSAL RIGHTS
ADVICE MEASURES**

34. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) What measures have been taken to advise women within the State of Western Australia that if they do not wish to have their name and/or the results of the test recorded on the Cervical Cytology Register, that it will be necessary to complete an approved form?
- (2) If no measures have been taken, why not and when will such steps be taken?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Health has provided the following reply -

- (1) Promotional material is being prepared. All service providers will be sent instructions that set out the procedure to inform patients of their right not to be included in the register. The launch of the program will include mass media coverage of this issue.
- (2) Not applicable.

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY REGISTER - FOLLOW UP TEST DUE DATE

35. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) For women who opt to have the details of their cervical cancer tests retained on the register and the results of which are classified as normal, what interval of time will elapse before a follow up test is due?
- (2) Has the Commissioner for Health put in place a mechanism whereby the patient will be advised in advance to have a follow up test in say two to three months time?
- (3) If not, what procedure will be adopted?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Health has provided the following reply -

- (1) A follow up test is recommended two yearly. If the registry does not receive a follow up report within three years of the initial results, a reminder will be sent to the woman.
- (2)-(3) Reminders will only be sent when overdue, not in advance.

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY REGISTER - ESTABLISHMENT REASON

36. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Health:

As cervical cancer is a prescribed condition under section 289B of the Health Act 1911 why is it now deemed necessary to set up a register?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Health has provided the following reply -

The proposed register covers screening for cervical cancer and registration of normal results in addition to abnormalities. The Health Act, section 289B enables a register of only confirmed cases of cancer.

**GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS - MINISTER FOR EDUCATION
*Bodies Administered; Current Organisational Structure; Employment Positions***

43. Hon PETER FOSS to the Minister for Education:

With respect to your department and to each of the bodies administered within that department -

- (1) What are the bodies administered within the department?

- (2) What is the current organisational structure of your department and those bodies?
- (3) What are the senior executive service positions within your department and those bodies?
- (4) What are the other senior positions within your department and those bodies?
- (5) What are the policy adviser positions within your department and those bodies?
- (6) What are the public relations positions within your department and those bodies?
- (7) With respect to each of the abovementioned positions, who holds those positions; and
 - (a) what is their period of service within the Public Service or in employment by the Government or contracted to the Government;
 - (b) what were their previous positions held within the Public Service or in employment by the Government or contracted to the Government and the dates for which they were held;
 - (c) what was their experience immediately prior to entering the Public Service or contracting with Government;
 - (d) are they presently on contract and what is the date of expiry of that contract?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The member is referred to the Premier's response to question on notice 49.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS - MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Bodies Administered; Current Organisational Structure; Employment Positions

44. Hon PETER FOSS to the Minister for Employment and Training:

With respect to your department and to each of the bodies administered within that department -

- (1) What are the bodies administered within the department?
- (2) What is the current organisational structure of your department and those bodies?
- (3) What are the senior executive service positions within your department and those bodies?
- (4) What are the other senior positions within your department and those bodies?
- (5) What are the policy adviser positions within your department and those bodies?
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 - (b) what were their previous positions held within the Public Service or in employment by the Government or contracted to the Government and the dates for which they were held;
 - (c) what was their experience immediately prior to entering the

Public Service or contracting with Government;

- (d) are they presently on contract and what is the date of expiry of that contract?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The member is referred to the Premier's response to question on notice 49.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS - MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

Bodies Administered; Current Organisational Structure; Employment Positions

45. Hon PETER FOSS to the Minister for The Arts:

With respect to your department and to each of the bodies administered within that department -

- (1) What are the bodies administered within the department?
- (2) What is the current organisational structure of your department and those bodies?
- (3) What are the senior executive service positions within your department and those bodies?
- (4) What are the other senior positions within your department and those bodies?
- (5) What are the policy adviser positions within your department and those bodies?
- (6) What are the public relations positions within your department and those bodies?
- (7) With respect to each of the abovementioned positions, who holds those positions; and
 - (a) what is their period of service within the Public Service or in employment by the Government or contracted to the Government;
 - (b) what were their previous positions held within the Public Service or in employment by the Government or contracted to the Government and the dates for which they were held;
 - (c) what was their experience immediately prior to entering the Public Service or contracting with Government;
 - (d) are they presently on contract and what is the date of expiry of that contract?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The member is referred to the Premier's response to question on notice 49.

POLICE - KARRATHA DISTRICT

Break and Enter Statistics - Motor Vehicle Theft Statistics

107. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

- (1) For the period 1 July 1991 to 31 December 1991, what was the total number of offences reported in the Karratha district in the following categories -
 - (a) break and enter; and
 - (b) motor vehicle theft?
- (2) How many offences were reported in the Karratha district in the year ended 30 June 1991 in the following categories -
 - (a) break and enter; and
 - (b) motor vehicle theft?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) (a) 114.

- (b) 21.
- (2) (a)-(b)
Not readily available.

**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CRICKET ASSOCIATION - TOBACCO CONTROL
ACT EXEMPTIONS**

117. Hon MAX EVANS to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) When does the present exemption to the Western Australian Cricket Association under the Tobacco Control Act 1990 expire?
- (2) Has the Minister given a further exemption to the Western Australian Cricket Association for the next season of Sheffield Shield and international cricket?
- (3) If no, will the Minister be giving an exemption and for how long?
- (4) If no further exemption is given what will be the future effect on cricket in Western Australia?
- (5) Has the Australian Cricket Board fixed a deadline for the exemption to be given?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Health has provided the following reply -

- (1) 30 April 1992.
- (2) No.
- (3) An application from the Western Australian Cricket Association for a further exemption from the Tobacco Control Act 1990 is currently being considered.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) The Western Australian Cricket Association wrote to the Minister for Health on 14 February 1992 requesting an exemption and seeking a reply by 22 February. The Minister for Health provided an interim reply to the Western Australian Cricket Association on 19 February. A substantive response will be provided and a full consideration of the WACA's request for exemption has been completed.

SCHOOLS - MEEKATHARRA SCHOOL OF THE AIR
Shortage of Space

144. Hon P.H. LOCKYER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Government aware of the severe shortage of space at the Meekatharra School of the Air buildings?
- (2) If yes, what steps are being taken to alleviate the situation?
- (3) Will the Government consider using a transportable building as an interim measure?
- (4) If no, why not?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) The need for additional accommodation is recognised.
- (2)-(3) It is proposed that a temporary classroom will be provided in the near future for use by the School of the Air and the district high school.
- (4) Not applicable.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRAINING FUND - LEVIES
Sheds, Dams, Irrigation Systems, Airstrips, Fences, Roads, Drainage Ditches, Stockyards

155. Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Are levies under the building construction industry training fund payable on the building of farm sheds, dams, irrigation systems, air strips, fences, roads, drainage ditches, and stockyards?
- (2) Have concerns of local government in regard to these levies been satisfied?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) Construction work, as defined under the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund - BCITF - Act, covers all work which utilises the skills of the construction industry work force, irrespective of the industry within which that work is undertaken - public or private. The following work, however, is exempt -
 - * work to the value of \$6 000 or less; and
 - * maintenance or repair work which is of a minor nature carried out by employees for an employer who is not substantially engaged in the building and construction industry.
- (2) I have responded to local government concerns by advising them of the intent and scope of the legislation. The BCITF is administered by a tripartite board, on which the WA Municipal Association is directly represented. Local Government authorities who remain concerned are advised to make representation either directly to the board, or through the WA Municipal Association.

HOMESWEST - OYSTER BAY, ALBANY
Building Relocation

158. Hon MURIEL PATTERSON to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is it the Minister's intention to make available a Homeswest building for relocation to the Oyster Bay area in Albany?
- (2) If yes, is there a particular building the Minister has in mind?
- (3) If the building is an existing residence, would it better used to reduce the waiting list of 22 months for Homeswest housing?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

Reply provided by the Minister for Housing -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) At this time no particular building has been nominated for this purpose.
- (3) The property that is eventually offered to the Oyster Harbour Association will be one that has outlived its economic usefulness as a rental home.

WILSON INLET - BUDGET
Expenditure

161. Hon MURIEL PATTERSON to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) What was the capital cost of the two drag line attempts on the Wilson Inlet channel by the TWD in 1954 and 1962?
- (2) What was the capital cost of the scraper work on the Wilson Inlet channel by the Public Works Department in the financial year 1983-84?
- (3) What data does the department hold on the original natural opening on the western side which prevents the use of that site for the opening?

- (4) What is the overall budget for the Wilson Inlet for 1991-92 year?
- (5) How much money has been collected in drainage rates for the Wilson Inlet drainage scheme for the years 1990-91, and 1991-92?
- (6) How much was spent by the Building Management Authority on the Wilson Inlet in 1990-91?
- (7) How much will be spent by the Building Management Authority on the Wilson Inlet in 1991-92?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Water Resources has provided the following response -

- (1) After exhaustive searches both at the Department of Marine and Harbours and at the offices of the Water Authority in Albany, there is no record of the information requested.
- (2) About \$5 000.
- (3) Little reliable data is available. A scientific monitoring study in 1975 showed that an initial opening cut at the cliff face on the western side produced a small and inefficient bar channel which is conducive to earlier closure than a channel placed further eastward.
- (4) The Water Authority budget for operating the section of the Albany drainage district which flows into Wilson Inlet is \$60 000.
- (5) It is understood that revenue raised by the Water Authority from drainage catchment areas in the Albany region amounted to \$61 000 in 1990-91 and \$63 000 in 1991-92. The revenue from the Wilson Inlet catchment area amounts to approximately 40 per cent of the total.
- (6)-(7) Nil. The Building Management Authority is not responsible for management of the Wilson Inlet. It is managed by the Water Authority for drainage purposes.

FIRE - EFFLUENT PONDS, LINLEY VALLEY ROAD, WOOROLOO

163. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Health:

With reference to a fire started about noon on 5 March 1992 on effluent ponds in Linley Valley Road, Wooroloo -

- (1) Why was the fire allowed to burn for several days?
- (2) What does the burning effluent consist of?
- (3) What hazardous fumes or toxic wastes were produced by this fire?
- (4) What threat to health existed as a result of this fire?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister for Health has provided the following reply -

- (1) The decision about how and when to extinguish the fire was one for the Fire Brigade, Environmental Protection Authority, Shire of Northam and Tip Top Abattoirs.
- (2) The burning effluent consists of tallow, dissolved and undissolved fats, blood and paunch contents which is predominantly grass and faecal matter.
- (3) This is not known. The monitoring of hazardous fumes is the responsibility of the Environmental Protection Authority.
- (4) I am advised that there was no threat to public health as the abattoir is isolated and the only people who were present were those involved in the management of the fire.

HOMESWEST - PLANS OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS
Electorate Offices Placement

164. Hon PETER FOSS to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) On how many occasions in the last eight years has Homeswest placed plans of proposed developments in the electorate office of a member?
- (2) On what dates and in whose offices were those plans placed?
- (3) What was the reason, in each case, for placing the plans in the member's office?
- (4) On those occasions when the plans were placed in the office of a member of the Legislative Assembly was the exhibition of those plans also offered to members of the Legislative Council?
- (5) If no, why not?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

Reply provided by the Minister for Housing -

(1)-(2)

No records have been kept.

(3) Placement usually occurs when a proposed development will have a major impact on the local community.

(4) See answer (1).

(5) As no records have been kept, it is not possible to say whether plans were offered to members of the Legislative Council. However, it may be possible to have similar plans placed in MLCs' offices, if requested.

EDUCATION, MINISTRY OF - COMPUTER EQUIPMENT TENDER
Successful Tenderer

166. Hon P.H. LOCKYER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Which company has the tender to supply computer equipment to the Ministry for Education?
- (2) When was the tender awarded?
- (3) When will the contract expire?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) The following list provides details of companies contracted to supply computers, printers, modems and training in Ministry of Education schools -

Matrix of Suppliers, Equipment, and Support and Training Services

Suppliers	Computers	Printers	Modems	Support and Training
Acorn Computers Australia Pty Ltd	*			*
Apple Computer Australia Pty Ltd	*	*		*
Commodore Business Machines Pty Ltd	*			*
Computer Options - Computer Innovations Pty Ltd				*
Computerland Australia Pty Ltd		*		
Epson Australia Pty Ltd	*	*		*
IBM Australia Ltd	*			*

NetComm (Australia) Pty Ltd			*
Nice Communications Pty Ltd			*
Nimrod Computer Services	*	*	*
Olivetti Systems and Networks Australia Pty Ltd	*	*	*
Professional Technology		*	*
Sharp Corporation of Australia Pty Ltd	*		
Toshiba (Australia) Pty Ltd	*		*
Triumph-Adler Olivetti			*
Wooldridge Computing Services			*

(2) 15 November 1990.

(3) 14 November 1992.

SCHOOLS - COSMO NEWBERY
Unqualified Teacher

167. Hon P.H. LOCKYER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Government aware that there are in excess of 20 students being taught by an unqualified teacher at Cosmo Newbery?
- (2) If yes, why is no school or teacher supplied in this community whilst such are supplied in other similar communities in the State?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) Yes. Local arrangements to provide their own education program have been initiated by the community at Cosmo Newbery. Up to 26 pupils in preprimary and primary grades are being taken by a qualified Aboriginal education worker on a sessional basis. Application has been made for a Government school. A senior officer of the Ministry of Education visited the community on 31 March 1992.
- (2) A school previously located at Cosmo Newbery closed on 13 May 1987 when all the residents at that time moved away. The demountable classrooms were moved to Tjirrkarli school in the Central Reserves. The current Cosmo Newbery residents moved there from the Mt Margaret area more recently.

The infrastructure to support a Government school is no longer in place. Sewerage is being installed, but an adequate power supply to service a teacher's house and school is not available at this stage. In the meantime the Ministry of Education is examining a proposal to locate a demountable classroom at Cosmo Newbery and is providing assistance from the Laverton District High School and through Kalgoorlie School of the Air.

There are communities in similar circumstances in other parts of the State where groups have decided to move from an area where Government services, including schools, are provided. Only when it has been determined that a group is permanently settled at a new location, is it possible to assess long term needs.

WESTRAIL - RAILWAY FACILITIES

Private Sector Operations Disallowance - Acting Premier's Statement, 7 January 1992

178. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Attorney General representing the Premier:

- (1) Did the Acting Premier in a letter to the Trades and Labour Council dated 7 January 1992 state that the Government would not allow private sector operations on Westrail tracks?

- (2) If yes, given that the National Rail Corporation is a private incorporated company, how will it qualify to operate as is proposed, given the statement by the Acting Premier on 7 January 1992?
- (3) What is the actual position in respect to the use by private operators of State railway facilities?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The Premier has provided the following reply -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Although the National Rail Corporation will operate as a private company it is fully publicly owned and its operation on State tracks was implied in the same letter from the Acting Premier.
- (3) There are no current private freight operators using Westrail tracks. However, these tracks are used by private tourist operators.

POLICE - PORT HEDLAND DISTRICT

Break and Enter Statistics - Motor Vehicle Theft Statistics

192. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

For the period 1 July 1991 to 31 December 1991, what was the total number of offences reported in the Port Hedland district in the following categories -

- (a) break and enter; and
- (b) motor vehicle theft?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (a) 248.
- (b) 68.

POLICE - CARNARVON DISTRICT

Break and Enter Statistics - Motor Vehicle Theft Statistics

193. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

- (1) For the period 1 July 1991 to 31 December 1991, what was the total number of offences reported in the Carnarvon district in the following categories -
 - (a) break and enter; and
 - (b) motor vehicle theft?
- (2) How many offences were reported in the Carnarvon district in the year ended 30 June 1991 in the following categories -
 - (a) break and enter; and
 - (b) motor vehicle theft?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) (a) 102.
(b) 45.
- (2) (a)-(b)
Not readily available.

POLICE - TRANSFERS

Housing Rental Recompense

196. Hon MURRAY MONTGOMERY to the Minister for Police:

Where a traffic officer is transferred to a town where there is no Government Employees Housing Authority house available, will the Police Department recompense the officer to the full extent of the rent difference between the cost of a GEHA house and the cost of renting private accommodation?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

No.

POLICE - MANPOWER

198. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

- (1) As of 1 April 1992, what was the total strength of the Western Australia Police Force?
- (2) What was the number of -
 - (a) police cadets; and
 - (b) recruits in training?
- (3) How many serving police officers had completed -
 - (a) less than one year's service;
 - (b) 1 year's service;
 - (c) 2 years' service;
 - (d) 3 years' service;
 - (e) 4 years' service;
 - (f) 5 years' service;
 - (g) 10 years' service;
 - (h) 20 years' service; and
 - (i) 30 years' service?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) 4 126.
- (2) (a) 112.
(b) Nil.

		Accumulated	
(3)	(a)	190	190
	(b)	180	370
	(c)	262	632
	(d)	487	1 119
	(e)	208	1 327
	(f)	213	1 540
	(g) 6 - 10 years	698	2 238
	(h) 11 - 20 years	1 210	3 448
	(i) 21 - 30 years	589	4 037
	31 - 40 years	89	4 126

POLICE - ALBANY DISTRICT

Break and Enter Statistics - Motor Vehicle Theft Statistics

199. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

For the period 1 July 1991 to 31 December 1991, what was the total number of offences reported in the Albany district in the following categories -

- (a) break and enter; and
- (b) motor vehicle theft?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (a) 485.
- (b) 69.

POLICE - BUNBURY DISTRICT
Break and Enter Statistics - Motor Vehicle Theft Statistics

200. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Police:

For the period 1 July 1991 to 31 December 1991, what was the total number of offences reported in the Bunbury district in the following categories -

- (a) break and enter; and
- (b) motor vehicle theft?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (a) 1 073.
- (b) 164.

PERTH MINT - AUDITOR GENERAL'S SECOND REPORT 1984-85
Gold Bullion - Write Off and Recovery Book Entries

203. Hon MAX EVANS to Hon Tom Stephens representing the Minister for State Development:

With respect to the Auditor General's second report of 1984-85, page 244, into the Perth Mint -

- (1) When was approval given to write off the gold bullion that was unlawfully removed from the Mint on 22 June 1982?
- (2) On what date was the write off made in the books?
- (3) On recovery of the gold bullion, through TVW Channel 7, was there an adjusting book entry made to incorporate the gold?
- (4) If so, at what value?
- (5) Has the bullion gone back to the Mint?
- (6) Will an adjustment be made in the books to reflect the gold's recovery?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

The Minister for State Development has provided the following reply -

(1)-(2)

The bullion was written off in stock records as at 30 June 1982. Formal approval for write-off was not sought because legal action for recovery against those convicted of the fraud was being pursued. As all the gold has not been returned, this action remains in place.

(3)-(4)

Yes. The returned gold was valued in the accounts for 1989-90 at the year end gold price of \$A446.16.

(5) Yes.

(6) Answered by (3) and (4).

LONGMORE TRAINING CENTRE - SUNDAY VISITORS
One Hour Visiting Period

204. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Community Services:

- (1) Is there a one hour time allowance for visitors to the Longmore Training Centre each Sunday?
- (2) Does this one hour period include the time in which visitors are allowed access to the training centre grounds, signing the visitors book and mustering the detainees who have visitors?
- (3) Because of the procedures outlined in (2) above, is the actual face to face visiting time for detainees closer to 40 minutes as against the stated one hour?
- (4) Will the Minister undertake to change the routine to allow the gates to open

15 minutes earlier to allow the required procedures to be carried out for visitors and thus permit the full one hour visiting time with detainees?

(5) If no, why not?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The following answer has been supplied by the Minister for Community Services -

- (1) Visiting times at Longmore Training Centre are one hour on Sundays and one hour on Wednesdays. Additional visits can be arranged on an individual basis in special circumstances. On occasions, depending on circumstances at the time, the visiting period can be extended.
- (2) Every effort is made to bring visitors on site and into the visitors area prior to the actual commencement of the visiting period. However on occasions due to circumstances at the time the situation as described in questions 204(2) and 204(3) does occur. New procedures have been implemented at Longmore Training Centre to ensure that a full one hour visiting period is possible.
- (3) See answer to (2). On occasions because of other circumstances - for example, emergencies - the actual face to face visiting time has been eroded.
- (4) Procedures have already been put into place which will allow the gates to be opened some 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the visiting period. It is the intention, once the visitors are assembled, to usher them to the visiting area prior to the commencement of the official visiting period.
- (5) Not applicable.

LONGMORE TRAINING CENTRE - SHELTERED ACCESS FOR VISITORS

205. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Community Services:

- (1) Will the Minister undertake to provide suitable sheltered access from inclement weather for visitors to the Longmore Training Centre?
- (2) If no, why not?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The following answer has been supplied by the Minister for Community Services -

- (1) In the light of changed procedures mentioned in response to question on notice 204(4), visitors will be able to enter through the gate and proceed to a small sheltered reception area prior to being taken through to the visitors area.
- (2) Not applicable.

LONGMORE TRAINING CENTRE - SUNDAY VISITORS *Parent Support Services*

206. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Community Services:

Are support services available to parents when visiting a detainee at Longmore Training Centre on a Sunday?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The following information has been supplied by the Minister for Community Services -

The groupworker staff and in particular the senior group worker are available as a resource/support for relatives/visitors on Sunday. Even if they are not in a position to help the parent/relative on the Sunday they would be able to refer

them to the centre's clinical psychologist or the child's welfare officer the following day. As the visitors area at Longmore Training Centre is actually in the dining room, arrangements have been made to make light refreshments available to visitors.

BICKLEY OBSERVATORY - TOURS
"Friends of the Observatory" Consideration

208. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Education representing the Minister for Services:

- (1) How many tours to the Bickley Observatory have been conducted each month for the past 12 months?
- (2) Is it correct that enormous public interest continues to be shown in the observatory's work?
- (3) Is it also correct that the tours are limited due to staff number limitations?
- (4) Has the Government or observatory considered a "Friends of the Observatory"-type organisation to take advantage of public interest in the establishment?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) Over the 12 months to 31 March 1992, Perth Observatory has conducted 148 day tours and 85 night tours. Twenty-nine night tours were cancelled due to poor weather.
- (2) Enormous public interest continues to be shown in the work of the Perth Observatory. This was illustrated by the strong public and media interest shown in the recent inauguration of Perth Observatory's automated telescope. The Observatory is recognised as an authoritative information source on astronomical events such as comets and meteors, and receives many inquiries from the general public and media after such occurrences.
- (3) Perth Observatory tours are not restricted by staff number limitations. Night tours are restricted to the number of suitable nights for viewing; for example, those nights where viewing conditions are not hampered by the full moon or poor weather. Tour group sizes are kept to around 10 to 15 people to maximise the interaction between the tour guide and visitors, and minimise time spent waiting for use of the telescope. Four groups of this size, two groups at a time, are taken on tours on each night suitable for viewing.
 Day tours are usually conducted during the week of the full moon, when the night sky is too bright for viewing most astronomical objects. Tours of the Observatory are also conducted each Sunday at 3.00 pm, for which no booking is required.
- (4) The Director of Perth Observatory is currently investigating the possibility of establishing a "Friends of the Observatory" organisation to support the Observatory's activities.

STATE DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF - KUNUNURRA OFFICERS
Government Employees Housing Authority Houses - Dwellings Ownership

209. Hon P.H. LOCKYER to Hon Tom Stephens representing the Minister for State Development:

- (1) How many officers in the Kununurra office of State Development have Government Employees Housing Authority houses?
- (2) Do any of these officers own any dwellings in the Wyndham-East Kimberley Shire?
- (3) If so, is it normal for Government Employees Housing Authority houses to be allocated to people who already own houses in the area?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

The Minister for State Development has provided the following reply -

- (1) There are two State Development officers in the Kununurra office of the Department of State Development who have Government Employees Housing Authority houses allocated to them. One other State Development officer resides in a GEHA house allocated to her husband by another Government department. There are two other officers who utilise the Kununurra office of the Department of State Development and are employed by other agencies who have GEHA houses.
- (2) Not to my knowledge.
- (3) Not applicable.

HOMESWEST - EXMOUTH

Vacant Homes

211. Hon P.H. LOCKYER to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Are any Homeswest homes unoccupied in Exmouth?
- (2) If so, how many?
- (3) If no, how many applicants are on the waiting list?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

Reply provided by the Minister for Housing -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) 4 x 3 bedroom single detached.
2 x 2 bedroom townhouses.
Total - 6.
- (3) Not applicable.

DROUGHT - PASTORAL PROPERTIES

Declarations Criteria

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

- (1) What is the criteria applied for pastoral properties to be drought declared?
- (2) What benefits are available to properties that are drought declared?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Agriculture has provided the following response -

- (1) Rainfall statistics from each property requesting drought declaration are analysed against established growth and rainfall patterns. Properties which conform to the 'worst year in 10' criteria are considered for drought declaration.
- (2) Drought declaration may be of assistance in obtaining rent relief and in triggering clauses in lease or mortgage arrangements. Assistance is available through the Rural Adjustment Scheme administered by RAFCOR. Drought declaration is not necessary to obtain RAS assistance.

ROYAL COMMISSION INTO COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNMENT AND OTHER MATTERS

Government Department Officers Secondment

214. Hon P.H. LOCKYER to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) How many officers have been seconded from Government departments to assist the Royal Commission?
- (2) How many of these officers are required until the completion of the inquiry?
- (3) Which department have these officers been seconded from?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The Premier has provided the following reply -

- (1) Fourteen.
- (2) The services of these officers are required until 30 June 1992 when the position will be reviewed.
- (3) Premier and Cabinet
Public Service Commission
Crown Law
Mines
State Services
Law Reform Commission.

AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF - TREES

Private Land Plantings Refusal - Pasture Insistence Cases

217. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Police representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Have there been cases where the Minister's department has refused permission for trees to be grown on private land and where, instead, the insistence has been for pasture to be grown?
- (2) If yes, what are the circumstances of such insistence?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

The Minister for Agriculture has provided the following response -

- (1)-(2)
No.

CHILDREN'S COURT - NEW BUILDING

Estimated Total Completion Cost

221. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Attorney General:

Further to the answer given to question on notice 19 on Thursday, 19 March 1992, what will be the estimated total completion cost, including fit-out, of the new Children's Court?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

\$9 000 000.

TERTIARY ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS - REPLACEMENT

Timetable with School Assessment

222. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Minister for Education:

Does the Ministry of Education have a timetable for the replacement of the tertiary entrance examination with some form of school assessment?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

No.

TERTIARY ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS - REPLACEMENT

Universities Negotiations

223. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Minister for Education:

Has the Secondary Education Authority or the Ministry of Education negotiated with any or all of the universities, with a view to replacing the current tertiary entrance examination with alternative forms of entry/matriculation qualifications?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

No.

SECONDARY EDUCATION AUTHORITY - CURRICULUM COMMITTEES*Industry Representatives - Employer or Employee Nominations*

224. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Minister for Education:

Will the two industry representatives nominated to serve on curriculum area committees of the Secondary Education Authority be drawn from employer nominations, employee nominations, or both?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

Both.

SECONDARY EDUCATION AUTHORITY - SYLLABUS COMMITTEES*Industry Representatives - Employer or Employee Nominations*

225. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Minister for Education:

Will the two industry representatives nominated to serve on syllabus committees of the Secondary Education Authority be drawn from employer nominations, employee nominations, or both?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

Both.

ASSET MANAGEMENT TASKFORCE - ASSET SALES*Revenue 1989-90 - Details 1990-91*

227. Hon DERRICK TOMLINSON to the Attorney General representing the Treasurer:

- (1) What revenues were received in 1989-90 from properties sold, brought to account in Consolidated Revenue Fund - Crown Grants - Asset Management Taskforce in 1990-91?
- (2) What properties were sold by the Asset Management Taskforce in 1990-91, how and to whom were they sold and what was the value of each of the properties brought to account in the Consolidated Revenue Fund?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The Treasurer has provided the following reply -

- (1) Nil. Revenue received from asset sales in 1989-90 was brought to account that same year.
- (2) Details of 1990-91 asset sales are provided on the attached schedule which has been tabled.

[See paper No 116.]

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**PARLIAMENT HOUSE - SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS***Government Action*

111. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Acting Leader of the House:

What action does the Acting Leader of the House propose to take regarding the recent allegations published by the media claiming that both current and former workers at Parliament House have been sexually harassed by a senior Government member?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I understand a particular complaint has not been made except to Whistleblowers Anonymous. That is extraordinary terminology for a group which believes in open accountability. I understand people have been advised to make a complaint under the Equal Opportunity Act and if there is any impediment to that being pursued the Government will take that into account. My colleague Hon Graham Edwards advises me that a statement has been made in another place. Members opposite may want to acquaint themselves with it. I have not seen it and was not previously aware of it.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE - SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS

Identity of Senior Government Member - Minister's Awareness

112. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Acting Leader of the House:

Is the Acting Leader of the House aware of the identity of the senior Government member who is alleged to have sexually harassed employees and former employees of Parliament House?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I have heard allusions to a number of members of Parliament on both sides of the House of varying levels of seniority. No doubt members on both sides of the House agree that unless an official complaint is made it is very difficult to proceed on the basis of all the men suspecting one another.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE - SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS

Naming of Members before a Council Committee

113. Hon GEORGE CASH to the Acting Leader of the House:

Given the answer of the Acting Leader of the House to my previous question, would she be prepared to appear before a properly constituted committee of the Legislative Council to name the members of whom she claims she has knowledge regarding sexual harassment?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I have no official knowledge of anyone. I have said that I have heard the scuttlebutt which other members would have heard. I will not trade in scuttlebutt either in this place or any other place. I hope other members will not do that either.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE - SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS

Inquiry 1990 Reopening

114. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Acting Leader of the House:

In view of the most recent allegations about sexual harassment involving employees of members of Parliament, will the Acting Leader of the House reopen the inquiry of 1990 in which a member of her staff alleged that she had been sexually maltreated by another person?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I understand that case is continuing.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Garry Kelly): Order! I am informed that that matter is still before the courts and is consequentially sub judice.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE - SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS

Protection of Employees used for Political Purposes - Equal Opportunity Act Amendment

115. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Acting Leader of the House:

- (1) Will the Acting Leader of the House discuss with the Minister for Women's Interests with the view to reporting back to this House what action, if any, has been taken by her Government to close a loophole in the Equal Opportunity Act which resulted in the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity dismissing on that occasion the complaint just referred to?
- (2) Will she report back to this House on the increasingly widespread view that protection of employees from sexual harassment is used by her Government for political purposes without real commitment to the principles involved?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2)

I find the question somewhat offensive. However, I understand the first part of the question relates to a case still before the courts and until that has reached finality it will be difficult to say -

Hon P.G. Pendal: You told us it had been dismissed - that is the last this House knew

of the matter - but we learnt today that it has not, so you have some explaining to do.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I have no explaining to do. Does Hon Phillip Pandal understand legal procedures where appeals take place? Stupid boy!

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Withdrawal of Remark

Hon GEORGE CASH: I ask the Acting Leader of the House to withdraw that unparliamentary remark. Earlier today members discussed the standards of the House and their having regard to the Standing Orders, yet the Acting Leader of the House continues to stoop to these depths.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I was calling order and I did not hear her remark. If the Acting Leader of the House is aware of the remark would she withdraw it? Alternatively, will the Opposition identify the remark?

Hon GEORGE CASH: The remark I complained of was "Stupid boy". Is the Acting Leader of the House refusing to comply with the Deputy President's ruling?

Hon Kay Hallahan: I have not heard a ruling. The Leader of the Opposition should sit down.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The words were "Stupid boy" and the Leader of the Opposition has asked the Acting Leader of the House to withdraw them. I ask the Acting Leader of the House to withdraw them.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: As the Deputy President is asking me to withdraw the remark directed at Hon Phillip Pandal, I withdraw it.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Before we continue, on the matter of sub judice I am informed that one of the parties in that court case has lodged an appeal; therefore it is currently before the courts.

Questions Without Notice Resumed

PUBLICATIONS - PEOPLE AND PICTURE
Restricted List Decision - Belittling of Fred Tubby Reason

116. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for The Arts:

I refer to her decision to place the magazines *People* and *Picture* on the restricted list. Why, as little as a fortnight ago, did she belittle Mr Fred Tubby MLA for his efforts to achieve precisely the same end by way of a Bill in the other place?

Withdrawal of Remark

Hon TOM STEPHENS: In a previous debate today, two members of the front bench of the Opposition - the Leader and the Deputy Leader - called the Minister a hypocrite. They used a word which I found offensive and I ask that that word be withdrawn.

Hon George Cash: It was hardly unparliamentary.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I found it offensive.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Garry Kelly): This is something of a difficult area. A debate was held this afternoon which will recommence tomorrow. The word "hypocrite" was thrown around with abandon without action being taken; therefore it is a bit late to take action now.

Hon Tom Stephens: A new found sensitivity seems to have arisen whereby the word "stupid" has emerged as an offensive word in this place.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I have given the ruling.

Hon Tom Stephens: In the context of the new found sensitivity to the word "stupid" emerging as an offensive word in this place, I ask, Mr Deputy President, that you reflect on the use of the word "hypocrite" directed at a Minister and

consider my request that the word be withdrawn by the members who used that word in this House earlier.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: The word "hypocrite" was used in the previous debate in reference to the Minister and to members in the other place and no-one took objection at that time. It is difficult now to ask for the words to be withdrawn. My personal view of the word "stupid" is that there is a little over sensitivity in the House resulting from an earlier debate. However, certain words and terms are deemed to be unparliamentary and it should be left at that.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Mr Deputy President, are you telling me that, when a word has been used in a previous debate and not objected to, there can be no later request for the word to be withdrawn?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I have given my ruling; I will leave it at that.

Questions Without Notice Resumed

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: It must be the polls in yesterday's newspapers that are making Opposition members dizzy and go out of their brains. I have used the word "stupid" before and it has never created such problems. I make it quite clear that the reasons for my saying that the Opposition's Bill introduced by Mr Fred Tubby in another place was unworkable remain. *Hansard* reveals that I said that his Bill would require a retailer to go through every publication and make a determination about every publication, and that it was virtually unworkable. I said also that we needed to have something more consistent than that in place. I rest my case on my criticism of the Bill introduced by Fred Tubby and supported by the unillustrious crew opposite.

PUBLICATIONS - PEOPLE AND PICTURE MAGAZINES

Restricted List Decision - Reason

117. Hon E.J. CHARLTON to the Minister for The Arts:

On what basis did the Minister make her decision on the two publications when it is commonly acknowledged that far worse publications are on sale?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I would be very interested to hear what Hon Eric Charlton thinks are worse publications in terms of offending community standards than the two publications that have been restricted in this category. Many magazines are placed in the restricted category and many are placed in the refused category and are not seen by the public. My decision to restrict the two publications was based on the number of complaints received by my office and by the Censorship Office about the content and images of women in the magazines and about the difficulty parents had in dealing with young children who asked questions about those publications.

Hon E.J. Charlton: I am not questioning your decision. I am asking about other magazines.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: What others?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: There appears to be some confusion. It might be that Hon Eric Charlton is not a student of such literature and I suspect that is the case. However, if I drew the distinction between *Penthouse* and *Playboy*, two magazines which feature nudity but which also include some good, in-depth articles -

Hon P.G. Pendal: What articles?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! A question has been asked of the Minister. The least the House can do is to listen to the Minister's answer.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: It is very hard for immature boys to address a very mature subject. I guess "immature boys" is unparliamentary language also! Let us

get down to taking out of debates all negative comments about members' behaviour in this place.

The two publications that have been restricted carry very degrading images of women in association with very explicit captions. Frankly, I do not think they fit the Federal Censor's guidelines on publications. The Federal Censor has said that he receives more complaints about those two publications than all other publications. I challenge members opposite to defend those two publications' being easily available.

Hon P.G. Pandal: We are not.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: Hon Phillip Pandal says he is not defending them. Hon George Cash, Hon Phillip Pandal and Hon Derrick Tomlinson all made statements earlier today about those publications and their restricted category. Does that mean that those members support the view that families should be confronted with that material?

Opposition members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! If question time continues in this vein I will curtail it and continue with Orders of the Day. If members want to ask questions I suggest they constrain themselves and listen to the answers. They too will get an opportunity to ask questions.

PUBLICATIONS - PEOPLE AND PICTURE MAGAZINES
"Little Backing for Hallahan" Report

118. Hon FRED McKENZIE to the Minister for The Arts:

An article appeared in today's *The West Australian* titled "Little backing for Hallahan". It refers to only eight per cent of Western Australians supporting the Minister for The Arts. Will the Minister comment on the survey? It is heavily qualified when one reads the article.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I was very dissatisfied with the article in the first country edition and earlier metropolitan editions of *The West Australian*. The first paragraph says that "Only 8 per cent of Western Australians support Arts Minister Kay Hallahan's handling of the censorship of Picture and People magazines, according to the April Westpoll." I understand that no question dealt with my handling of the issue. A question related to the restriction of the two publications, and eight per cent of the people supported that restriction. A further 42 per cent of respondents said that girlie magazines should not be on public display, and five per cent said that they should be banned. Therefore, a total of 54 per cent endorsed my action, at least in part, or thought that I should have gone further. That is very substantial support and does not support the heading "Little backing for Hallahan". The article's heading is not supported by its content.

Hon P.G. Pandal: Of course it is.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: Hon Phillip Pandal must have numeracy skill problems or he is a hypocrite. He wants to adopt a very high moral stance in this matter. We all know that the word "hypocrisy" is accepted in this House today and I say, therefore, that he is very, very hypocritical. I want to make it very clear to the House today that Mrs Hallahan did not select those two publications; they were selected by people making complaints. I responded to a growing number of complaints which in my view were very reasonable in their content. On that basis I moved to have those publications put into the restricted category, which means that they are available for adults and can be sold to adults, but they cannot be displayed or advertised for sale.

Hon E.J. Charlton: They should be burnt.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I understand that in the Eastern States one edition was pulped. Hon Phillip Pandal chatters away while we are talking about a very serious matter for the community.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! The idea is to ask as many questions and receive as many answers as possible to questions without notice. The Minister's answer has been lengthened by the number of unruly interjections. I suggest those interjections stop to enable the Minister to draw her answer to a conclusion.

MOTOR VEHICLES - THEFT STATISTICS
High Speed Police Pursuits

119. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Police:

Will the Minister apprise the House of comparative figures for the first quarter of 1991 and the first quarter of 1992 in relation to vehicle thefts and high speed pursuits?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

I ask the House to pay some attention to these figures which I think are very important. In January 1991 there were 1 797 vehicle thefts, and for the same month in 1992 there were 1 060. In the same period in 1991, 45 high speed pursuits took place, and during a similar period this year 19 took place. In February 1991, 1 621 vehicles were stolen, compared with 1 006 vehicles in February 1992. In February 1991, 58 high speed pursuits took place, compared with 16 in February 1992. In March 1991, 1 967 vehicles were stolen, compared with 1 241 in March 1992. In March 1991, 63 high speed pursuits took place, compared with 40 in March 1992. For the first quarter of 1991 a total of 5 385 vehicles were stolen, and in the first quarter of 1992 the figure has reduced by more than 2 000 to 3 307. In the first quarter of 1991 a total of 166 high speed pursuits took place, compared with a total of 75 in 1992.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: Do you have the same data for the last quarter of 1991?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: No, I am giving a comparison of the two periods.

Point of Order

Hon GEORGE CASH: I refer to question on notice 234 on the Notice Paper and ask the Minister how he is able to give this answer -

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon Garry Kelly): Hon George Cash cannot ask the Minister, he must ask me.

Hon GEORGE CASH: The Minister is now answering in Parliament question on notice 234 which I asked him previously. I ask you, Mr Deputy President, to rule either that he cannot answer this question without notice before he provides the answer to my question on notice, or that he must explain why he is able to answer a question asked by another member that he is not prepared to answer for me.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: A member may ask a question without notice on the same subject as a question on notice which appears in the Notice Paper. If the answer given today is substantially the same as the answer to the question on notice, that will preclude the Minister from answering the question on notice.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I thank the Leader of the Opposition in this place for drawing this matter to my attention. However, the period referred to in the question on notice is from 1 July 1991 to 31 March 1992. I am providing a comparison between the first quarter of 1991 and the first quarter of 1992. In any event it seems to be very much in line with my general attempt to answer questions fully and to provide as much information to members as I can. I would not have thought it was cause for complaint or query.

In conclusion, I have put these figures before the House without any analysis at this stage, and I feel we must treat the figures with caution. It is an encouraging trend and one that the Government and the community should

take heart from. I encourage members of the community to continue to secure their vehicles, and I hope this trend will be maintained throughout the year. I am sure that if the trend is maintained, it will be to the relief of the community.

PUBLICATIONS - PEOPLE AND PICTURE MAGAZINES

No Interstate Ban Concern

120. Hon P.H. LOCKYER to the Minister for The Arts:

- (1) Why has no other State in Australia banned publications of *People* and *Picture*?
- (2) Has the Minister communicated with her colleagues in other States on this matter?
- (3) If so, what explanation have her colleagues in other States given for not restricting sale of the publications?
- (4) If the Minister has not communicated with her colleagues in other States, in fairness to the publishers of the magazines concerned, will she give an undertaking to the House that she will do so? I point out that I, too, am offended by the publications from time to time but I am concerned that one State -

Hon Sam Piantadosi: I find it hard to believe.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Nothing about Hon Sam Piantadosi surprises me. He probably has a copy of the magazines in his drawer.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! I ask the member to continue with his question.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I am making sure the member is exposed, as people are in those magazines. I am concerned that the Minister should make a unilateral decision that has not been made across Australia. I ask her to give an undertaking to communicate with her colleagues in other States as a matter of urgency.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(4)

Members do not seem to appreciate that this State has enacted legislation in order to respond to the concerns expressed by Western Australians. All other States, except Tasmania, rely on the Federal censor to act on their behalf in these matters. I have not consulted my colleague in Tasmania but I understand that State has similar concerns to those in Western Australia. Also, as a result of my actions an announcement has been made by the South Australian Government that it will introduce strict guidelines from 1 May. The Victorian Government is very concerned about this matter, and is watching developments in this State with some interest. I may want to say more on this subject within the next 48 hours. I had moved down the path of Western Australia referring its powers to the Federal censor. As a result of this incident and the general concerns that have been expressed by, in my view, a very responsible cross-section of adults in Western Australia, and also, interestingly, by a number of young adults, we would need to establish clearly with the Federal censor the guidelines that apply before we continue down that path.

The publishers of *Playboy* and *Penthouse* - which people seek to put in the same category, but which I do not believe deserve to be in the same category - actually put out a State edition for Western Australia and Queensland. That indicates that those publishers are prepared to accommodate community concerns, particularly in the toning down of what is on the front covers, which is what confronts families which go into newsagencies and delicatessens. Those magazines do not have the evocative posters which are displayed by the two publications which are now to be the subject of a restricted category.

This matter has had thorough consideration. It has not been handled in a

unilateral and thoughtless way. There has been a considered approach in response to an increasing level of concern by a wide cross-section of Western Australians. The response to the announcement has been overwhelmingly positive. A few people have disagreed with it, but many people have telephoned my office and my home to support the action. It has been very heartening that those expressions of support have been quite responsible, because people have been saying in general terms that, while they do not want to see that material themselves, they do not want it to be restricted or banned for everybody - even though the Westpoll figures indicate a tendency that way. People have been saying that they do not mind what other people want to read; if they want to read it, that is their prerogative, but they do not want to be confronted with it. That is a reasonable position for people to adopt.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE - SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS

1990 Inquiry - Appeal Against Dismissal, Minister's Awareness

121. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Acting Leader of the House:

Without canvassing the merits of the case to which the Minister has referred, can the Minister indicate when she first learnt that an appeal had been lodged against the dismissal of a sexual harassment charge against one of her staff?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

From memory, I think that happened some time ago, and I was aware of it at the time.
