

Legislative Council

Thursday, 15 December 1988

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 11.30 am, and read prayers.

STATEMENTS - BY THE PRESIDENT

Television Cameras - Members' Approval

THE PRESIDENT: As members are aware, the custom in this Chamber has always been that no cameras, television or other, are permitted in this Chamber other than members of the news media who are given permission from time to time to take film vision for their records. It has always been the practice in this Chamber that I give this House one day's notice prior to approval being given with the suggestion that if there is any objection, the honourable member can approach me and that approval would not be given because a unanimous decision is required.

I have been approached this morning by representatives of Channel 10, a new television station, who advised that they have no film footage of the Legislative Council on record and sought my approval to take some this morning. I have explained to them what the rules are; that is, that no sound is to be taken and that I will need the approval of the Chamber this morning to allow them to take some footage during the first few minutes of our sitting this morning. If any honourable member has any objection, the way to indicate that objection is to stand up and say so when I sit down. I have indicated to Channel 10 that the minute I sit down they can take the film footage from the Public Gallery as long as no honourable member objects to this action. Therefore, if any member has any objection, indicate so and let me know; otherwise, the cameraman will be seen taking footage on the basis explained.

BILLS (17) - ASSENT

Messages from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills -

1. Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill
2. Potato Growing Industry Trust Fund Amendment Bill
3. Official Corruption Commission Bill
4. Education Amendment Bill
5. Spent Convictions Bill
6. Acts Amendment (Spent Convictions) Bill
7. Road Traffic Amendment Bill
8. Electoral Amendment Bill (No 2)
9. Art Gallery Amendment Bill
10. National Crime Authority (State Provisions) Amendment Bill
11. Mineral Sands (Allied Eneabba) Agreement Amendment Bill
12. Wesply (Dardanup) Agreement Authorization Amendment Bill
13. Acts Amendment (Events on Roads) Bill
14. Liquor Licensing Bill
15. Shipping and Pilotage Amendment Bill
16. Reserves and Land Revestment Bill
17. Mineral Sands (Cooljarloo) Mining and Processing Agreement Bill

PETITION - AGED

Pension Investments - Policy Review

A petition bearing the signatures of 52 persons was presented by Hon P.G. Pandal expressing

concern about the failure of the Government to make effective representations to the Federal Government regarding its decision to treat previously tax exempt investments as income, and thereby to reduce the amount of pension for senior citizens; and urging both Governments to reverse this pattern of attacks on the lifestyles of the elderly providing for their own retirement, abandon this decision to treat market-linked investments as income for the pensions and benefits test and to review all taxing policies on people's savings.

[See paper No 692.]

PETITION - MINERAL SANDS (COOLJARLOO) MINING AND PROCESSING AGREEMENT BILL

Proclamation - Opposition

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan - Attorney General) [11.40 am]: I seek leave of the House to present a petition that is not in conformity with the Standing Orders.

Leave granted.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: I present a petition from 790 citizens requesting the Government not to proclaim the Mineral Sands (Cooljarloo) Mining and Processing Agreement Bill because the dry processing plant and the synthetic rutile plant proposed for Muchea is to be sited on an environmentally unforgiving site and because the plant, its products and emissions are contrary to the Shire of Chittering town planning scheme.

[See paper No 705.]

SELECT COMMITTEES - ABORIGINES

State Funding of Programs - Report

HON E.J. CHARLTON (Central) [11.44 am]: I present the report of the Select Committee inquiring into State Funding for Aboriginal Programs, and move -

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

I seek leave to make a brief statement supporting the report.

Leave granted.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: This was a complex inquiry and it is interesting that members of the committee agreed on the report. In that regard, I wish to thank the members, Hon Tom Stephens, Hon Tom Helm, and Hon Sandy Lewis. Many points of view and different assessments of the reasons for appointing the committee had to be accommodated. The inquiry was able to identify many of the problems referred to in the terms of reference, again supporting our committee system and the use of that system to inquire into subjects of public concern. Certainly, in my mind, that is one of the most gratifying results of that committee.

While I will not debate any specific part of the report, I want to make a couple of observations. In making our decision, we were controlled, to a large extent, by the time constraints placed on us by parliamentary sittings. The question of Aboriginal funding involves the whole of the State, if not the whole of the nation. We had to take into account the effects that Federal funds have on different programs. We travelled to many areas and found many avenues in relation to programs open up to us for research and study. Unfortunately, the committee, because of the lack of resources and time, was not able to research many of these programs as it wished. However, it was in a position to identify many areas to which the terms of reference were directed.

I pay special tribute to Mr Ian Allnutt, the secretary of the committee, and to the Hansard reporter who travelled with the committee, Brenda Bell. She went with the committee to Kalgoorlie and Alice Springs, recording the great variety of topics discussed in an extremely efficient manner. Her performance was superhuman and the courtesy she paid to members of the committee and witnesses was exemplary.

I hope that all the levels of Government - Federal, State and local government - are given the opportunity to review the report and that they act upon it. If that is not done we will continue to see a deterioration in relationships within Aboriginal communities and between

Aboriginal communities and the wider community. Recent developments in many places support those comments.

The committee met with a broad cross section of people, both directly and indirectly involved in spending taxpayer's money. The committee has not recommended a reduction in the amount of funds available to Aboriginal programs, but has recommended alterations to the way those funds are allocated. I hope the report demonstrates to this Government and to future Governments, both Federal and State, that we cannot continue to go down the same path that this nation has been going down in addressing these problems.

Question put and passed.

[See paper No 706.]

BILLS (3) - THIRD READING

1. Appropriation (Consolidated Revenue Fund) Bill
2. Appropriation (General Loan and Capital Works Fund) Bill
3. Loan Bill

Bills read a third time, on motions by Hon J.M. Berinson (Minister for Budget Management), and passed.

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION - JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Second Report

HON ROBERT HETHERINGTON (South East Metropolitan) [11.51 am] - by leave: I am directed to present the second report of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation. In moving to table the report I wish to say a few things about the committee given that this is the last time, unless the Thirty-third Parliament is called before 21 May next year, I will have the opportunity to speak as chairman of the committee. I would like to mention a few things.

First, I suggest to the Government of the Thirty-third Parliament that it consider the two House nature of the committee. The committee sometimes finds it is a blessing to have the input from people from the Legislative Assembly, but sometimes it is a curse and, at times, it is very difficult to obtain a quorum. We have never had any trouble obtaining a quorum from members in this House, but sometimes it has been difficult obtaining a quorum from the other place. It may have been because of the special time in which we have gone swiftly into operation; that is, a period when an election is looming. Something which needs to be considered is whether the committee's review function is better dealt with by the upper House alone.

When the committee first started the Clerk of the House said it could be serviced. At that stage there was a qualified secretary, now lost to Canberra, who was in a position to service the committee. The Clerk, Mr Laurie Marquet, assumed the responsibilities pro tem, but a reorganisation of the committee's secretariat will be necessary before the start of the next Parliament to provide the committee with a permanent legal advisory officer, plus counsel. This arrangement has not been an unmixed blessing. We have nearly driven the Clerk into the ground adding these duties to the duties he already had, but we have been well served by Mr Marquet. I have been fortunate in finding a Clerk serving the committee whose views on what needs to be done are similar to my views. At one stage he said to me lightly and in jest, "It is nice to have a compliant chairman", and I said, "Well, it is nice to have a Clerk who leads me in the direction I want to go." In fact, it was not quite like that, but certainly we did see eye to eye on a range of questions and Mr Marquet's service to the committee has been invaluable in establishing the guidelines it has tried to set up.

I have discovered that we have introduced new concepts into the work of the committee. The people in Canberra who have had a subordinate legislative committee since 1932 find that this committee's approach is refreshingly different and they are wondering whether it is good or bad. They think it sufficiently interesting and important that it is likely to be discussed at a conference of delegated legislation committees which will meet some time next year. The committee members regard the committee's work as not merely a matter of

overseeing the Executive so much as the Chambers' viewing delegated legislation from a different perspective, mainly from the point of view of protection of civil rights and liberties in a modern State, and even where regulations are *intra vires* - within the powers - we still look at them to see if they are being used wisely.

The committee has been extremely pleased with the officers who have appeared before the committee from three different departments. They have been most cooperative, they have spoken freely and they have often explained, in a way that satisfies the committee fully, what they are trying to do. At times they have accepted the view of the committee that certain things are worth having another look at. If this kind of cooperation from the departments continues with the new committee next year I would see the work of the committee being quiet and hardly noticed, but extremely valuable.

I regard this as a most important committee. It is my regret it was not set up earlier because I have enjoyed my participation in it. I hope my work as chairman has helped to point the committee in the direction in which it will continue. If that happens, the State will receive a great deal of valuable work from it.

One of the things the committee has noticed is the growth of administrative instructions and we have to look at whether we have to take these into the purview of the committee. What has happened since the first subordinate delegated legislation committee was set up in Canberra in 1932 is that regulations have burgeoned and administrative instructions have grown. We now have to look at the committee's role in protecting the civil rights and liberties of the individual in a modern State; a modern State is different from some of the States in the past. I move -

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

HON MARGARET McALEER (Upper West) [11.58 am] - by leave: In seconding the motion I take the opportunity to express to Hon Bob Hetherington the committee's appreciation for his chairmanship. We all know he is retiring and, therefore, will not be able to continue in the chairmanship of the committee. From a difficult beginning Hon Bob Hetherington has set the committee on a very firm foundation and has given it scope for the possibility of future work which was not envisaged by this House when the committee was set up. With the guidance given by Hon Bob Hetherington and the help given by Mr Laurie Marquet, this committee will, if it perseveres in the next Parliament, have the possibility of carving out new ground and to make not only a very important contribution to the Parliament, but also an important contribution to the well being of the State for the reasons Hon Bob Hetherington has outlined. I appreciate the work he has done and I am sorry that he is not able to continue with it.

Question put and passed.

[See paper No. 707.]

STANDING ORDERS - SUSPENSION

Members' Retirement

On motion without notice by Hon J.M. Berinson (Leader of the House), resolved with an absolute majority -

That Standing Orders be suspended to permit debate unlimited as to total time or the time of individual addresses by or in respect of retiring members.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT - RETIREMENT

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan - Leader of the House) [12.01 pm]: Each day we start the Parliament with a prayer for guidance as to the way we perform our duties. Then, as often as not, we launch into a hammer and tongs attack on each other. Perhaps some of us sometimes pause to wonder whether all that is not a bit incongruous, but if we do we do not dwell on that thought too long. That is the system. On the whole, it works reasonably well and there is no real point to getting too philosophical about it.

Somewhat similar considerations become inevitable as we come to the end of a Parliament. On the one hand that means we are about to launch into an election campaign with all that that involves. On the other hand we want to pay our respect to retiring members though

most, if not all, will be actively engaged in the election despite their retirement. These circumstances necessarily restrain us in our comments and I believe that that will be understood by us all. This year the dilemma is increased by the sheer numbers of members retiring. Nine out of 34 members, that is over one quarter of the whole of the membership of the Council, have announced that they will not contest a province seat. As a result, whatever happens in the forthcoming election this House will be remarkably different when the new Parliament reassembles.

From the Liberal Party, the retirees are: The Leader of the Opposition, Hon Gordon Masters; and Hons Colin Bell, Sandy Lewis, Neil Oliver and John Williams. From the National Party, Hon Mick Gayfer and Hon Tom McNeil are retiring. My own colleagues who are retiring are Hon Des Dans and Hon Bob Hetherington.

I refer first to the Leader of the Opposition. I have faced Hon Gordon Masters from both sides of the House. On this side he was a Minister and on the other side he has been more recently the Leader of the Opposition. In the latter role he has been rather sharper and less kind than he was when over here. Nonetheless, I still prefer him over there. Hon Gordon Masters has served his party and the Parliament well for many years. It is a measure of the respect which he has earned from his colleagues that even after he announced his retirement he was retained in his position as Leader of the Opposition and he has certainly justified that with his continued active and vigorous role.

Hon John Williams for some time has shadowed me in my portfolios of Attorney General and Minister for Corrective Services and on more than one occasion I have acknowledged his contribution in these areas. It was not only constructive, but added in important ways to both the information and the understanding of what are serious and problem areas. As Deputy Chairman of Committees, he has also exerted a very positive influence in guiding the House through some major and complex legislation. Although with different opportunities Hon John Williams might have done even more, I believe that he can be well content in the knowledge that he has made a real contribution to the welfare of the State.

I am sorry that circumstances prevent Hon Sandy Lewis being present, although perhaps it is just as well because he would probably interject at this point. Undoubtedly Mr Lewis is one of the characters of the House and it is typical of him that right to the last day he has been in the thick of things and putting his views as forcefully as ever. Viewing, and especially hearing, his contributions to debates in recent weeks one could be excused for believing that he was at the start of his parliamentary career rather than at the end. There is no doubt that he will apply himself with the same enthusiasm to whatever new activity he now turns to.

Because of the absence of Hon Colin Bell today, the House has previously wished him well. I think I need not add anything further at this point.

Hon Neil Oliver is retiring from the Council to contest an Assembly seat. This raises in most acute form the dilemma I referred to a few moments ago. Needless to say, I can hardly wish the honourable member well in that particular endeavour, but again we can join in acknowledging his contribution to the House over his period of membership.

The House will not be the same without Hon Mick Gayfer, who has shown an ability to give Ministers lots of trouble in this House while retaining their respect and, even more than that, their goodwill and friendship. I think I am right in saying that Hon Mick Gayfer is the only one here who has served in both Houses of the Parliament and that he has served longer than any other member of the Council.

Hon Margaret McAleer: Hon Sandy Lewis has also served in both Houses.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: Am I right in the second respect in saying Mick has served longer than any other Council member?

Hon Margaret McAleer: Yes.

Hon J.M. BERINSON: One out of two is not bad. In a sense it is a misuse of the language to talk of Hon Mick Gayfer retiring; he is simply changing occupations. With his newly acquired pilot's licence his horizons literally now can be taken as totally unlimited.

If Hon Tom McNeil is one of the less flamboyant of our members that is certainly not a reflection on his dedication or effectiveness. He has performed well and conscientiously as a representative of his electors and his party. Certainly his electors have clearly recognised his

contribution and given him substantial personal support. Again, I think it is fair to say that Hon Tom McNeil is among those exceptions to the rule which the usual wisdom has that everything depends on the party endorsement rather than on the individual candidate. Who will now pursue proper television coverage in the country of metropolitan and interstate football matches remains a mystery and we will have to wait on the next Parliament to work out who solves that problem for us.

With the retirement of Hon Des Dans and Hon Bob Hetherington I not only lose two valued and admired parliamentary colleagues, but also close party associates and good friends. With regard to Hon Bob Hetherington, I have mentioned previously that I was a student in Politics 10 at the University of Western Australia in the inaugural year of that course. Bob was the inaugural lecturer and I make no comment on his ability as a lecturer as he only gave me a B in the finals; some less generous people might be inclined to draw wrong conclusions from that. In the heat of debate some Opposition members have sometimes referred to Hon Bob Hetherington as an academic, using that term as some sort of implied criticism in a pejorative sense. If the term "academic" in that sense was meant to convey concepts such as impractical, other-worldly, or too theoretical, then it was wrong to apply it to Bob Hetherington. From his academic background Bob has brought to the Parliament a willingness to go back to first principles, and to consider concepts such as democracy, the proper functioning of the parliamentary process and the proper limits of control over individual rights and decisions. His occasional reminders on these matters have been salutary, and we would do well to remember them even in his absence. Hon Bob Hetherington carries with him the high regard and good wishes of all his colleagues in the Government, and I have no doubt of many others as well.

Considering how young I am, I am regularly amazed to recall that I have been active in Labor Party matters for more than 35 years. Hon Des Dans was there before me, and we have always been associated in the party's activities in one way or another. In earlier years we were not always on precisely the same side of the fence, but Des has always been open to reason so all that has changed. Des' strong union background has stood him in good stead in many ways; he has been a genuine and knowledgeable representative of workers' interests, a keen negotiator and a strong debater. The fact that the loudness of his voice when occasion demands matches the foghorns of his seafaring days has not done any harm either; although if not for the fact that he is retiring this session, there is some risk that officers from the Department of Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare may have used their decibel measuring machines in the Chamber! Whether as Leader of the Opposition or, after 1983, as Leader of the Government in this House, Des Dans set an example to us all. I have always counted it as one of the privileges of my position to have been associated closely with him. As a Minister he will probably be remembered best for the outstanding success of the America's Cup events, with all the infrastructure and long term tourist development which that involved and encouraged. He has many other achievements as well, and even in Opposition his role in the development of the important advances in workers' compensation is widely acknowledged. The House will not be the same without him, and I wish him and Rikki a healthy and happy retirement, and very great enjoyment from each other and from their family. It is a well earned retirement and, as I have said previously of Bob Hetherington, Des Dans leaves with the respect and goodwill of all his Labor colleagues, and I believe of many others.

All in all we see the end of the service to this Parliament by a group of members who between them have invested many years of activity, a great deal of talent, very great experience and, above all, a genuine interest in doing their job well and by so doing serving the interests of the people of this State. On behalf of the members of the Government I extend to them all our best wishes in whichever direction their futures take them.

Members: Hear, hear!

HON G.E. MASTERS (West - Leader of the Opposition) [12.16 pm]: I rise from this seat for the last time as a member of Parliament. There may well be a few skirmishes this afternoon, but this will be the last speech of any length I shall make. I rise with a great deal of sadness but at the same time with some happiness, although I realise that is a contradiction. After being in Parliament for something like 15 years, obviously I feel some nostalgia on leaving a great number of friends and colleagues. I have proudly represented the West Province for 15 years, and before that I was involved in local government;

therefore, for approximately 20 years I have been in public life. I have always made it clear that I did not intend to remain in Parliament for too long, although a number of people may think that 15 years is too long to have been a member; I think it is about right. I made it clear over a period that I would retire when I still had sufficient time to enjoy my other interests, and to give more time to my wife. I could say to give more time to my family also but I am not too sure that they want more of my time; they think I pester them at the moment, so perhaps they are not relishing the thought of my retirement as much as I would hope.

It is no secret that I have strongly opposed the changes to the Electoral Act. The parliamentary system will be changed radically as far as the Legislative Council is concerned from the existing situation to the regional system. That was a democratic decision of the Parliament and, although I disagree with it, it is obviously the way this matter will proceed. The changes will greatly disadvantage the public, and Legislative Council members will no longer have easy access to the people they represent. That is a tragedy, but it was a decision of this Parliament. It is one of the reasons I brought forward my retirement. I would almost certainly have continued for a further three years - until the end of my term - but as a result of the changes made I decided to retire at this point.

In all my political life I have endeavoured to uphold the standards and traditions of this House to the very best of my ability. On a number of occasions people have come to the Legislative Council, have denigrated it and talked about abolishing it. It is quite remarkable how people change after a period; they eventually recognise the value of an upper House, become staunch defenders of the Legislative Council, and, through their contributions, retain the value of it. That is very important. I well recall, as many other members will, that when Hon Grace Vaughan became a member she was all fire and brimstone; we all liked her even though we were on the receiving end of many of her comments. At the end of the day she was a highly respected member of this House. Unfortunately, she died very early but we all considered her our friend; in my opinion Hon Grace Vaughan certainly changed for the better during her time in this Parliament. Like most members of the Legislative Council, I want the Council to be more effective and not less effective. To that end I am convinced that substantial changes need to be made to the Legislative Council. I am certain a system of Standing Committees of the Legislative Council should be set up, properly balanced and in good form so that they are acceptable to all members; they could be based on Senate type committees. Those committees would analyse the legislation and report on it to this upper House. I do not really see the necessity for the chairmen of such committees to be members of the Government, whatever party is in Government. If there is a person who is competent to carry out the duties as chairman of a committee, that person is quite acceptable to me; and if we are mature enough to accept those propositions, we will be allowing the Legislative Council to make great headway.

I know a system of committees certainly does not suit the Government of the day. When I first came to Parliament I was one of those members who pursued strongly the committee system and, in fact, was chairman of one of our party's committees committed to setting up standing committees. I then became a Minister and was not sure it was such a good idea, because when one is a Minister there is legislation to handle that one wants to get through and one does not want too many people interfering with it, if it can be helped. Therefore, I did not pursue that matter at that stage. Nevertheless, it would be to the benefit of the Legislative Council and I think the end result would be improved legislation and better debate, so it is only a matter of time and maturity. I hope that the new members coming into the Legislative Council will take on board the sorts of comments I am making and that present members who return here will pursue that objective.

I thank my colleagues and friends for their confidence in appointing me as their leader and for allowing me to hold this position for some four and a half years. It is a proud moment for any member of Parliament when his party elects him as leader; it is the highest compliment he can be paid. I took it as such and will miss their support and, in particular, their friendship. We have a dig at each other every so often, but all in all we make good friends in this place.

I will mention a member whose support I have particularly appreciated. Margaret McAleer is the Whip for my party. She is a person of immense integrity and sincerity who has carried out a very difficult task, bearing in mind that this House has been very finely balanced - with the combined weight of the National Party and the Liberal Party we have had a majority of

only one vote - so there has been a lot of hard work and pressure for the Whip. I performed that job for three years and know of the sorts of pressures placed on a Whip. I should also mention Hon Fred McKenzie, because I think in he and Hon Margaret McAleer we have two people of integrity. This House has run smoothly and with integrity largely as a result of those two people. Therefore, to Hon Margaret McAleer and Hon Fred McKenzie go my sincere thanks.

Hon Fred McKenzie: Thank you.

Hon G.E. MASTERS: I thank you, Mr President, for the way you have carried out the task of President for what has been quite a number of years. You have demonstrated to the Parliament that you have a great knowledge of Standing Orders and of the traditions, standards and requirements of the parliamentary system we all follow and support. I think you have been a great credit to that position. Who knows, Mr President, you may continue for many years, because there is no doubt at all that you are one of the most respected Presidents or members in the Chair of either House throughout Australia, in my view, and that has been well recognised over recent times. I congratulate you for the wonderful work you have done and hope you will continue in future. You have gained the respect of all those people who know you.

My best wishes go to the unprecedented number of members who are retiring from the Parliament. I start by mentioning my own colleague, Hon John Williams, who has been here longer than I have, who has been a very effective member of my party and who is one of the most experienced chairmen of Select Committees that we have had in our party. He has carried out any job I have required of him, particularly over recent months, with vigour and determination. I thank him for that.

I thank Hon Sandy Lewis, who is not here, but whose voice we will probably hear any old tick of the clock as he comes up St George's Terrace, a person who, as the Leader of the House has said, is a real character who often causes his own party as much concern as he causes Hon Joe Berinson. He has always adopted an independent line and is not averse to taking the stick to me, as well as to Hon Joe Berinson. Nevertheless, he is a character and we will certainly miss him as he is one of my very good friends.

Hon Colin Bell is not here today, but he has done an excellent job in the short time he has been here. We have all said our thanks to him, but I record my sincere thanks to him because of the work he has done on various committees, which is perhaps not fully recognised or understood and for which he should be thanked.

Hon Neil Oliver has been my colleague for 12 years and has worked closely with me. He is a tenacious character, if ever there was one, who has carried out some tasks for our party in a remarkable and very effective way. I thank him for his friendship and support over the years and wish him well in his endeavours, even if Hon Joe Berinson cannot, at the next election.

Hon Tom McNeil is a member of the National Party who I understand has visions that when he returns in another life he will come back as a permanent Select Committee chairman, but maybe that is wrong. Anyway, we will miss Tom; I will certainly miss him for the work he has done and the importance he has placed on the sporting scene. He has done a tremendous job representing the sporting interests of the State and I hope that they recognise that. Certainly, the Australian rules football association and league recognise the way he has stood up for them and fought for their rights and privileges and I congratulate him for that.

"Flying Officer" Mick Gayfer, another person who has been here longer than I have, has been a very good friend to me for a long time. Again, he is a member who is not frightened to take up the cudgel and give one a bit of stick, but by the same token he is a person one can always talk to. He has gained tremendous respect on both sides of the House and will be a great loss to this Parliament. I know that there have been times when he could have been a Minister of the Crown but he has seen his commitments to his electorate as being such that he could not do justice to that position. That was a decision he made, but the offer was always there. I think it is a loss that Mick did not accept a position as a Minister of the Crown as this State would have gained greatly from that happening. Nevertheless, I know he has had commitments in other areas which were well and truly beyond the call of duty and which will be appreciated over a long period of time.

Hon Bob Hetherington has the great respect of all members on both sides of this House. He

came into this place breathing fire and brimstone and thought he would change the whole system, but he has gradually developed into a person who carries a great deal of weight in the Legislative Council. We are all sorry that Bob's party did not see fit at one time or another to make him a Minister of the Crown, as I think he would have made an excellent Minister for Education. However, that was not to be and he has become chairman of a very powerful and important committee. It may be that he has started something there that will be remembered for a long time. I wish Bob well. I know that he is nearly a neighbour of mine, even though he is a little 'way down the hill. Maybe at some time or another I will drop in to see how he is surviving retirement, although perhaps he is a little more reluctant to undertake his retirement than I am to undertake mine.

I have known Hon Des Dans and fought off and on with him for the whole time I have been in this Parliament. At the same time, we seem to have remained very good friends. If ever there has been a person I have had a rip roaring ding dong with over a period of time, it has been Des. This has happened from the early days when I sat next to him on this side of the House in Opposition. I do not think he let up. I used to listen to his debates with Hon Graham MacKinnon back and forth across the floor of the Chamber and I was astounded at the way in which they operated. First one would get the upper hand and then the other. I guess when one is a new member and watches the performance of some of these people, one picks up a lot of tips. I do not think I have learned enough, but nevertheless I gained a great deal of enjoyment and I think I was able to make Des's life a little miserable at times when he deserved it while at other times having a drink with him, relaxing and having a good laugh. I wish Des good health and good fishing.

I also wish to thank our coalition partners in the National Party. We do not always agree on matters and have been criticised publicly for that, but that is the way we are - two separate parties who will go into coalition after the next election. I thank the members of the National Party for their help and support. We have always been able to talk to each other, and especially to Hon Eric Charlton, with whom I have been getting on very well in recent times, perhaps better than I would have expected, and I hope that will continue.

I would like to say a few words in respect of Hon Joe Berinson's comments. Mr Berinson has led his party with great dignity and integrity. He is a person whom I greatly respect, but that does not mean I have not done my very best to upset him as often as I can. That has not been easy at all; it has taken up a great deal of my time to upset him and get him off balance. I was thrilled to bits recently - we could perhaps call it my swan song - to see him, in his own words, "chuck a wobbly", which occurred only last week. The best effort I have made was when he started shouting, and I thought I had at last succeeded after three or four years' of trying. Despite that, I thank him for his courtesy and his ready availability when it has been necessary for us to talk together. We do not agree on many things, but I respect him for what he stands for and for the way he carries out his task.

I want to put on record my sincere thanks to the people of the West Province, whom I have represented for 15 years, and who have made it possible for me to stay in this place. It is unfortunate that the West Province will not be in existence after the next election; that is a tragedy as far as I am concerned. It has been good to be able to represent an area that I have lived in for something like 25 years and where I know many of the people, organisations, schools, the P & C associations, the teachers, and the people in local government. The great strength of our previous system was that we could talk to such people and feel that we were part of them. I have been very proud to represent the people in the West Province, and I give them my sincere thanks for their support and help, especially at election times.

Two people who have been very important to me - as I guess they have been to other members of Parliament - are my two secretaries. Margaret Gray and Ellen Shannon are probably two of the best secretaries that a member could wish to have. They have operated in the parliamentary scene for some 15 years, so in many ways they are as equally experienced as are members of Parliament, and we rely on them a great deal. They have done a wonderful job, and I give them my sincere thanks. I also want to thank the staff - limited though it is - who back up the Opposition, and particularly my research officer, the irrepressible Peter Wells, who was formerly a member of this House. He, along with the rest of my staff, keeps me fully informed. I must say that when I want some information, I give him only 10 or 15 minutes' notice, because if I were to give him two or three hours' notice, I would get a wheelbarrow full of information, and more than I could cope with. Members

opposite will recall that Peter used to have a large pile of *Hansard* reports in front of him when he was in the House. I express my thanks to him for all the work he has done and I am sure will continue to do.

I want to thank the staff of the Legislative Council, many of whom have been here for a long time, and who have in many cases been friends to the members. I regard Laurie Marquet as one of the best Clerks of the Parliament in Australia today. His work is superb, and his advice is fair to all sides. The Legislative Council in particular has benefited greatly from the work he has done over the period he has been here. I thank also Ian Allnutt, the Deputy Clerk. He was running around the floor as a young man - he is still a young man so far as I am concerned - when he first came to this House, and we have observed his dedication and the help he has given to members. I am sure other members were thrilled to bits - as was I - to see him get the Deputy Clerk's position, and I know he will fulfil that task very well. Mr Doug Carpenter, the Usher of the Black Rod, is a new officer, and I think he will do that job particularly well. I have been impressed with the work he has done. I also thank Richard Harloe, Malcolm Peacock, Chris Hunt and Owen Jones, who have done a tremendous job as they rush around and help us in all sorts of ways, such as bringing us glasses of water, reports, and all the material that members of Parliament need during debates. I have particularly left till last Phillip Ugle, because I believe we all feel something special about him. He has been a real personality and a good friend to me. I often see him sitting outside, trying to get a suntan, and I tell him he is wasting his time; but he always gives a big grin, and talks about cricket and other matters. I thank him for his help and for the way he has looked after me. I believe we have developed quite a friendship over a period of time. Mr Goff Harloe, Richard Harloe's son, has been here on a temporary basis. We have all appreciated his work, and I hope that Richard will pass on to him our thanks. I do not know whether he is here.

I also want to thank the dining room staff and the parliamentary staff generally. They have done a great job, and I am sure they will continue to do so. It is not easy to work under pressure and for the long hours required, but they have done an excellent job. I want to mention particularly the *Hansard* staff. I do not know how they stand the strain at times because we work very long hours and we put unreasonable pressure on them. However, they manage to stand up to the strain, and we should give them a vote of thanks.

Last, but not least, I want to thank my wife. Members of Parliament have a difficult life, and our respective wives and husbands are put under enormous pressure. I have been married for 37 years, and my wife has put up with me during that time. She will be glad to see me retire. Members of Parliament enjoy their jobs, but the people who really make the sacrifices are our wives and husbands. I thank my wife, my two sons and my daughters in law for the support they have given me. I have enjoyed every minute of my 20 years in public life and 15 years in Parliament, and I intend to enjoy my retirement in the same way. I thank members sincerely.

Members: Hear, hear!

Sitting suspended from 12.38 to 2.30 pm

HON H.W. GAYFER (Central) [2.31 pm]: I suppose one could quote -

"The time has come," the Walrus said,
"To talk of many things . . ."

That is what has happened. After 27 years in this place - 12 in the Assembly and 15 in the upper House - I am leaving. I am virtually being sacked from Parliament. I had no intention of leaving, but Parliament saw otherwise. I viewed the electoral Bill as indifferently as Hon G.E. Masters, who spoke previously; however, the same consequences have come to both of us. I had three years left to serve, which I would willingly have served. I had a contract with the people and the Government to serve that three years but regrettably that contract was broken. Whether I think it was broken rightly or wrongly does not matter; it was broken. Be that as it may, during the last 27 years - they have been extremely happy years as far as I am concerned - I worked with and served under six Premiers: Premier Brand, Premier Tonkin, Premier Court, Premier O'Connor, Premier Burke and Premier Dowding. I am proud that on more than one occasion I went to the polls without any opposition at all from either the Liberal Party or the Labor Party. As a matter of fact I cannot think how many times that

happened but it happened and it is something of which I am very proud and will treasure. That is, that in the Assembly as well as in this place I received no opposition from either party.

I loved my electorate work. I thought it was really great. When I first started in politics I had six shires but now Hon E.J. Charlton and I have 28 shires in our electorate. I used to pride myself, and tell the young chaps who were coming in to Parliament that if one wanted to get re-elected one had to really farm one's electorate, and get in there and work it. One had to work it as though one were ploughing and cultivating a paddock; one had to keep one's lines straight. Everything had to be right and one could not afford to make one mistake. On the other hand, if one liked doing it, the end result would and did show. I used to claim that at one stage I knew everyone in my electorate. My electorate was not like a city electorate; it was fairly widely flung. The Avon Valley was Liberal when I won it, and I respect and love the Avon Valley. I have the respect of people from the Avon Valley too. I am not saying that boastfully, but I know they are great people who have stuck by me. I found out later on that getting to know everyone in one's electorate became just about impossible when one had to cover 28 shires. It did become impossible. I am worried about how the members of the upper House will not only know their electors, but be known by them. When I look at the electorate Hon Eric Charlton and Hon John Caldwell wish to represent - and most certainly will represent - I worry for them because in my opinion they will be taken away from the people. That is what I did not like about the electoral Bill. They will become aloof, much as our senators are now. How often does one see one's senators around the place? One never sees them. That is what will happen, particularly in the upper House. Hon Jim Brown, Hon E.J. Charlton and others will find it difficult to keep that personal contact which I believe is absolutely paramount in State politics, rather than Federal politics.

I do not want to argue about this but I have a firm belief that it cannot be done properly. Certainly I think trying to keep up with the aids and everything else necessary to enable members to do so will be a great expense to the State. I have tried to be impartial in this place, Mr President, as long as you agreed with me and as long as you believed that the country was supreme to the city. I have always been impartial.

Hon Kay Hallahan: And men were superior to women.

Hon H.W. GAYFER: The Minister knows what I have often said: There are two places for women - the kitchen or the bedroom. The Minister can take her pick.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Would you like to clarify that?

Hon H.W. GAYFER: It is with great sadness that I leave this place, with its lofty ceilings and hallowed halls. I came here as a young man. I do not claim to be old now - take note, Minister - not too old, at any rate. When I walk these corridors I pause and hear the remarks of the greats of yesteryear. Members here are the greats of today. I do not draw any distinction but I distinctly remember the times I walked down these corridors and really believed in the system. I have a feeling for this place which I know is shared by my friend, Hon Robert Hetherington. While we might appear at times to roar at each other across the Chamber on numerous subjects, in one we have commonality. Hon Robert Hetherington would agree with me on that. I well remember the happy days. I recall Bert Hawke, who would say, "We even tame lions in this place." He was right; one does get tamed in this place. It does not mean that one gets tamed beyond doing anything in which one believes but, instead of having a chip on one's shoulder, one finds that there are many ways of doing things.

I warn members sitting on the Government side and, perhaps, those on the Opposition side, that they will find when they change sides everything is totally different. When I was in Government for a while, it was beautiful and I got things done without any trouble at all; but when I was in Opposition I could not even get a toilet built in Avon. When one first gets into Opposition it is good for one, but, by God, after 12 months one cannot wait to get into Government again. That is how I found it.

I well remember the characters with whom I have worked. The only man senior to me in this place - he has not really been in continuous service as long, but he is senior in years of service - is Billy Grayden. He is an infectious and loveable character. I remember Herbie Graham, Arthur Bickerton and Tom Hartrey. What a fabulous character Tom Hartrey was. I

remember him, Mr President, in another place making his maiden speech and saying that yes, he was the President of the United Australia Party in Bayswater, and proud to be, but that he had to join the Labor Party if he wanted to be a member of this place and represent the people of Boulder. Those are the priceless statements which one remembers and which go down in history. There are other priceless remarks that I have heard in this Parliament, which I think of and remember. The late George Cornell once said that if all the cocks in the metropolitan area were caponised, thereby being bereft of all desire, they would have nothing left to crow about. I can remember the exact words. They were happy days.

I have seen the frustration of one termers. They come into this place full of hell fire and, within no time at all, are frustrated. I can remember one member of my party who, after three years, could not wait to get out of the place. I can remember also one Liberal Party member of Parliament who used to be a newspaper reporter, who actually talked himself out of his seat. I can also remember a Labor man who did exactly the same thing. The frustration of the machine - this system that we are in - got to them. I used to say to them that if they could weather the first three years and get re-elected for a second term, at the end of the second term they would be right and on their way. It is like a university: One needs six years to get to know the place and what it means.

In spite of what my friend and colleague, Tommy McNeil, would say, I have served on quite a lot of committees in this place. I have served on the Hansard committee - the Printing Committee - and the House Committee. There were several more. I started off with Hon Bob Hetherington on the Delegated Legislation Standing Committee. The one I most enjoyed serving on was the CPA, on which I served for 25 out of 27 years, which is not a bad record. I remember one very important committee that I was selected to serve on, with Hon Des Dans and Hon Des O'Neil, to choose a wine which was fit to drink at the tables of Parliament House.

Hon D.K. Dans: I don't remember that.

Hon H.W. GAYFER: We did. We spent three weeks on the committee and eventually settled on the first wine that we had tasted three weeks before. To be perfectly honest it was, I think, the only one we could remember. It was a great committee to serve on, and Hon Des Dans will remember -

Hon D.K. Dans: I don't think I can remember some of that.

Hon H.W. GAYFER: - going out every Wednesday. I will not tell anybody what Rikki said on a couple of occasions. I was lucky, I was down here on my own.

One has memories of one's greatest achievements here. When one looks back, apart from material things like schools, hospitals, etc one often wonders whether one has accomplished much. One of the strangest things I remember was working with Premier Tonkin, when I was on the other side of the Chamber in the Assembly, and I was the Whip of the Country Party. We hurled abuse at each other, especially with Herbie Graham who always got up on a Thursday night. If one got up before eight o'clock on a Thursday night one provided enough stuff for the reporters to print over the weekend. He was brilliant at that. He always used to speak at half past seven on a Thursday night, and used to give us the gun. Of course, by interjection, we used to give him it back.

I remember, after all this, going into the Premier's office and working with John Tonkin in trying to see how we could borrow \$30 million overseas, in Deutschmarks, in order to build the Kwinana silos and export terminal, which is there now and of which we are all very proud. I remember how the R & I Bank was established in London because of that move, and how Western Australia became known by the nine biggest banks in the world. I remember how it was the biggest loan ever to come into Australia, the previous biggest loan being \$28 million borrowed by Sneddon in yen, back in the late 1960s. That involved a great deal of cooperation and was rather exciting. It was all hush hush, but these are the sorts of things which Governments have to do to make way.

My greatest disappointment was the fact that the 1946 comprehensive water scheme, phase 3, was disallowed by the Federal Government in 1969 after the proposition had been put forward by the Government of the day. The Federal Government, in 1969, said there was a downturn in agriculture, no future for that industry and, therefore, money would not be needed for water. That was the finish of the famous 1946 comprehensive water scheme because, once the ball stopped, we were never to get it rolling again.

The other thing I was disappointed about in respect of water is the years and years that I spoke of piping water down from the Ord River, or damming the Fitzroy River, and finally bringing it in in parallel lines, and at one stage mixing it in with the gas pipe. It would have cost \$2 500 million then but, in my opinion, that would have been well spent. This is going back 10 or 15 years and a lot of members will remember that I used to plug that, and plug it hard.

It is my greatest regret, and I want the younger members to remember this, that when opportunity came my way in this place I gave it away. I do not suppose I had any other course to adopt. I well remember being a certainty for the Deputy Leader under Crawford Nalder, at about 38 years of age. I feel now that possibly I should have availed myself of that opportunity. As Gordon Masters said, I had three opportunities to be a Minister; the cock only crows thrice, as the Bible says, and it did for me but I had refused each time.

The greatest charge I can give members is the care of Western Australia. In my time here I have gradually seen State rights whittled away and I do not believe our Federal politicians have entirely helped that situation. Even blind Freddy would know that other States are not interested in Western Australia. We should fight to go our own way to a greater extent than we are fighting at the moment. When Western Australia pulled out of the Grants Commission, I thought we had gone a long way to achieving a greater tenure on our State's rights. I remember Sir Keith Watson in this place saying years ago - Hon David Wordsworth would remember - that when we gave away our taxing powers in the 1940s we would never get them back and we have not. We should get them back. There is no reason at all why this Government should not have control over its taxation. This is the State Parliament of Western Australia, a body controlling what happens in one third of Australia, and the State should be run from here. We should not have to go cap in hand to our Federal colleagues to ask them to support us on issues involving Western Australia. If the trend continues, there will be no need for this place; Western Australia will be truly governed from Canberra, by people who have lived there for two and three generations and who have no conception of what is happening 4 000 kilometres away.

Whichever party is in power should listen to the people. I remember one famous politician who did not listen to the people and tried to pull down the Barracks Arch. He was a most popular politician. However, nine of his coalition colleagues, one of whom was me, voted against him and I was very sorry to do it. We all received letters; I framed mine. However, he was doing the wrong thing. Legislation was passed recently by this place which I believe was not the will of the people. Mr Pendal, Mr Charlton and others who will be returned to this place should keep their fingers on the pulse because the day will come when their electors will remind them that they are the bosses.

I advise all members - I wish Sandy Lewis were here - to keep their fingers out of the wheat industry. The industry has survived successfully for 40 years and is happy with its progress today. Politicians set up the industry following the requests from the industry. Politicians of today should make sure that they do not tear it down in spite of the industry. I will be working down the road and watching each and every member of this place.

As usual in this place, the Press is noticeable by its absence. I do not care; I have not chased members of the Press once in 27 years because I do not believe I should have to run after them. However, journalists should write about the important things that pass through this place and listen carefully to the debate. The media sends kids to report this Chamber and all those rookies can report is sensationalism. Important speeches on legislation debated by this House are ignored, no matter which side of the House introduces it. The Press should remember that all of what is debated in this House means something to somebody. Yet, it turns a blind eye to those debates. It was interesting to read in last Saturday's *The West Australian* a half page article on how a politician hurled invective around the Chamber. That is not right. Journalists should look at the names carved in the bench in front of them, names which include Don Smith and Bon Uren. They should take a leaf out of their book, report the facts about legislation and other matters that pass through this place and everybody would be much better off. Politicians need the media to report impartially debates in this place. I will receive a decent sort of write-up after these comments.

Hon D.K. Dans: You will probably get one line.

Hon H.W. GAYFER: I do not care.

I wish to thank my wife and family. My wife, Mais, has worn out five motor cars in 27 years of running around and helping me. My colleagues know that she is a great girl. My family also has stood by me, especially my son, Harry. When I came to this place my children were fairly young and I had to send them all to boarding school because I knew that there was no way that we could be at home together and it was the only thing to do. I am aware now that two of them went away a little early in their lives.

City members do not understand the plight of country members. In 27 years in this place I have averaged four nights a week batching in the city. Our home lives suffer or perhaps improve because we are home only three nights a week. I went for 18 years without a holiday and still spent four nights of every week in the city. My office has always been here because I believe that that is where it should be, but that is another story. City members should sympathise with country members.

I have a great deal of respect for all my colleagues, both within my party and without it. I have never had an argument in this place. I have many friends. Hon Sandy Lewis and I abuse each other a little, but we are still great mates. That is the way of this place. I advise members to make their points, but for heaven's sake to keep their cool. All members of this place are fine people. I have made many good friends and I will forget no-one.

Hon Tommy McNeil should stop telling yarns and bringing this place down around our ears. Often when I am trying to make a speech he passes me a note with a funny crack on it which completely distracts me. Obviously, Hon Eric Charlton is to be my successor. Interestingly, another leader was not elected after I resigned and I believe I am still the leader. Hon Phillip Pandal once said to me, "Why are you sitting at the back; you can never lead your troops from the rear." I quite agree, but I had no intention of moving to a front seat. I have sat here for quite a long time and I do not intend to vacate my seat. I wish all my colleagues well.

I put the staff at Parliament House first because my office has been here all those years and I see these people most of the time. These are the people who look after my mail, run around and really help members when they are down looking after electorate matters. I thank all of them, although I will not go through them individually. I thank also the executive officers, Laurie Marquet and Ian Allnutt, and others who have been before them. They have all been a great help.

I would like to say a couple of things in passing about a few of my colleagues whom I well remember and who are no longer with us. I know what eventually killed them. What happened to Tommy Hart can happen to members here if they take things too seriously. Hon Des Dans and you, Mr President, would know what happened to him. People have to be able to turn off. They have to be able to stop somewhere along the line. A member can give everything he has, but if he takes my advice he will not. I am fit, but I always knew when to turn off and not let things worry me. Of course, if members tell the truth all the time and believe in what they are saying they will have no worries. As long as they can go to sleep without using a powder to send them to sleep they will be doing all right. Once they start smoking their heads off, drinking, worrying or walking around in a circle like a couple of people did, they are gone. I think a lot of Tommy Hart, Jack Heitman and, above all, my very close friend, Kenny McIver who pushed himself to the limit and finally, when he was not in office, paid the price of a lot of work in the Parliament.

Finally I say thank you to my faithful Meg, secretary of 15 years, who is shortly to hang up her boots. Electorate secretaries would be the only ones to work diligently for such a long time without being recompensed by today's standards. I can but wish Meg and her husband, Brian, and the bairn she carries all the best. Thanks a lot, Meg. I could not have done what I have done without you.

Finally, Mr President, you have been a good friend and you and I know the extent of that. I wish you and all the people who return with you next time good luck. It has been very nice to know you. I will just finish with a quote that shows the feeling that I have about my life. It states -

For good undone and deeds misspent and resolutions vain,
'tis somewhat late to tarry. This I know:
I'd live the same life over if I had to live again,
and chances are I'd go where most men go.

HON D.K. DANS (South Metropolitan) [3.04 pm]: Unlike the previous two speakers, I have been looking for this day for some time. I feel no tinge of remorse or nostalgia because during the course of my lifetime I have been engaged in a number of different areas and I have learned not to look back. I have enjoyed my time in Parliament. I have loved every moment of it. If I have one regret it is that I did not leave a little earlier. I remind my good friend, Hon Mick Gayfer, that we used to turn off as we walked out of here and somehow turn on again until about four o'clock in the morning and solve all the problems of the world without any assistance from the Chair. My long suffering wife in those days was not all that enamoured of Parliament.

On a more serious note, I thank the Labor movement, both the industrial and political wings of the Labor Party, for giving me the opportunity to have a very satisfying career. As I said earlier, I have enjoyed every moment in the Parliament and within the trade union movement.

I also pay my respects and give thanks to all the people in the South Metropolitan Province who returned me to the Parliament on the occasions when I went to the people. That brings me to a question that has been asked of me quite a lot since I stepped down from the leadership; that is, why I did not retire from Parliament at that time. The moment of stepping down was decided by myself and the then Premier in 1984 in a conversation we had in San Francisco. There were some adjustments to that. But the reason I did not leave the Parliament, although it would have been very easy for me to have done so, was that I believed that my contract was not with the Labor Party but with the people who elected me and I was duty bound to finish that term. I do not criticise anyone who has a view different from that. I have no criticism of anyone else who has stood down and subsequently retired making it necessary for a by-election to be held. I am expressing only a personal opinion. It has made me feel better, but I must admit that on some days when I have been snoozing away here I have often wondered why I made that conscious decision. However, it has made me feel better and I am glad that I am here today.

I would like to thank a lot of people, too numerous to mention. I will have spent 18 years in Parliament by the time I am finally taken off the payroll, I think, on 21 May; Hon Gordon Masters would know that. In that time I have found nothing but goodwill and assistance in the Parliament. I hope I have made no bad friends of members present or past. I have never tried to. I have been a bit vocal in the Chamber, but I have always tried not to carry that outside the Chamber. I have not met anyone in the Parliament, no matter what his political view, who has not tried to do his best for the people he represents. Some of us may have different views on how people work, but I do not think I have ever come across anyone who came in here only for the buggy ride. I really mean that. I thank all the staff and members with whom I have been associated, from the gardeners to the staff of the Government Garage.

I have been asked what has been the greatest achievement I have made in the Parliament. I facetiously said that I had a hallmark decision go my way on the House Committee when, after a lot of petitioning, we allowed the evening meal to commence at 6 o'clock instead of half past six. I do not think you were chairman at that time, Mr President. If I had more time I could tell members the saga of the first griller that we had moved up into the servery. It took us 18 months to instal it, and after it was installed we found that it was an electric griller and all we had in the servery was a gas supply. The wheels of Government move very slowly.

I go along with Hon Mick Gayfer, only in a different way; this place is a great leveller. Let me say this: I do not agree with the upper House being here. I firmly and honestly believe that we could quite easily do without it. Nothing that has happened here has caused me to change my opinion, but that is a decision that the people will eventually make one way or the other. For the record, I also say that I am not all that enthused about the proportional representation that we will now have. I say that with all due respect to the third party here, because under a PR system there will be a sprinkling of all kinds of people here. I am dedicated to the two party system. Let me go on record as echoing the words of the late Joe Chamberlain - "If I did not vote for the Labor Party I would vote for the Liberal Party, because I would only vote for a party that has a chance of forming a Government." This is my personal opinion. I do not expect my friends from the National Party to greet that statement with open arms, but that is the way I think about it.

As I said earlier, it has been fairly difficult for me to complete my term. It was not difficult to sit in this seat, but I have had a great deal of difficulty with a very old leg injury that has progressively got worse; it seems a little better today because I am where I am. In other words, I do not have to come up here again. That does not mean to say that I will not remember all the very fine people I have met in this place. Like Hon Mick Gayfer, I too have not chased the Press, but I am not as voracious as him in my criticism of the Press.

One of these days, and it is not too far down the track, the people in this country, and in other western democracies, will start looking for real leaders and not television performers, and that is well on the way. If members remember some of the great leaders of yesteryear, can they imagine them in a leadership position in this or another Parliament?

Hon P.G. Pental: John Curtin is a good example.

Hon D.K. DANS: A very good example.

Hon H.W. Gayfer: Billy Hughes.

Hon D.K. DANS: Hon Mick Gayfer is going a little far back for me; I did not think he was that old. The fact is that those people would not have stood a snowball's chance in hell and there is great need for leadership at present. I congratulate the members who are voluntarily retiring. I do not know how many will retire and do not know about it. I will not hand out any bouquets one way or the other. At least my old mates Hon Sandy Lewis and Hon Mick Gayfer know they are going, but perhaps there are some members who do not know they are going. I will look with great interest at how this PR system works, because it might produce some amazing results - believe me!

Having said those things, where does that leave me at present? I have come a complete circle. I came from the waterfront, a very exciting and stimulating place where I served my apprenticeship - and I really mean exciting and stimulating. I do not think that it is anywhere near as exciting and stimulating now as it was in my day when there were coal burning ships and it was not a matter of how many man hours were lost each year but each day. I can assure members that there were disputes every five seconds, and Hon Mick Gayfer would know that. I became expert on coal, burning it in a bucket on the jetty to see what was the ash content. For all those things it was an experience of life.

All great people, such as great union leaders and shipping managers, were people who were down on the ground and knew what it was all about. I am now chairing a task force on the waterfront, so one might say that I have ended up where I started out. The only difference is that the task force is making some progress and things are happening that I never thought possible 20 years ago. I now see these people around a table calling one another by their first names, having a drink together and genuinely trying to fix things on the much plagued Australian waterfront. I do not know whether we will ever get to a point where there are no problems. I think that is a bit of a pipe dream.

However, I am not here to speak about unions or me, but there is one other position in this Parliament that I will say a few words about; that is, the role of the Leader of the Opposition in this Chamber. I was Leader of the Opposition - and people tend to forget this - for the best part of nine years and it was the most difficult role I have had to play in this Chamber, made much more difficult for an Opposition which did not have the numbers, but not much different even if one has the numbers.

The Labor Party played a great part in improving the lot of the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council. In the first instance, Hon Ron Thompson got Hon Arthur Griffiths a motor car. We then got a secretary. I then got another office for the secretary to sit in. Then we got a research officer and another typist. We got all those things with the assistance of the President, who fully supported all of those actions in order that the Opposition could perform its duties in this place correctly. I tried hard to get a better remuneration for the Leader of the Opposition. I think we have had some success there. Since this Government came to power the Leader of the Opposition not only has a motor car but also the use of a driver. In my days as Leader of the Opposition I could go anywhere in the State but was not allowed to have a tape player in the car or to fly anywhere, so a trip that normally would have taken less than a day by plane and would have cost about \$200 extended to about \$800 by the time I drove up north and returned. I had to take a lot of money with me because in those days people would not take cheques and credit cards. I could never see the sense in that.

Hon G.E. Masters: That still applies.

Hon D.K. DANC: Does it? We should be doing something about that. The Leader of the Opposition could fly up north occasionally.

Hon G.E. Masters: If I want to go to Onslow I must get in the car and drive there, or pay my air fare myself.

Hon D.K. DANC: We should be looking at that. I am glad the Leader of the Opposition raised this matter because one of the roles of a member of Parliament is to be accessible, and under the new system of PR it is more important.

Before I sit down I feel I should mention the problems experienced by members of Parliament, both State and Federal, in respect of wages and conditions, which are largely of their own making. If one researches the minutes of our Caucus meetings, one would find that on no occasion did I ever vote for a delay in a legitimate wage rise. Leaders of both parties and other people who have done that, with the idea in their minds of somehow conning the electorate, were crazy because the situation now exists where, given comparative wage justice, members of Parliament will never be able to catch up.

My next point relates to the constant carping criticism - and we did enough of this, so I am not making a political speech today - of travel by members of Parliament. The most arduous time of my life was when I was in the Ministry, and it was because of the constant travelling around the place, particularly being a Western Australian member; it just about wore me down to the ground. There is a necessity for members of Parliament to travel internally in this country and to travel externally into Asia. In saying that I do not mean going away on joy rides. Hon Mick Gayfer would remember when I put it to Sir Charles Court that rather than going down the trail of single CPA trips we should be sending all party delegations into Asia to learn something about the background of these people, because we will have to live with them and we are part of Asia. We should be looking for trade opportunities for Western Australia.

We make the running for the Press. I am not criticising the Press as we point score from one another while, at the same time, we wear down not only the conditions of members of Parliament but also their standing in the community.

Mr President, I hope this is the last speech that I will make in this place. I do not know what is in store for us but I can say that I have enjoyed my time in the Parliament, although I am certainly not sorry to be going. I have enjoyed the company of a lot of fine men, both members and staff.

HON A.A. LEWIS (Lower Central) [3.20 pm]: Mr President, I have a little remorse at leaving this place, but boy have I had a ball since I have been here! The fun we can get out of Parliament if we do not take it too seriously is enormous. I saw an article at the weekend talking about members taking themselves too seriously. We all tend to take politics too seriously. Life is serious in parts, and happy in parts. The enjoyment of life and the enjoyment of employment is surely part of what we should all be about. I have treated Parliament in that way, and I look forward to going out into the real world my electors talk about. They tell me that we parliamentarians never live in the real world. After 17 or 18 odd years here, to go out into the real world and make a buck again is a challenge; just as much a challenge to me as when I came into the Parliament.

Listening to Hon Des Dans and Hon G.E. Masters, I wondered if I was to be the next one. I am meant to be representing people at a salaries tribunal meeting tomorrow morning. It seems I have been given the message in no uncertain manner.

I was elected to the other place in the days of the trips up north. Some members may remember a former Premier blowing his whistle to herd people. Members may remember a former member with a slice of polony one late night, and another with a cut eye. There was also the mobot trophy. Hon Des Dans and I won the mobot trophy, and so did you, Mr President, and I do not know how many others. For members who were not here then, the mobot trophy was awarded to the most objectionable bastard on tour. It was not always given to the right people. I did not hit anybody on my trip. I was worried about getting it at the time, but it was probably thought I was big enough to take it.

When one spends half one's working life in a place, one gets used to it. I would like to join

other members in thanking the Clerks, Joss Bartlett in the other place, John Roberts, Les Hoft, Laurie Marquet, and my friend Ian Allnutt. I do not know whether he thought it good luck to be Secretary of the National Park Select Committee and travel with such famous people as Ron Leeson, Winifred Piesse and Tom Knight. I guess I could tell stories for hours about some of those trips but I will not.

Turning to the attendants, we can remember Jim Green, Alan Harding, John Reid, Phillip Ugle and all the people who have been here, and who have been so good to us, as Hon Mick Gayfer said.

The five or six years I spent as Secretary of the Joint House Committee have brought me closer to the staff than the normal member would experience. The kitchen and dining room staff and Hansard have been extremely loyal to me; probably at times a little too loyal. When one reads one's speeches in *Hansard* one wonders whether they were phrased as well as Hansard has written them, or whether one would have remembered to call a cab to take one home after a late night sitting. We wonder whether we have ever thanked people enough for the services they have given.

With the nostalgia in the air I suppose I should talk about electorate offices. I had the first electorate office in the Assembly and the first in the Council. I have been unfortunate in some ways and fortunate in others. My first secretary was Elspeth Inglis, whom members will remember. Mr Lockyer would be embarrassed when we came up here because she used to pick me up in an MG. I doubt whether I could now get into an MG. Then there was Janet Purse and my present secretary, Moya Reid, who started working for me when she was 16. She is now a grandmother, a good looking bird for a grandmother. She has been working for me in my business and in my electorate office for some 25 years. That is good labour relations. As Hon Mick Gayfer said about his secretary, Meg, they are the people who really help us to do our job properly, look after our electors when we go around, and they deserve a great deal of credit for the job they do.

In some ways I had something to do with getting electorate offices, but I will not claim that distinction. The sorts of things I will claim are these: When I came to this place members of Parliament had no insurance while they were travelling. I approached Sir Charles Court, who was horrified that our lives at that stage were valued at \$5 000 and the Premier's at \$10 000. The insurance rapidly went up to \$100 000 for the Premier. Members went up to about \$80 000 and Ministers to something like \$90 000. I think the amount is now well above that. The city is probably more dangerous than the country, but any member getting killed on the way to work in those days would not have been covered by any insurance, although every other worker was. I think Hon David Wordsworth made a speech in the House about it.

To follow on from Hon Mick Gayfer and Hon Des Dans and talk about the imprest system, it has a history which, even under parliamentary privilege, I will not talk about, because Hon Colin Jamieson and I had that matter under consideration. At that stage I was party secretary of the Liberal Party. Many honourable people have held that position, including you, Mr President, Hon John Williams and myself. I was secretary at the time the pen slipped somewhat when the amount for the original imprest was put in front of the then Premier and it was agreed to. It is great to think that pens can occasionally slip.

Since I have been here I have noticed that interjections have deteriorated to a high school chant rather than being true interjections. Saying "Boring, boring, boring," is more for a rock concert than Parliament House. The sorts of interjections which really set up a member and contribute to the debate are those Hon Mick Gayfer mentioned in relation to the late Ken McIver. In my early days I had a horrible habit of thumping the head rest in front of me and Crawford Nalder and Bill Young were going from side to side during a debate, I think, on the Transport Workers Union. Across the isle came a comment from Ken McIver, "Christ! He sounds like my missus trying to get me to mow the lawn on Saturdays!" It broke me up completely. Those sorts of interjections are humorous and add to the debate, but the repetitive nonsense we tend to go on with these days does not help debate or the standards of the House. Like Hon D.K. Dans I worry about those who will stay behind under this proportional representation system. I think they will become very much like Senators and instead of having their own electorates and a feeling for those electorates they will become too remote. I guess the northern members probably have a better chance than anybody else

of keeping a feeling for the electorate, but one wonders whether the members of the South West, Agricultural or Metropolitan Regions will have that feeling.

I thank the electors of Blackwood and Lower Central. I have probably been one of the luckiest members of Parliament. I came into this place and within 18 months I had experienced two elections; I got my pension, and it is pretty good to have virtually seven years under one's belt in 18 months. I have had the privilege of working with people like Sir David Brand, Sir Charles Court, Ray O'Connor, Brian Burke and Peter Dowding. However, there have been other people and I guess, Sir, you would think it funny if the first two people I mentioned are members of the Labor Party.

One member I left today about 1.15 pm in Collie running the Collie pensioners' party. That is Tom Jones. I have had a relationship with him, both as an upper House member and a lower House member, which I think has been unrivalled in the history of Parliament. In the total time we have represented the same area, we have had one slight tiff. That was over an art gallery for which I was sent notification and Tom was not; Tom had done a lot of work on it. However, the courtesies that Tom has shown to me when I went to Collie as the member were great. I remember Hon Peter Wells saying, "Why do you ever go to Collie when Tom Jones apologises for you? He makes a 10 minute speech about how you are trying to get there but cannot." Every member who knows Tom Jones would know what sort of speech he would make apologising for one.

The other member, and members have all heard me refer to him occasionally in this place, is Hon Fred McKenzie.

Hon Doug Wenn: He is honest.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: He is honest and he loves railways. We got together before either of us entered Parliament, fighting a battle in Bridgetown. Either of us could claim victory because the sheds were moved and the men were looked after, as was Bridgetown.

Of my own colleagues I guess I could say a lot. I will not because I have got on extremely well with them all. However, I will mention Hon Bill Stretch. Members who have known Bill since he has been a member will know that his adaption to Parliament from farming life has been near miraculous, as is his grasp - and I guess we both had the same coach in Hon Graham MacKinnon - of debating Bills, his method of debating, his persistence and his delivery. I could not picture him as the same person who was a candidate six years ago. He has shown a development that very few members in this place or the other do. I am tickled pink about that because I know the area I represent will continue to be represented extremely well.

I must thank the Liberal Party for all it has done for me. People might think that is a bit funny, knowing the circumstances of my deselection - as I think the Deputy Premier quaintly puts it - but the Liberal Party believes in a system. I believe in that system and if one does not measure up to that system, one goes. I believe that every other party does it. They all have their own system - some, for example, have age limits, so people have to go. I do not know whether Hon Robert Hetherington will lead the grey power Senate team or upper House team but those sorts of things happen to us. When one wants to become a member of Parliament one knows that one has firstly to win preselection and secondly the favour of the people. The Liberal Party has been pretty good to me. So long ago that I can hardly remember it, I was a vice president, divisional president and secretary of about three Liberal Party branches, and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Somebody asked me the other day, "Why did you join the Liberal Party?"; and I said, "Because I wanted a phone." They said, "What?" and I said, "Because I wanted a phone." There were 50 of us who did not have a phone in an area south of Kojonup. I hounded Sir Gordon Freeth, as he is now, and I followed him around to so many Liberal Party meetings it did not matter. I went to every meeting within a radius of about 50 miles, asking "What about a phone for Ryan's Brook?" Sir Gordon Freeth got so sick of it he said, "What are you going to do about it?" I said, "We will cut the poles, dig the holes, clear the lines and if you give us a Postmaster General's Department technician or foreman, we will build the whole damned thing except the exchange." He got so frustrated that one night he said, "All right, I accept the deal." That telephone line still exists; as far as I know it is one of the few exchanges that is still maintained by the PMG, now Telecom, which was privately built. We built it for one third of the cost of the quote, but that is another matter. That is how I got in to the Liberal Party. I went to so many of those

Liberal Party meetings that I finished up as a secretary of one of them, so I joined the Liberal Party.

To my electors, I say thank you. I do not think I will quote Hon Graham MacKinnon's comments about Darkan. I have not always been the most perfect member but I believe the electorate overlooks a lot if one works. If one works for the electorate, one's electors understand if one cannot get to functions. I am horrified at the time it now takes some people - with the beauty of electorate offices and secretaries - to get replies to their electors. There is no excuse when some acknowledgment to an elector cannot be made within 24 hours. Of course, this runs on to the replies from Ministers, which are not too hot either. I am not having a crack at Ministers of this Government but at Ministers of all Governments. I believe that it should be a priority to have more Ministers put on more parliamentary officers to answer members' questions, to get the answers straight back to them and to answer mail from them. I do not believe it has been for a number of Ministers, although some are outstanding in the way they get back to one.

The final thing I would like to say is, as a country member - and it will only affect me for another five or six months - I deplore the lack of courtesy on the part of Ministers in not notifying members when they are going into their electorates. If we are to have a policy that they do not, or if we are to have a policy of Ministers telling members in Perth that they will be in Walpole half an hour later, let us be completely honest and let the Premier and the Ministry say that we will not have notification of members. It is a farce to let a member know that a Minister will be visiting his electorate when it is known perfectly well that he cannot get to a particular function. Such action does not destroy the local member, it destroys the public's confidence in the Minister. I have a list of complaints about this which is so long, Sir, that I will not mention how many there are on it. It is a pity. When Governments change - whenever that may be - country members of the ALP will be saying exactly the same thing. One of the reasons why I mentioned Tom Jones was the embarrassment caused to him when he had not been told and I had to ring him up and tell him the Minister was going to his electorate, because I found it out on the grapevine. It is pretty tough on all people.

Sir, could I say to all members that I have enjoyed being with them. I have enjoyed the camaraderie of this and the other place. I have not put on that much weight in these confines because I was a fairly large lad when I came here. I have enjoyed it. I have enjoyed the service and the friendship. May everyone have a very pleasant and happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. To those members who are running for seats at the next election I say good luck. I will be watching. If anyone can find me a contract with a radio or television station, I am quite prepared to comment on all members. Thank you, Sir, personally, for your help to me. I have enjoyed this place and I will come and see everyone occasionally.

HON ROBERT HETHERINGTON (South East Metropolitan) [3.43 pm]: Mr President, to make sure that the member is here while I am saying it, I will start off with something that I intended to say later. Hon Sandy Lewis, who has just resumed his seat, was the secretary of the Liberal Party when I became the secretary of the Labor Party, and is one of the very few people in this Parliament to whom I turn for advice, and whom I trust implicitly. It is perhaps an odd thing for somebody on the other side of the House to say, but I have always found Sandy Lewis helpful and trustworthy and I would trust him with my life. Certainly his advice has always been valuable and I have valued him as a member who has always worked for the good of all members in this Parliament, both on the House Committee and in assisting the tribunal. I have been fortunate in knowing him. I can almost say that the first time I really encountered him was when I was on the other side of the House, making my second speech. I did not think I liked him at all, but one learns to adjust.

As I am talking about people whom I trust I should talk about my former co-member of the East Metropolitan Province, Hon Fred McKenzie. When it was decided to bring a carpet bagger from Claremont into the newly formed East Metropolitan Province, the search was on for a good, honest, trustworthy, decent, Labor man who would make a good electorate man. Who else could they choose but Fred McKenzie?

Hon Fred McKenzie: I thought it was you.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: We came into this House together.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.00 pm

QUESTIONS - ON NOTICE

No 597 - Reply, Paragraph (c) Struck Out

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Clive Griffiths): Honourable members, my attention has been drawn to the reply to question on notice 597 printed in today's supplementary Notice Paper. It is in outright breach of the rules of this House to accuse a member of improper acts or motives. In this context, I therefore direct that paragraph (c) of the Minister's answer be struck out. I ask that Ministers in this House remember that they are responsible for the replies given in their respective capacities and that even though in another place unparliamentary language may be acceptable, in this House it is not.

[Questions taken.]

SELECT COMMITTEES - STATE ENERGY COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA ADVANCE PURCHASE OF COAL FROM WESTERN COLLIERIES

Report

On motion by Hon A.A. Lewis, resolved -

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

[See paper No 709.]

COMMITTEES FOR THE SESSION - STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Report

HON MARK NEVILL (South East) [4.12 pm]: I present the 21st report of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies. This is an interim report on the committee's inquiry into the State Government Insurance Commission and the State Government Insurance Corporation which was referred to the committee by the House on 16 November 1988. I move -

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

Question put and passed.

[See paper No 710.]

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT - RETIREMENT

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

HON ROBERT HETHERINGTON (South East Metropolitan) [4.13 pm]: Mr President, I must say that my experience as a co-member with Hon Fred McKenzie in the East Metropolitan Province has been one of complete success; I could not have wished for a better person to work with. I regard him as the conscience of the Labor Party.

Hon Fred McKenzie: Thank you.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: I can remember once, when I had just been defeated somewhere and wanted to repair a bruised ego, saying to him, "Fred, will I stand for another position that is coming up?" He said, "Well, if you do, I will not vote for you." I knew then that what I was suggesting - which was something I knew before I asked him - was wrong because he would not vote for me as my friend because I was doing the wrong thing; so I did not do it. Throughout our holding of this membership for that electorate I never once rejected his advice on matters to do with the electorate. If he told me to do a thing I would not demur; I would do it because he was always right. We did not always agree, but that is a different thing.

Hon Fred McKenzie: I did not reject the advice of Hon Robert Hetherington, either.

Hon ROBERT HETHERINGTON: That is probably true. It was one of those odd partnerships where two people of unlike backgrounds complemented each other. Neither felt

threatened by the other and neither felt jealous of the other's abilities. I could not have wished for a better partnership and, with all due respect to Hon Kay Hallahan whose partnership I value in the South East Metropolitan Province, nobody could have been quite like Hon Fred McKenzie. I say that with a great deal of feeling. I am glad that I am leaving him behind in this place to make sure that if things need to be said without fear or favour within the Labor Party they will be said.

I look back on my parliamentary career without unalloyed joy and I leave the Parliament with mixed feelings. I am not sure, if the Labor Party did not have an age rule, whether I would go or stay, but as the age rule exists in our party it made it easier, so I am going because I want to go. At the same time, there are a number of things that I would like to finish and I could finish if I stayed. But I reflect that in four years' time, were I still here, I would still have a number of things to finish and after that, and after that, so this is a suitable time for me to retire while I am still young enough to prepare for the last quarter, or perhaps the last third, of my life.

I sometimes say to members who have come into this place since we have been in Government that they have missed something and have missed some understanding of the House that I have gained, because being in Opposition is a hard school and when the Leader of the House is Hon Graham MacKinnon it is even harder, particularly when one is a cheeky academic who comes into this House as deputy leader. I learnt valuable lessons from my arguments with Hon Graham MacKinnon and learnt rapidly that Parliament is a system of ritualised aggression: I was not too sure of the ritual to begin with, but I was aware of the aggression.

I remember with a great deal of gratitude the second speech I made when the then Government decided to reduce me to size by using what I regarded as vicious interjections. Indeed, I felt like the stag at bay and felt that I would never have completed my speech, Mr President, had you not chided me firmly and told me to address you, thus giving me time to draw breath. Since then I have noted that as President you have behaved with great impartiality in this Chamber. I have not always agreed with your rulings, but I have never believed that any of those rulings has been capricious; they have always been rulings with reason. I may have disagreed with those reasons, but I could still respect them. I think that has been a good thing. I remember saying in my maiden speech that it was a good thing that we did not have an ex-Minister as President because in that case the President would have loyalties to the Cabinet and might not act as the custodian of the rights of the House. I believe that in this Chamber you, Mr President, have done that at all times. I think this has been a good thing.

I must say that I also learnt a great deal when debating with Hon Ian Medcalf, for whom I also had great respect. With Graham MacKinnon it was a matter of trying to preserve one's political life but with Ian Medcalf one debated the issues in a gentlemanly and courteous fashion. I remember that he once said to me, "I feel that the honourable member has presented his brief well, but he did not have his heart in it." That was indeed true, as it was on a Bill relating to offices of profit. I then suggested that he form a Select Committee and he did that. I was on that Select Committee, serving under Hon Neil McNeill for 12 months. We produced a report that was substantially the same as the Bill, and new legislation was introduced by Hon Joe Berinson when the Labor Government came to power.

That was my first experience of what I have enjoyed most as a member of Parliament. I think that one of my problems is that I am a parliamentarian rather than a politician. This means that I have enjoyed committee work extremely well. It has been arduous, but I have found it worthwhile and have got to know and appreciate the qualities of members opposite in a way that I could never have done otherwise - and, I must add, of some members on my own side.

I served on the Select Committee to set up the Government Agencies Committee under the leadership of Hon Bob Pike and then on the Standing Committee so ably chaired by Hon John Williams. I believe we did well in the period that I was on it, although at times I think we had Hon John Williams, Hon Norman Moore and Hon Phillip Pandal causing it to become a bit of a pedant's paradise as we argued for hours about the precise word to use, but the reports produced were models.

The report I had most to do with was the report on accountability which was drafted by

Martyn Forrest, who did his job so very well. I proofread that report very carefully because I regarded it as one of the most important reports to be brought out by this Parliament. Indeed so it proved, because the Government included many of the recommendations of that report in subsequent legislation. One notices that quite often the recommendations of committees are enacted, but when there is that kind of agreement it is less often noticed than when there is disagreement. Oddly enough I was not happy serving on that committee because I did not like the kind of work it did, and I left it because I was hoping a committee on delegated legislation would be set up.

Service on committees and knowledge of people often leads to other things. We had served together on the Government Agencies Standing Committee, so Hon Colin Bell asked me to join him on a Select Committee on agricultural education. I did not want to join him, I had a lot of work to do, and I did not think the subject was one I knew anything about. I was not sure I wanted to know anything about it, but because he asked me I joined him, and I have never regretted it. It is one of the most important and significant committees to sit while I have been in this House. I hope the report will be taken very seriously by the present Government or any succeeding Government. I hope too that on this issue we can achieve a bipartisan approach, because it is important that we do.

This was one committee where I discovered that somebody I had known for a long time and liked and admired - Hon Sam Piantadosi - had a wide range of knowledge of horticulture. His contribution to that committee was invaluable. I learnt from Hon John Caldwell quite a lot about Merino lambs, Murray Greys, and a bit about rough grain. I also became an expert on lupins. Not only do I know something about stubble, but I know something about lupins.

In the same way people come by invitation. When the Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation was established I asked Hon Margaret McAleer to join us. I talked to the Leader of the Opposition and suggested that he should permit her to join it. I do not know who did what to whom, but she did join the committee. I have said to the present Leader of the Opposition in another place, and I say it publicly, I hope Hon Margaret McAleer will be a member of that committee next year because she has a great deal of wisdom, sense and intelligence to offer. I would feel much happier about the continuity and results of that committee if she were on it.

Committee work is important, and much as I do not want to shock the Leader of the Opposition - as I did once before when I said I agreed with something he said, or he agreed with something I said - I agree with the remarks he made on the need for committees in this House. If we can develop Standing Committees in this House it will become a better House.

One might think, to listen to this, that I just learnt from the Opposition. When I entered the House Hon Des Dans was the Leader, and it was a long tutorial; one I benefited from greatly. I had known Hon Des Dans before I came into the House, and it was a pleasure to serve with him for those long years in Opposition. Actually I was no longer in Opposition than we have been in Government; it just seemed longer, particularly as what Des used to call our ragged little band had the ability to tease debate out throughout the night where necessary. I remember one occasion when I managed to get myself thrown out of the House. I was on the front page of the paper next day - the only time I have managed it - but I had achieved our purpose of getting publicity for the Bill we were opposing.

Learning to play tactics in the House is interesting, especially learning to use them for the benefit of one's party and for the benefit of the State. Many people talk as if serving our party is not serving the State, but why do we join political parties? We join them because we believe the particular political party has the policies which are best for the State. We cannot get together on all matters and work for the good of the State, as some people suggest, because on some matters we believe what the Liberals think is for the good of the State is for the bad of the State, and vice versa. But on some matters there are issues on which we can get together.

When making my last speech which was cut off by time, Hon Philip Lockyer said, "I thought you were going to make another of your blood and thunder speeches; one of your angry speeches like you used to." I have not; I have made a quiet speech about getting together. I thought then I could make an angry speech if I wanted to because honourable members might forget that I do not like our present system; I do not like the fact that Mr Alan Bond will invest in Chile, and his spokesman uses the same kinds of arguments which people who

invested in Hitler's Germany did in the 1930s; I do not like the fact that the Amazon forest is being destroyed to make some people short term profits; I do not like the fact that unemployment is seven per cent. I remember the days before the war when Leslie Haylen said if we got it down to five per cent we would be doing well. We got it down to two per cent, but it is now seven per cent and we do not seem to be able to reduce it.

I do not like the fact that the rich are getting richer and the differential between wages is becoming greater all the time. I do not like any of those things. But the most angry speech I have made in this House was not about any of those things; it was about the failure of the Government to build the Belmont High School, because that was an important and urgent matter which it was within my power to do something about. The Leader of the Opposition misquoted me slightly, because I think I said in one of my first two speeches that although I wanted to see wild reforms I really did not expect to achieve them all.

I am not a revolutionary. It should be fairly obvious to anybody who has seen me in the House that I am a Fabian socialist. The Fabian socialists adopted their name from Fabius, the Roman general who conquered little by little. We try to do what we can as we can. It is therefore more important in this Parliament, as far as I am concerned, to look for issues where there can be agreement. This is one of the things I tried to do. I take speaking in this Parliament quite seriously. For instance, whenever I spoke on education - except when I was thrown in as a filler and even then I tried to do it - I made a considered speech directed to Hon Norman Moore. He knew that and listened. I do not know how far I persuaded him, but I tried. I sometimes made speeches to the Leader of the Opposition and to members on the other side hoping that they were areas in which we could get a bipartisan approach for the good of the State while still fighting each other on the issues where we could not agree.

When I look back on my career I think one of the things I look back on with most pleasure is the fact that we have adopted a policy of integration of handicapped children to the maximum extent. I hope that policy sticks; I believe it is one which could be followed by both sides. I think our policies were a continuation and another step ahead of policies of the previous Government, which reformed things and took things so far. I think we took them further, because this is how the system works. In 1980, when I found I was not a shadow Minister and would not be a Minister after all, I took a deep interest in rape. I went to the Hobart rape conference at my own expense, and I came back and made several speeches in this House on rape. I helped, I think, to get accepted the sexual assault legislation we have at present. I think it is working well, although there are minor reforms that could be made. However, these are being examined by the Crown Law Department and probably will be enacted by a Labor or Liberal Government when the time comes and whichever party happens to be in office. Of course, I expect and hope it will be a Labor Government, but it is something that could have a life of its own under any Government.

One of the things I got angry about - and I think I got angry about it in this House - was the fact that one firm sold baby formula to people in Africa who had no sterilising, modern equipment and therefore children died. However, what could I do about that as a member of a State Parliament? Well, I could do what I have done. I could try to get people in Australia interested in trade with Africa - East Africa, starting with Zimbabwe - because that would mean that the Africans could raise their standard of living and the kinds of things that have happened to them will no longer happen to them and they would have other problems to worry about. However, perhaps they would be better off as far as their standard of living was concerned. I had some success in changing the outlook of Australian and Western Australian Governments. I hope this is something that will be continued by the Government of the Thirty-third Parliament because I think it is something worth doing. I am not asking anyone to trade with East Africa for the good of the East Africans. That would be incidental. I am asking them to trade in order to make profits. I am glad to see that already one businessman is trying to set up a joint venture to manufacture things there to export to the rest of Africa.

If this policy can keep going, if the other policies I have mentioned can continue and if we go ahead with a bipartisan approach to agricultural education - which is so important in our State - I feel that what I have done in Parliament has been worthwhile. If they do not, well, I can shrug my shoulders I suppose and say I tried. I hope, too, that the Delegated Legislation Standing Committee will develop and thrive. That would be a good thing. I must say that I must also make some remarks about the Leader of our party in this House, Hon Joe Berinson, whom I have known and respected since 1967 and whom I have supported - sometimes to

my own unpopularity within the Labor Party in those years - in any ballot in which he has stood in the Labor Party, except one. I do not have to tell members what that one was. It was for the Deputy Leader of the Labor Party in 1980. If I gave him a B in 1967, he gave me a C minus then. We all have our trials and tribulations and disappointments.

I have learnt to appreciate a lot of people here and I cannot mention them all. I have mentioned Hon Des Dans who I think is one of the more intelligent politicians I have known. I will not say he is the most intelligent, but he is highly intelligent and it was an education to sit beside him. I have had good relations with people on both sides of the House. I have enjoyed my relations with them. I have sometimes been genuinely angry, particularly when I was in Opposition, about some of the things the Court Government did. That was genuine, but when I became angry, I became angry. Sometimes it helped; sometimes it did not, but at least it made me feel better.

I earlier made reference to the Clerk, Mr Laurie Marquet. I just want to say in addition to that that since he has been the Clerk I have found him to be a source of extremely valuable advice. I think he is a very good Clerk and this Parliament is fortunate to have him. I have had good service and friendship from Ian Allnutt since I have been here. Little did I think when I was on the committee looking at agricultural education and Doug Carpenter drove us around New South Wales that he would join this Parliament, but he has and I welcome him. I would like to put on the record that I have never, since I have been here, been badly served by any member of the staff of this Parliament at any stage. Some services were better than others, and certainly I think that the present Clerk of Papers is an excellent Clerk; others were also good. However, if I were to name all of the people who have given me good service in this House on the staff, I would name the staff past and present because I think we are supremely and extremely fortunate in the staff we have, and that, of course, includes our excellent and friendly Hansard reporters. I hope that all members appreciate it and I hope that future members will appreciate it.

I would like also to pay a special tribute to the excellent work of Mr Gary Newcombe, Principal Adviser to the Standing Committee on Government Agencies. Members have referred to their electorate secretaries. The House may be interested to know that I have had five electorate secretaries since I have been a member - all married women re-entering the work force who have developed their abilities, giving me excellent service along the way, and then except for the last have left me to take up better positions. This has given me great pleasure. I should mention also my administrative officer as Secretary of the State Parliamentary Labor Party, Marlene Robinson, who most Caucus members and even some Liberals agree is beyond compare.

I must say there were three things I would have liked to see done before I left this Parliament. One - and I have been trying to do this for so many years I have forgotten how many - is the changing of Standing Order No 205, the previous question, which I discovered when I was in Opposition and have regretted ever since that I did not use it and which enables an Opposition backbencher to gag a debate if there is any Bill passing through that the Government wants to get through. I will leave that for the consideration of honourable members because I think a simpler and better Standing Order should be there. Secondly, I would also have liked to see what I regard as the recognition of the undoubted common law right of the Deputy President to vote when he is in the Presidential Chair, but I did not achieve that one either; I just voted. We have not had a ruling but I still believe I was right at law and I was right in the spirit of the Constitution. Thirdly, I would have liked to see, because I remember making long and bitter speeches when I was in Opposition and joyful speeches when we were in Government about it - although I am still waiting to see it - the proclamation of the Industrial Relations Amendment Bill of 1987, which would give the staff of this Parliament the right to approach the Industrial Relations Commission. The time is well passed for this proclamation and I hope the Government does it soon.

Apart from that, I have had a great deal of pleasure and some pain since I have been in this Parliament. I have done my best, but I think I often could have done better. I wish that I had learned about committees earlier and that we could have had more of them because then I may have been more useful.

I go out believing that I remain my own man. I have been loyal to the Labor Party but never subservient. I have said what I believe and, if I could not say it, I have shut up. Sir, I thank

everybody for the kind remarks they have made about me. I have reciprocated some of them. Members may like to know that the other night I chose my subjects for first year university, should I decide to do a degree.

HON TOM McNEIL (Upper West) [4.41 pm]: Mr President, I commence by thanking the House for giving me the opportunity to congratulate members for their assistance to me during my period here. My attitude in this place has been never to speak at any great length. I consider it to be one of the downfalls of this House that we get permission to go on for unlimited periods.

I am one of the more fortunate - or unfortunate, as the case may be - members who got into this place probably by accident. In 1977, prior to the election when the National Country Party had no-one to stand, I was minding my own business and doing quite well when I was approached to stand and, of course, subsequently won the seat. I thank the Labor Party for all those sweet preferential votes which got me over the line in a helluva rush at the end of proceedings. It is ironic that on both occasions that I have faced the people the Upper West seat was the last to be decided.

Members have already referred to the Electoral Act and how it affected them. I refer to Hon Gordon Masters and Hon Des Dans. I have to agree with them that, while I gave that piece of legislation my support, at the same time I was cutting my own throat. I concur with the feeling that there will not be personal representation. I refer to the agricultural region where, because of the enormity of its size and where the members live, after the forthcoming election it will not be possible to show the personal touch that we have shown in the past.

Perhaps my approach to politics has been different from that of a lot of people. I got in without any branch structures and I have not put in any while I have been here. It is extremely difficult to have to get over two elections where one must convince the delegates representing areas covered by other members of Parliament within one's own structure, and one has not got any delegates. When proportional representation comes in the Tom McNeils have to take a walk. Maybe that will work out for the better, but one of the downfalls will be the loss of the personal touch.

I probably got in on a sport vote. I can recall the first private member's Bill - you may recall it too, Mr President - which aimed to get freedom for country footballers. Now, 12 years later, we have finally got it and at least they are free. The message, as I have always said, is that metropolitan clubs should take a good, hard look at country clubs. We never hear of a country club going broke. The metropolitan clubs, in the time that I have been in politics anyway, grabbed country players, paid them a mere pittance, sold them to the Eastern States for huge amounts, and still went broke. Country clubs survived. They have gone on and spent more and more money, and have never gone broke. It is a pleasure to me that when I am getting out, although it took 12 years and I have had nothing to do with it, players are now free.

I would like to pass on my heartfelt thanks to you, Sir, and the Clerks of the House and the attendants. Sometimes we are elevated to a position, when we become members of Parliament, which is really not justified. Everyone pays us a great deal of respect and treats us as somebody above their own status, which I do not believe is true. Those staff members have been very respectful and helpful, and go out of their way to do everything for us.

It is appropriate at this juncture to acknowledge Hansard because I would be probably one of the more difficult members to take. It has been suggested to me many times that when I slip into football jargon and talk about Jesaulenko, Grlusich and Ischenko it makes life a bit difficult. Hansard staff have been very understanding and I appreciate that. The stewards and the stewardesses, and the kitchen staff, have been mighty.

I have to acknowledge the part played by my family. My wife is one of the people in the world who did not want me to go into politics, and cannot wait for me to get out. I have six children, and only one still at school. My position here has affected my home life, if only for the enormous amount of travelling I have had to do. In that respect it will be quite a relief to get out of Parliament.

There is one section of Parliament which I do not believe anyone else has touched on, which I would like to, and that is the telephonists. Cathy, Shirley and Betty have been absolutely fantastic. There have been others prior to them, but they are the ones occupying the position

at the moment. They are delightful girls who will help members, and nothing is too much trouble for them. They certainly make the job a lot easier. I would also like to acknowledge the work done by the three secretaries that I have had in my time as a parliamentarian, Jenny Wilson, Helen West and, currently, Jan Kilburn who have been a great help to me.

Mr President, my sentence is up in this place. I do not agree with Hon Des Dans in that at this juncture we cannot say who will be returned. I think we have a good idea of who will be returned because of the positions they will occupy on the ballot paper. I have always liked the situation where one was running for a seat, competing against one, two or three people, and had the chance to go out and do battle on one's own mettle. That will be lost here because, while it may be retained in the Assembly, we will just become a party number, and the people who decide who is to be at the top of the ticket will be the people who decide who is elected.

I close by saying thank you to all in this House whom I look upon as friends. If anyone wants to have a drink with me at any time, after they have bought me one I will be happy to reciprocate.

HON JOHN WILLIAMS (Metropolitan) [4.48 pm]: Mr President, this is the day I never wanted to see, and I will be quite frank. This is a place that I have enjoyed. It is a place where I have found friendship and where I have spent 18 years of my life. I have been thinking over recent weeks how bad it is here and, in another way, how good it is. I still could not reconcile myself to the fact that it has always been difficult for me to make a speech. It is even more difficult today. I hope the House will bear with me when I read a piece called "A Consolation", written by someone who could write better than I can - his name is William Shakespeare. I think it is sonnet No 12, and it states -

When in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes
I all alone beweep my outcast state,
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries,
And look upon myself, and curse my fate;

Wishing me like to one more rich in hope,
Featured like him, like him with friends possess,
Desiring this man's art, and that man's scope,
With what I must enjoy contented least;

Yet in these thoughts myself almost despising,
Haply I think on Thee - and then my state,
Like to the lark at break of day arising
From sullen earth, sings hymns at heaven's gate;

For thy sweet love remember'd, such wealth brings,
That then I scorn to change my state with kings.

I have a great love and affection for this Parliament, more than for the beautiful stained glass windows, the jarrah and the carpet. The people in it make it. From the first day that I put a foot into this House I was made to feel a part of it.

I remember that, on my first day, I sat where Hon Tom Butler now sits. That was the only seat left. On my right sat a man who I believe was one of the greatest men that I have served with in this place, Hon Ian Medcalf, a pillar of sobriety and the upholder of the functions of this House. On my left sat a member who, 12 years ago, was elevated to the presidency. I looked up to him at that time because I had been told what a tough campaigner he was, but what a bad tempered fellow he could be. It came as a great shock to me after being elected to represent the Liberal Party to find out that, while Hon Ian Medcalf maintained a steady course, Hon Clive Griffiths was a little more acrid in the party room than most people I knew. That is where I thought it would end. Hon Des Dans and Hon David Wordsworth were here the night he ripped into his Government over the Orange Grove Caravan Park. He would not let go; he was like a bulldog. He gave the then Leader of the Government, Hon Neil McNeill, some real Larry Doodle. That woke me up to the situation.

In those days we were not all as well off as we are today. Between all of the members of this House and of the other place, there were three secretaries. We queued up downstairs with our letters and they were returned to us later that day or the next day. In that respect the Parliament has improved tremendously.

One could reminisce about many things and many people who have passed through this place and who have inspired us. Many of them, to my knowledge, never had a nasty or cross word to say about anybody outside the Chamber. We should be able to debate politics, philosophies and ideologies in this place, but when we go through the doors of the Chamber, we should be able to forget our differences. Ninety per cent of us do that, but 10 per cent of us carry their acrimony and bitterness outside the Chamber. I feel sorry for that 10 per cent because they do not know what the job is all about.

Hon Mick Gayfer was the first member of Parliament whom I ever met. We met at a demolition dance for the Junior Farmers Federation at Bruce Rock. He took me to one side and politely informed me who he was. I told him that I had been endorsed to stand for election. He asked me for what seat I had been endorsed and I said that I was standing for the Metropolitan Province for the Liberal Party. That was four months before the election. He said he would see me here and I was grateful for those words of comfort. My opponent in 1971, Hon Garry Kelly, was elected to the House in 1982, a strange quirk of fate.

In my early days in this place I became very interested in alcohol and drug abuse. I met some very charming policewomen at that time, one of whom now sits opposite me and is a Minister of the Crown. I do not know whether she remembers our meeting in Fremantle with Dot Hughes and others.

Hon D.K. Dans: Dot Hughes was a very good person.

Hon Kay Hallahan: Hear, hear!

Hon JOHN WILLIAMS: There have been many giants in this place, not just in stature, but in the way they have conducted themselves. I am grateful to the Leader of the House and to the Leader of the Opposition in this place for their kind remarks earlier today. I regard them as two of the finest leaders in debate that this House has ever had. That includes the late Sir Arthur Griffith when he was in Opposition. One of the most remarkable men that I have ever met, Hon Bill Willesee, was the then Leader of the House, in a party that numbered only seven. Despite that, he managed to get through an extraordinary amount of legislation.

The members for whom I have the greatest respect are Hon Graham MacKinnon, Hon Neil McNeill, Hon Ian Medcalf, and of course, a member who will continue to hold his seat until 21 May, Hon Des Dans. It was good to hear Hon Des Dans and Hon Graham MacKinnon in debate. There were three members in this House who have had what I call an extremely loud voice, Hon Mick Gayfer - I am going through them in ascending order - Hon Sandy Lewis and, with the loudest voice that I have ever heard in debate, Hon Des Dans. However, we had a theory about his loudness. If Des began his speech with a medium pitched voice, we knew we were all right. However, if he began using his Australian Union of Seamen's voice, we knew that we had him on the run because he was bluffing us by wanting to drown us out. I say that in the nicest possible way.

As Hon Tom McNeill said, it is very difficult to say anything about the staff. I sincerely thank my former electorate secretary and now the secretary to the Secretary of the Liberal Party, Yvonne Donaldson. She was absolutely tremendous in the six and a half years that we were together backing me in everything that I did. I could not have done the job without her. Similarly, Ann Pover, my electorate secretary, has done everything that I have ever asked of her exceptionally well. I am grateful to both of those ladies.

When I look around the Chamber I see only two people who were here when I first came to this place, Mr Phillip Ugle who was here in 1968, three years before me, and a man who was then a fresh faced ex Sergeant-at-Arms, Ian Allnutt, who was transferred from the Legislative Assembly in 1971. We knew he would have a tough task because the officers at the Table were tough. John Roberts was in that position at the time and he was tough, but gentlemanly. Jon Ashley before him was excellent, and so was Les Hoft. The present Clerk, of course, is Laurie Marquet. Obviously, the training given to Ian has paid off handsomely and I congratulate him on being Deputy Clerk of the House. I hope that with further experience he will one day occupy the chair not immediately to his right but a little further over. I thank Laurie Marquet very much for everything he has done for me, particularly in the committee work in which I became so engrossed. His advice was excellent and it bore fruit for the House and the members, but not for me personally.

I cannot extend my thanks only to those people without mentioning the other staff, such as

Richard Harloe, Malcolm Peacock and Owen Jones. Owen, who supplies the beverages, also appears at each member's table if he uses a quotation during his speech to ensure that the Hansard staff are provided with a copy of that quotation.

With regard to the Hansard staff, I wonder how many of us remember Jimmy Cox, who has now passed on; Merv Hall, the old silver fox as we called him; Mike Drysdale; George Craggs, and others. I now have a joke with Neil Burrell in Hansard and tell him that he commands the "pay, bay, chay, banjo, ukelele" group. When I first came to this House no shorthand machines were used and it has been a change to watch these reporters; it is also a little disconcerting because when they start playing their machines, they look straight at the member speaking. Sometimes that is a bit off putting and one can see that they are transfixed. Of the staff of the House the Hansard people are perhaps the most professional and technical experts in their field.

The dining room and bar staff and the attendants at the entrances to Parliament House are also very professional. As Mick Gayfer remembered so well, Jimmy Green and Dave Garrick were the two senior attendants when I came to this place and, of course, you, Mr President, were here for many years before that and would remember those officers. An apt phrase to describe what the staff of Parliament House provide is "service without being servile". They are a marvellous bunch of people who have made our task in this place each day much easier.

Perhaps one of the other two small cultural shocks which stick in my mind occurred when looking at television in 1972; I watched a party political broadcast which involved a panel that introduced a Mr Robert Hetherington as an independent political analyst. I reminded Bob of this two years later when he became a member of Parliament and belonged to a political party. The other culture shock appertains to you again, Mr President. You may remember that one night the Liberal Party went into a division which it was supposed to win because it had the numbers. However, it lost the vote. You took me to one side and asked in your own inimitable fashion what had gone wrong - you were not the President then. We agonised for two or three days as to how the vote went wrong. We counted and recounted and suddenly remembered - and this is the point I wish to illustrate - that one of the members we had counted in the vote on paper but who had not been in the House, had actually passed away. That is the transient thing about this life in Parliament. Within three weeks of the closing of this Parliament people will ask: John who? When the new members come next year previous members will fly forgotten as the dreams and it is very difficult to revive memories. It is difficult to remember some of the previous members, and I am not referring to those who have passed away. However, they are remembered immediately if one meets them at any time.

If I were asked which contribution to this Parliament I enjoyed most, I would say that it was the privilege given to me by the House of setting up a Select Committee inquiring into alcohol and drug abuse in this State. It was also great that I was allowed to create the Alcohol and Drug Authority and to become its inaugural chairman, which position I occupied for three years. That was one of my up sides. I was once taken to task by you, Mr President, for not keeping order in the House; after that warning I carried out my duties as per your instructions via the Standing Orders. Again I thank members, particularly the Whips, Hon Margaret McAleer and Hon Fred McKenzie, who have always induced their members to follow the directions of the Chair.

My final point, which I find very difficult to express, concerns my wife and family. I could not have achieved anything without them. It is traumatic at 40 years of age to up stakes and transport a family to the other side of the world, but I have had great support from my family. I would like to end my speech with a short quotation which I heard one Christmas day when I was a boy. The speech was made by King George VI in those dark days when a war had started in Europe. I have tried to live according to the philosophy of this quotation, but it is difficult to do so when going into the unknown - and everyone does from time to time - as I did when I came to Australia and again in 1978. The quote is simple -

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown'. And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'

Mr President, that has been my philosophy. Honourable members, officers and attendants of the House, I thank you most sincerely for everything you have done.

Members: Hear, hear!

HON NEIL OLIVER (West) [5.09 pm]: I have listened to the previous speakers with great interest. There have indeed been many changes in this House over the past 12 years. I recall when I first took my place in this House that there was reference to neither one side nor to the other side of the Chamber. At the time I sat where Hon Bob Hetherington sits at the moment, which is in the seat of Hon Colin Bell, and I was surrounded by friends who are now on the Government side. I felt quite comfortable in those surroundings and it was never said that one point of view prevailed on this side of the House and another on the other side of the House.

I appreciate the remarks of the Leader of the House in respect of my position. I thank also the Leader of the Opposition for his remarks because I am moving in a different direction from the members who have spoken before me. I would like to outline to the House the sequence of the thoughts which passed through my mind and which placed me on the course that I am now pursuing. In late March of this year I announced that I had decided not to stand for re-election to Parliament when my present term expired in May next year, as it does for all other members. I have received great personal satisfaction from serving my electorate, and a deep appreciation of the qualities of the electors, among whom I have found enduring support for all the highest principles of parliamentary representation. However, as has been alluded to by other speakers, the new system for the election of Legislative Council members takes away the personal relationship that exists between members and electors. I, together with Hon Gordon Masters, represent some 40 000 electors, but under the new system I would be one of five members representing 230 000 electors in what would necessarily be a very depersonalised way. As a consequence, in approaching the final stage of my second six-year term, I was reviewing my position and asking myself what I should do with my future. Having been in private enterprise, I thought I could find a satisfying challenge there, but under the changed electoral rules of the Legislative Council I would not be able to obtain the same satisfaction in the Parliament. I was at all times mindful of my duty, and accordingly I decided not to seek re-election because it seemed to me to be what many people would call the end of the road. I find politics to be meaningless if it is not expressed in personal service.

However, something happened to change my mind. People whom I had known and served personally for years came to me and urged me to think again. I received an almost overwhelming response from the electors in the eastern hills, the Swan Valley, and the heart of Midland, who persuaded me to reverse my decision to retire from Parliament. Accordingly, I notified the Liberal Party that I wished to seek preselection as the party's candidate at the next State election for the new Legislative Assembly seat of Swan Hills, and I am now the party's endorsed candidate for that seat. This electorate embraces the hills, as we know the eastern corridor, the Swan Valley, and Midland, where I have given intensive service for the past 12 years as member for West Province in this House. I chose Swan Hills because it is an ideal seat. It contains almost half of the electors whom I have had the privilege of serving for so long in this House. I was very appreciative that they urged me to seek endorsement for that seat, and it stirred me because in my heart I wanted to serve.

There are many major issues to be addressed in that electorate, as well as on the State scene. The electors are becoming increasingly angry over their difficulties in meeting their weekly expenses. They are almost reaching the end of their patience in view of the taxes and charges imposed on them, and by the events that have occurred, which they see as a major scandal in Government. I do not need to explain to members the nature of politics, but I could not help but be moved by the remarks made by Hon Mick Gayfer because if we are to give it all we have got, it is not an easy life. There is no such thing as a 40 hour week; it is usually between 90 and 120 hours a week, which has been the way I have worked. It is very difficult for families if one is a member of Parliament. My family was very relieved and pleased when I at first decided not to stand for re-election. I, like Hon Mick Gayfer, came into this House with three children - Craig, Jane and Mark. Their ages ranged from 11 to two years. I had to go through the same situation as he did of having two children going to boarding school at very early ages - 11 and nine. I would not care to go through that again because I feel that in many ways I have missed out. People in political life need the support

of their families, and especially of their wives. My wife, Joy, has certainly provided that stability and that link while I have been able to pursue my parliamentary career. Without her being in the home I would not have had the satisfaction of the family life that we enjoy. I might add that on my announcement that I would seek re-election for the Legislative Assembly seat of Swan Hills and that I had been persuaded to stand again, my family also shared with me this sense of personal renewal and the great opportunity for community service that I could have lost.

Some very interesting events occur during a parliamentary career, and I recall one in particular that occurred during the period the Liberal and National Parties were in Government. It seemed, and I do not know why, that at that time we paid a great deal more attention to the detail of legislation. That might not be correct; it might be, as Hon Mick Gayfer said, that after six years one gets the feel of things. I must admit that in those first six years I used to read each and every word. During that time I noticed that in a certain piece of legislation - the liquor Bill - an attempt was made to licence the vigneron of the Swan Valley. This was a Government initiative and I was a backbench member of that Government. I took a deputation to the Minister but was unable to persuade him not to proceed with that section of the legislation. He was determined to go on with it and so it passed through the Legislative Assembly with little debate and arrived in this House for debate and concurrence. It was at this point that I marshalled the forces, and the entire backbench, with the support of the National Party, supported my amendment. That night was a very interesting one. The Opposition, which then was led by Hon Des Dans, was opposing the amendment. Ultimately the Labor Party changed its mind about it too, but on that night it was opposing my amendment. However, at the same time, the entire backbench of the Government was supporting my amendment, so when it came to the critical vote and the division had to be taken the three Ministers of the Crown had to decide whether they would vote with their backbench or cross the floor and vote with the Opposition. They decided to stay in their seats and on that night that amendment was carried. That was a very memorable occasion.

Hon H.W. Gayfer: Hon Gordon Masters has a similarly memorable occasion - something called the "two bottle Bill".

Hon G.E. Masters: They were the good old days.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: I was not here then, but I have heard a lot about it.

Speaking of the activities of the House as a House of Review, we had a major amendment to the Stamp Act of some 120 pages and 1 280-odd clauses. Amongst them was a clause which was totally unworkable but which passed through the lower House without comment. The clause was totally contrary to the introductory speech of the Minister, which said that the amount of increased revenue to the Government would not exceed \$800 000. In view of the fact that the Act had not had a major review since its inception some 80 years previously, it was obviously a significant Bill. The clause had snuck through the lower House and it was not providing for only \$800 000 of extra revenue, it was considerably more - in the multimillions; an error had occurred. It was only by a supreme effort that I was able to convince the Parliamentary Draftsman and the Commissioner of Taxation of the Government's intention, but I did feel rather pleased that the clause was passed over by the Opposition and ultimately we moved that amendment. They were some of the jobs we had in Government and I rather enjoyed that period when I was deeply involved with legislation.

I wish to elaborate on some of the matters previous speakers have already mentioned. The first is what I would call the standing and influence of the Parliament. Unfortunately respect for Parliament is not as it should be or as it could be, and I believe that the fundamental cause lies in the fact that Parliament has given too much attention to the making of laws and not enough to the giving of leadership. None of us would deny the need for a framework of laws, nor could we deny that laws need to serve a fundamental community purpose. Laws which serve only official purposes or express only political fanaticism over petty detail invite disrespect and rejection. By doing so they undermine respect for the law, which is vital for the preservation of real standards in our community. Having spent time in both Government and Opposition, and now having moved to resign from this Chamber, I must say that we have suffered from an excess of this kind of law making, by-law making and regulation making. Parliament should give the quality of moral and intellectual leadership in thought and action

which engenders the highest respect for law as a framework for civilised living, that upholds personal and family security and safeguards the responsibility and expression of personal freedom. I am deeply concerned that respect for the law be maintained in this community, and unless Parliament gives the highest leadership in the keeping of laws, who else can be expected to do so?

The community is full of unresolved issues and Parliament should be putting its heart and mind to resolving them, recognising that the full consensus rests with the higher Parliament of public consensus - that which was referred to by previous speakers as "listening to the electorate". We should build on this consensus through the quality of debate on vital issues in this Parliament.

The media's contribution should be a high level of reporting and public debate. The media should not ignore its duty. Sensational coverage is not enough, and debate on public fundamental values must attract its respect. The media should be self-critical as well as critical in its coverage of Parliament. I served on a Select Committee of this House into the sale, closure and future resiting of the Midland saleyards. The inquiry was open to the media. The report of the Select Committee in October 1986 contained conclusion 1.35 which reads -

In the course of its inquiry not all facts were disclosed and this failure to disclose information causes the Committee to suggest to the Government that it provides grounds for instituting its own judicial inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the disposal of the Saleyards.

However, that report was then reported in *The West Australian* in a leading article as follows -

Midland saga

The long-running controversy over the sale of the Midland abattoir site has taken so many political twists and turns that most West Australians have given up trying to keep track of it.

It was apparent all along that the running in tandem of two separate parliamentary inquiries reflecting contrary political opinion would do more to confuse the issue than to shed light on it.

The Legislative Council committee's recommendation that the abattoir sale be annulled was hardly unpredictable; nor will there be any prizes for guessing the outcome of the Lower House inquiry which is still in tortured progress.

Since the State's taxpayers have had to foot the bill for these inquiries, they are entitled to a better result than the verbal abuse and political mud-slinging that they have witnessed so far.

From the outset, the major public concern in the sale of the abattoir site to Prestige Bricks has been whether or not the Government got value for money from the deal.

Obviously, that question will not be answered to everyone's satisfaction unless it is taken out of the political arena and given to an independent inquiry.

That is an example where the media has responsibility.

Unfortunately, in the two terms of the present Government, no judicial inquiries or Royal Commissions have taken place although these inquiries have always been part of the parliamentary system. Under previous Liberal-National Party Governments, Royal Commissions of inquiry have taken place into events or activities of the Government.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I do not wish to interfere with the member's speech except to remind him that Standing Orders have been suspended for one purpose only; that is, for retiring members to make valedictory comments prior to the moving of the motion - as would normally occur - that the House do now adjourn. On the motion that the House do now adjourn, a member may bring up any matter he wishes including debatable and contentious matters. Perhaps the member is confusing that with this debate. This is not the adjournment debate; it is not a debate at all. Because it is not a debate it is out of order to talk about issues or bring forward issues that are debatable or controversial. I am not judging whether the member's remarks are controversial but they are not the sorts of things that

ought to be said at a time when members are saying their farewells at the end of a parliamentary session. The member has the floor again and may pursue his speech, but I would like him to bear that in mind.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: Thank you for your guidance, Mr President. Sensational headlines are not good enough in the coverage of Parliament. As I have said, a Select Committee concluded that a requirement existed for a judicial inquiry, and yet the media ignored that. The media failed to properly cover the issues and report the events. In more recent times, criticism has been made of the committee system; remarks have been made about a rush job on 1 December relating to the Select Committee report made today. On 6 December criticism was made of the Opposition's seeking an inquiry. The standing and influence of Parliament is at stake unless the media is prepared to accept the challenge to properly record the events which take place in this Parliament. I recognise the challenge is to Parliament as well; it should be a relevant part of the community and listen to the community. Parliament should not simply be a lawmakers' club in an ivory tower on the top of a hill.

At times I have been disappointed when criticism of Select Committees is made in another place. On those occasions, one does not have the opportunity to defend oneself. I know that you, Mr President, have never allowed the situation to occur where a member can move to degrade a member serving in another place. That is a great strength in the Westminster parliamentary system and a principle which I know you, Mr President, hold dear.

I would like to comment briefly on the electorate which I have served. It has been a great privilege to have a total commitment to each member of that electorate. Originally the area encompassed almost the entire Shire of Toodyay, from the town of Bolgart down through the eastern corridor, bypassing Northam, through to Roleystone and back along the escarpment to the Swan Valley and Bullsbrook. At that time it was a very interesting, rural area and many parts of it still are. It was an area not serviced by the metropolitan telephone network or other services such as the Fire Brigade and road traffic authorities. Times have changed and electoral boundaries have been varied. The electorate has become smaller with two precise areas that I call the valley and the eastern hills corridor. The valley people, as they are known, are a wonderful group of the mixed nationalities that make up this great nation of ours. There is a great preponderance of Yugoslavs, Italians, Australians and, more recently, Swiss and Danes.

Last night I had the opportunity of attending one of the major events in the Swan Valley, and that is the 75th anniversary of the Swan Settlers' Cooperative. That cooperative started 75 years ago when a group of five or six people met in a shed to decide the manner in which the produce of the valley would be regulated and marketed. Last night they all came together - the grape growers, the dried fruit producers and the vignerons - and it was a major event.

The eastern hills people form another group which has different objectives and interests, with concerns for the environment in which they live. They live there for a quieter life and are prepared to accept the distances they have to commute, whenever necessary, to the metropolitan area. That is their lifestyle. The hills people are a wonderful group to represent, right across the Darling Range through to the orchardists in Pickering Brook. They are very similar to the people about whom Hon Mick Gayfer was talking. Many of them are people with rural pursuits. Hon Norman Baxter, together with Hon Mick Gayfer, represented part of that electorate many years ago. The area then included Forrestfield, which was excluded many years ago and is very much part of the metropolitan area.

Mr President, I would like to extend to you my thanks for the opportunity of serving in this House under your stewardship as President. To the members who are remaining, I wish them well. To those who are leaving, I trust that they have challenges for the future. To those who are entering retirement, I wish them well. I also wish each and every member good health in the future.

Hon D.K. Dans: Thank you.

Hon NEIL OLIVER: The staff of this House exhibit a great tolerance. I do not believe I have ever observed any member of the Executive of this Chamber, or staff, fail to cooperate immediately and courteously attend to whatever request may be made of them. This has been done irrespective of the time of day or night. I would like to pay tribute to Hansard. I realise that not only does Hansard report in this House, but has the task of covering all the Standing Committees and Select Committees which serve this House.

It was interesting to note the comments made by Hon Tom McNeil about the telephonists. They are certainly a very hardworking group of people. When I was elected I installed in my office a diverter system, which means that whenever my office is unattended, all calls are diverted through to Parliament House. Something like 12 calls an hour have been diverted to Parliament House, but our telephonists have never complained to me. They have always accepted that duty, have diligently taken down messages and, sometimes, abuse, and the information has been made available to my office when it has reopened.

I have been very fortunate with my secretarial staff. They have married and ultimately had children, which unfortunately has meant they have left their position as my electoral secretary. I would like to specifically refer to Mrs Cheryl Styles, who served my predecessor the late Hon Roy Abbey who, I know, was a very respected member of this House. My other secretary, Mrs Faye Wills, who now has two children, took over that task. As I am about to embark on an election campaign for the seat of Swan Hills she has seen fit to return and provide a part time service.

I thank you Mr President, all the members of the Parliamentary staff and the Joint House Committee, for the assistance given to me since I have been a member of this House. I wish you, Mr President, the staff and their families good health and happiness, and a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year which is fast approaching.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Clive Griffiths): I will interrupt these comments to indicate to members that I have four messages which I believe should be dealt with forthwith. After we have dealt with them we will resume with the voluntary suspension of Standing Orders.

BILLS (3) - ASSENT

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills -

1. Coal Mine Workers (Pensions) Amendment Bill
2. Children's Court of Western Australia Bill (No 2)
3. Criminal Law Amendment Bill

BILLS (2) - ASSEMBLY'S MESSAGES

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Council to the following Bills -

1. Horticultural Produce Commission Bill
2. Eastern Goldfields Transport Board Amendment Bill

CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL

Assembly's Message

Message from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendment made by the Council, subject to a further amendment.

Assembly's Further Amendment - Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Hon D.J. Wordsworth) in the Chair; Hon Kay Hallahan (Minister for Community Services) in charge of the Bill.

The amendment made by the Council was as follows -

Clause 6, page 3, lines 4 to 33 - To delete proposed new section 34A.

The further amendment made by the Assembly was as follows -

Clause 6, page 3 - That the Council's amendment be agreed to subject to the addition of the following -

" and substitute the following -

Business undertakings

34A. (1) The powers conferred by section 34 include power for the Executive Director, for or in connection with schemes for the establishment, management, or utilization of tree plantations on any land in the State -

- (a) to form, promote or establish, or participate in the formation, promotion or establishment of, any business undertaking;
- (b) to subscribe for, invest in or otherwise acquire, and to dispose of shares, units or other interests in, or debentures or other securities of, a business undertaking;
- (c) to enter into any partnership or arrangement for sharing of profits;
- (d) to acquire, hold and dispose of real and personal property;
- (e) to manage, or participate in the management of, a business undertaking;
- (f) to exercise any power conferred on or available to the Executive Director in connection with a business undertaking, including power to appoint or hold office as a director or other office-holder of a business undertaking;
- (g) to enter into an agreement to do anything authorized by this section; and
- (h) to do anything incidental to the exercise of a power conferred by this section.

(2) The approval of the Treasurer is required to the exercise of any power referred to in subsection (1).

(3) In subsection (1) "business undertaking" means any person, corporation, trust, joint venture, government agency or other entity engaging or intending to engage in any scheme referred to in subsection (1). "

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I move -

That the further amendment made by the Assembly be agreed to.

Today the Premier announced the Tree Trust, a program to establish over 100 million trees on cleared agricultural land in the south west of Western Australia over a 10 year period. It is an exciting and innovative project. The proposal will not only give a massive boost to our economy, but at the same time it will result in a major improvement to the environment in the south west of Western Australia. I table the document which outlines that proposal.

[See paper No 711.]

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: The amendments to the Conservation and Land Management Act which involve the commercial operations of the Department of Conservation and Land Management and the commercial powers of its executive director, are specifically designed to facilitate the implementation of the Tree Trust project. It is important to emphasise, as I have throughout the debate on these amendments, that they do not constitute an increase in the powers of either the department or the executive director to undertake commercial operations. Those powers are enshrined in sections 33 and 34 of the Act, but the Government received legal advice from Crown Law Department that it was desirable for these powers to be clarified. Specifically, our legal advice was that in situations where the department was undertaking commercial operations on behalf of a public entity such as is proposed in the Tree Trust, investment confidence in the proposal would be reinforced if any possible technical legal doubt about the commercial powers of the department were removed. It is understandable in the current political environment that members from both this and the other place express concern about the use of these powers other than for the specific development of tree planting proposals. For example the conservation movement suggested that they could be used to promote development in national parks which would not be in the best interests of the State. That claim is unfounded.

As I have explained, the existing Conservation and Land Management Act places severe constraints on any development in national parks which is not compatible with the purpose for which national parks are preserved. Also, any activity other than necessary operations in any national park or conservation reserve must be preceded by the preparation of a management plan which, in itself, is subject to wide community input. Notwithstanding this,

the Government has responded to these concerns in the amendment which is now being considered by the Committee. The amendment specifically restricts the exercise of the powers contained in proposed section 34A, in clause 6, to the establishment, management and utilisation of tree plantations.

Given the fact that members from both the National Party and the Liberal Party in both Houses have expressed strong support for the development of tree plantations in the south west of Western Australia, I believe that this new amendment, which addresses the concerns that were expressed, will be acceptable to them. I do not expect that any members would not support the involvement of the Department of Conservation and Land Management in commercial aspects of forestry operations. The Department of Conservation and Land Management and its predecessor, the Forests Department, have for decades been responsible for major commercial operations in the forestry sector. For example, the department's commercial forestry operations currently have a gross turnover of more than \$150 million. The department also makes a very substantial contribution to the State's revenue. Since its inception, CALM has increased its revenue from its commercial operations by 100 per cent and this year it is anticipated that more than \$50 million will be earned on behalf of the taxpayers of Western Australia. I table a document which provides more information on the success of CALM's commercial forestry activities.

[See paper No 712.]

Hon A.A. Lewis: The Minister should not be reading her speech.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: It clarifies what the Government is doing. It is important to emphasise that the involvement of the department in commercial afforestation programs has always had the strong support of the timber industry and, in the case of the Tree Trust, both Bunnings Limited, the largest hardwood timber company in the State, and Wesply Pty Ltd, the largest softwood producer in the State, not only strongly support the Tree Trust initiative, but have actively participated in its development. I take this opportunity to publicly thank Mr Ian Kuba and Mr Denis Cullity for the work they have done in developing the Tree Trust project. In addition to their intellectual support, these two companies have written to the Government indicating that they will contribute funds to provide the seed capital necessary to initiate the Tree Trust.

In the debate on these amendments in the other place the Minister for Conservation and Land Management undertook, in response to a suggestion from the member for Albany, to determine if it was possible to separate the day to day commercial activities of the department from commercial activities which could involve large investments of Government funds. This proposal was put to Crown Law and it has advised that it would be extremely difficult to achieve such a separation. In any case, the new amendment which restricts the commercial powers of the executive director to projects concerned with tree plantation establishment should remove most of the concerns of members. However, I would like to emphasise that the Tree Trust proposal will involve no expenditure of Government money. In fact, it proposes to reduce the burden on the taxpayers of Western Australia which they have had to bear for decades. For example, over a period of 40 years taxpayers have contributed more than \$70 million to establishing tree plantations in the south west. The Tree Trust proposal will transfer the responsibility for financing tree plantation projects to the private sector. No Government funds are involved, or will be involved. CALM will undertake the establishment and management of the plantations for a prescribed fee, which includes provision for a profit for the Government.

It was also suggested by some members of the Opposition that the exercise of the commercial powers of the department and the executive director should be subject to agreement by the two Houses of Parliament. This is clearly an unworkable proposition. Our legal advice is that it is impossible to segregate small and large commercial activities of the department. Consequently, if parliamentary approval were a prerequisite to the undertaking of commercial activities, the Parliament would have to consider hundreds of commercial contracts before they were approved.

Apart from the fact that an assurance has already been given to the House that the commercial powers required will not lead to expenditure of Government funds, I also point out that the operations of the Department of Conservation and Land Management are subject to the Financial Administration and Audit Act, and that the Parliament has the opportunity to

rigorously examine departmental commercial activities when its annual report is tabled, and when the CRF Bill is debated.

Finally, I hope that the modification of clause 6, which clearly quarantines the use of the commercial powers set out in that clause to tree planting projects, together with the assurances that I have given that the Tree Trust concept will not involve Government expenditure or Government liability, will meet the concerns that members have expressed. Certainly I believe the concerns expressed by members have been responded to in the amendment before the House, and I hope members will find themselves able to support that.

Hon A.A. LEWIS: Originally I had intended to agree with this, but after that hideous speech, of which members did not receive a copy, and bearing in mind the agreements that had previously been made in this Chamber, I believe members have been insulted. There was no need for a promotional speech at this time. It goes to show how dangerous this sort of thing is. The Tree Trust was launched today but local members were not invited. The Minister in another place admitted that it was a PR exercise. If that is the case, one would have expected members from both sides of the House to be present at an occasion which is for the benefit of the State. I am disgusted at the Minister's speech, at the time it took to deliver it and at the fact that members did not receive a copy.

The Minister said there were no taxpayers' funds to go into this project; therefore, why is it necessary to include new section 34A(1)(b) which states -

To subscribe for, invest in or otherwise acquire,

Shall we delete that as an amendment? As one who has taken great interest in CALM and the former Forests Department throughout the years I have been a member, I am disgusted that the Premier should go into my electorate without telling me that he intended to launch the Tree Trust. The Department of Conservation and Land Management, from the executive director down, did not tell me that the Tree Trust would be launched in my electorate today. It has been the same all along the line since this Government came to power. Members of all parties used to attend the safety presentations, but it now appears that the Minister bars local members from being informed of safety presentations. Is it any wonder that the secrecy of clauses such as this or its predecessor upset the Opposition, and will upset the Government when it is in Opposition next year?

I spoke of courtesies in my valedictory speech, so I will not continue on that theme. Very reluctantly, because of the treatment it has received, the Opposition will support the amendment.

Hon E.J. CHARLTON: As members know, the National Party supported the amendment moved by Hon Sandy Lewis because it was not given answers with regard to the definition and role of the director. We have today been shown the changes implied in this message and we support the reworded amendment. I too am a little disappointed, having indicated before going into Committee that we were in agreement, that we became involved in an exercise which we could have done without. It is a different subject from that under discussion.

I was interested to hear of the planting of trees along the highway, but that is another matter. Too much political emphasis is being placed on this activity, which I find rather disappointing. We are in an election mode and, therefore, every time something crops up which it is considered will influence people, such statements are made. People have been planting trees along the highways in many of the shires and we are all aware of those activities. However there is much more involved than merely planting trees; a number of other aspects are associated with it. We should not go off at a tangent and play politics in this area.

I am pleased that the amendment has been put forward and that the matter has now been defined. The National Party is happy to support the reworded amendment.

Question put and passed; the Assembly's further amendment to the amendment made by the Council agreed to.

Report

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Assembly.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT - RETIREMENT

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Clive Griffiths): Bearing in mind that this is not a debate, Hon D.K. Dans has sought my approval to his correcting an omission in the comments he made earlier. Without wanting to create a precedent, I have agreed.

HON D.K. DANS (South Metropolitan) [6.10 pm]: Thank you very much, Mr President. In my valedictory speech I was side tracked. I want to make an apology. When I referred to the great men who served in this House, I neglected to say men and women. In addition I omitted Miss Judith Fellows, who has worked with me for 16 years and is well known to everyone in this Chamber. It is not generally known that Judith is a permanent civil servant and has no particular political allegiance. In the years she has worked with me I can honestly say that she has performed her duties well, well beyond the call of duty. I will miss Judith, or perhaps Judith will miss me. One cannot work with a person for some 16 years and just walk away without feeling it. She is diligent, neat and tidy, and always courteous.

Hon H.W. Gayfer: We will all miss her.

Hon D.K. DANS: She is a very good worker. Without getting into haranguing matches about the city versus the country, Judith is a farmer's daughter from Mt Barker. She may have more in common with Mick Gayfer than I would be prepared to admit. If there are any more farmer's daughters around with the energy, integrity, intelligence and loyalty of Judith, members should grab them and put them on their staff.

HON D.J. WORDSWORTH (South) [6.12 pm]: As Chairman of Committees I take this opportunity to thank the two retiring deputies for the work they have done during the years they have been in their positions. Hon Robert Hetherington and Hon John Williams have worked very diligently and very sincerely in their tasks. I thank them very much indeed. They have always been very fair in their decisions. They have been quick to take on the responsibility required, and it has made it much easier for me as Chairman to know that deputies are sitting on the sidelines ever willing to take the Chair.

I take this opportunity to thank the other members, Hon Garry Kelly, Hon John Caldwell, Hon Philip Lockyer, and Hon Mark Nevill. We have had quite a team, but there has been a lot of work to do, and it has been done very carefully and well. On only one issue I may have allowed a longer debate than the House would have liked, but it is the prerogative of members of this House to be able to speak as often as they desire in Committee.

I thank you, Sir, for the help you have given us. You have not overworked us as your deputies, and you have always been willing to come back into the Chair if you have felt there was, likely to be a crisis, or a need for an unusual decision to be made from the Chair.

On behalf of the Deputy Chairmen and myself I thank those at the Table. Laurie Marquet has not only brought the computer to this House but he has also been able to word our amendments for us without having to call upon Crown Law, and that has speeded up the activities of this House, which have been far more satisfactory than ever before. I would like to congratulate Ian Allnutt for being made a deputy. He has always been a great help to members. I wish the new member on the Table, Doug Carpenter, the very best. Without those officers it would be much harder for us as Chairmen of Committees. Of course I also thank the many staff who have helped us.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION-CITY OF WANNEROO

Service Station Proposal-Councillor Edwardes' Vote

HON JOHN HALDEN (North Metropolitan) [6.14 pm]: I rise to offer an explanation in regard to a speech I delivered in the House on 6 December at 12.09 pm. In that speech I outlined the concerns that residents had in regard to the planning activities of the City of Wanneroo with specific reference to the proposed service station development on Moolanda Boulevard. During my address I stated that Councillor Colin Edwardes reversed his initial vote to, in effect, support the proposed development. This information was brought to my attention by a number of residents concerned with the councillor's actions on this issue. A division was not called for and therefore there is no written record of the way in which councillors voted. However, Councillor Edwardes informs me that he did not reverse his vote and I am prepared to accept his explanation.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE - SPECIAL

On motion without notice by Hon J.M. Berinson (Leader of the House), resolved -

That the House at its rising adjourn to a date to be fixed by Mr President.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE - ORDINARY

HON J.M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan - Leader of the House) [6.17 pm]: I move -

That the House do now adjourn.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Clive Griffiths): Before I put that motion it is traditional at this time for the President to make some comment, more particularly because he speaks on behalf of the staff of Parliament House who are unable to be here to speak for themselves. I trust that honourable members will accept that my role in this House historically permits me to do a lot of listening without too much speaking; at least not to the extent of those who sit before me on either side of the House.

Hon G.E. Masters: There are some exceptions.

The PRESIDENT: At this time of the year and at this time in the parliamentary cycle I am for once allowed to speak out. I hope honourable members will extend to me the courtesy that they have enjoyed for so long from me. Have I not protected members from unparliamentary interjections? At least I believe I have.

I rise at this time to respond to the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and other members who have addressed themselves this afternoon to the various statements regarding the staff and others in this place. I personally appreciate the kind words which have been directed to me. It has been my extreme privilege over the last 12 years to have presided over this House which serves such a valuable role as a House of Review, or as modern business might call it, a second think tank. Legislative Councillors add another dimension to our country's democratic system by allowing the public's viewpoints to be heard at times when they might not be represented elsewhere.

I have enjoyed the challenges in my role as President. I believe one can learn something new every day, and that is one of the benefits of serving in the Legislative Council. Some great people have served in this Chamber, and I have learnt a great many lessons from them. New and younger members have brought fresh attitudes and thoughts into our deliberations. The combination of long experience and fresh attitudes have I am sure helped this House deliberate on issues in tune with and for the general benefit of the community.

We have now reached the stage when changed electoral laws make this a unique occasion; for the first time in this House every member is to retire from his seat. Some of us will be contesting elections, and we assume or hope that we will be returned. However, there are some among us who, by their own choice or as a result of other circumstances, will not be recontesting their seats. I pay my personal tribute to them all for their contributions, not only to their electorates but to this Parliament and to the State. Each in his own way has contributed greatly to our law making process. Gordon Masters, Sandy Lewis, Colin Bell, Neil Oliver, John Williams, Tom McNeil, Mick Gayfer, Bob Hetherington and Des Dans - each of them I consider to be a personal friend of mine, and it has been a great delight to have worked with each and every one of them.

When I was first elected President in May 1977 I found considerable difficulty in adjusting to the position. It was not easy to desist from making speeches from the Chair. My appointment changed my parliamentary duties somewhat, but I would now like to assure honourable members that whatever I have said from this Chair has had only one purpose, and that is to try to fulfil the aims I recognised on the first day I assumed office: That I would do all in my power to uphold the traditions and practices of this Chamber in conformity with the Westminster system. I have done my best to achieve that desirable standard, and I thank honourable members for their tolerance and observance; it has been of considerable benefit to the Legislative Council. If at this time I can give any fond advice to members, it is to exhort them to defend and continue the Westminster practice of parliamentary procedure in this country. There seem to be forces in the world which seek the destruction of democratic Parliaments. Under our proven system of government the people, the voters, elect the

parliamentarians of their choice, and if those members of Parliament do not perform, the voters can call the tune at the allotted time.

During my 12-year term as President I have not had to name a member. This must be recognised as a complimentary reflection on all the members who have observed and conformed with my rulings.

I now want to name several people, but in a different sense. The first is the Leader of the House. He has performed what is at times a very difficult task in a very exemplary manner. The Leader of the Opposition likewise has carried out what was described by Hon D.K. Dans earlier as probably one of the most difficult tasks in the Parliament. The Whips of each of the parties do not receive the recognition that they deserve. I want to commend all those other members who have responsibilities over and above what other members have. I endorse the remarks of each of the speakers in their vote of thanks to all the people who constitute the system of Parliament in Western Australia, especially at this end of the Parliament. I give my thanks for their cooperation to the Leader of the House and his Ministers, and I also thank the Leader of the Opposition for his cooperation in helping me complete my presidential tasks. I also extend my special thanks to the Chairman of Committees, Hon D.J. Wordsworth, and to his deputies.

No President could complete a session without acknowledging with gratitude the work undertaken by the staff of Parliament House. I add my special thanks to those already extended to the Clerk of the Council, Laurie Marquet, and to all his staff, including Ian Allnutt and others in the Legislative Council. Special thanks are also due to the Hansard staff under Neil Burrell; the Finance and Personnel Officer, Mr Ken Foster; the Librarian, Roslynn Membrey; the Controller, Mr Vince Pacecca and his staff, the stewards and the attendants and all those who provide services to members and the Parliament with a willingness and dedication which is admirable. I also pay special tribute to the telephonists, and to my own personal staff, Roslynn King, Janet Lee and Jan O'Neill. I should also be grateful for the tolerance of the driver provided for the President by the Government, Peter Gatey, on whom I practise all my speeches.

I have one particularly happy thought about this Chamber. I have always felt it is made up of one huge family of representatives of our great, far flung State. If we have a family quarrel it is usually a dignified one. All points of view are heard, and the issues decided, and any memories of a dispute are forgotten forever.

I wish all members and staff the compliments of the season and a fraternal farewell at the end of this parliamentary session. I have seen many changes since coming into this House, and the memories of great people are fixed happily in my mind. I am sure that in the upper House in 1989 new achievements and fresh memories will be created. I am looking forward to the challenges and the continuation of our work.

I indicate to all honourable members and to all staff that the usual end of the parliamentary term function will commence in the President's corridor immediately the House rises. On behalf of all the staff, I again thank members for their comments.

HON NEIL OLIVER (West) [6.25 pm]: It is with a great deal of reluctance, the President having completed his remarks on the adjournment debate, that I seek to draw the attention of the House to events that have occurred over the past week which affect the findings of a Committee of Privilege of this House.

The report of that committee remains on the Notice Paper and has not been discussed this session. The reason I bring this matter to the attention of the House is that that committee may have taken evidence which may ultimately be found not to be correct. In doing so the committee may have followed a path which may bring discredit on the proceedings of this House. I trust that in the new session, when the new Parliament is elected, attention will be given to the report of that Committee of Privilege and particularly to the addendum by Hon Tom Stephens, where he chose to accept evidence from other people rather than the word of a member of this House. Frankly, I found that a very unsatisfactory situation and possibly an event that has never occurred before in the history of this Parliament. Mr President, I wish you well, but in doing so I trust that when the next Parliament is proclaimed members of this House, including its new members, will give their attention to what appears to be a gross anomaly. No doubt the events that flow from that may give a clearer picture. The findings

of that Select Committee of Privilege of this House should not be placed in a situation which may bring discredit to this Chamber.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 6.28 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION - TREASURY

Borrowings

577. Hon MAX EVANS to the Leader of the House representing the Treasurer:

- (1) Due to its major investments since 1 July 1988, compared with its capital as of that date, has the SGIC borrowed from the Treasury?
- (2) If so, how much and when were the payments made to the creditors of the borrowings?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The member will be advised in writing in due course.

HEALTH - EXTRA CORPOREAL SHOCK WAVE LITHOTRIPTER

Urgent Need

580. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that an extra corporeal shock wave lithotripter is urgently needed for treatment of patients in Western Australia?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that patients requiring treatment on this machine currently have to travel to Melbourne where there is one available?
- (3) If the Minister is aware of the need for this machine, will the Government consider purchasing one for use in Western Australia?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) It is recognised that a lithotripter can make an important contribution to the treatment of patients with urinary stones. Other forms of treatment are available for such patients and have been for many years. The advantage of the lithotripter is that it can eliminate the need for surgery.
- (2) Yes, selection for referral to Melbourne is by the lithotripsy advisory panel. Assistance with travel and accommodation expenses is provided for those patients who need assistance.
- (3) The purchase of a lithotripter is already under active consideration. In this respect the Health Department is receiving the advice of experts on the lithotripsy advisory panel which, in formulating its advice, has taken into account rapidly improving technology, falling costs and the size of population necessary to support a cost effective facility.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT - PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT

Government Involvement - Gas-Electricity Renegotiations

582. Hon MAX EVANS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Economic Development and Trade:

- (1) Prior to or since the completion of the formalisation of the Government's involvement with the petrochemical project, was the previously agreed price of gas or any of its components renegotiated and reduced?
- (2) If so, what was the percentage reduction?
- (3) Prior to or since the completion of the formalisation of the Government's involvement with the petrochemical project was the previously agreed price of electricity or any of its components renegotiated and reduced?
- (4) If so, what was the percentage reduction?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

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

- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT - PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT
WA Government Holdings Ltd - Interim Finance Borrowings

588. Hon MAX EVANS to the Leader of the House representing the Deputy Premier:

In connection with the interim finance arranged by WA Government Holdings for the petrochemical project, how much -

- (1) (a) has been borrowed;
- (b) is proposed to be borrowed?
- (2) What is the source of the borrowings?
- (3) What is the term?
- (4) What is the rate of interest?
- (5) What security has been taken in favour of the State and has it been executed and registered?
- (6) What arrangement has been made with Bond Corporation for it to share in the interim finance borrowings?
- (7) Will Bond Corporation be, directly, party to the borrowings arrangements?
- (8) If not, why not?
- (9) What recourse will the Government have against Bond Corporation for its share of borrowings and interest and other charges?
- (10) What security will be registered against Bond Corporation for this recourse?
- (11) What action will the Government take if non recourse finance is not organised within six months?
- (12) Has the Governor's approval been sought to any guarantee of or in connection with the borrowings under section 5 of the Northern Mining Corporation (Acquisition) Act?
- (13) Is any such approach proposed?
- (14) Is any guarantee of the interim finance proposed, or has it been considered or discussed?
- (15) Has any agreement or instrument been entered into under section 6 of the said Act?
- (16) Has any person been authorised to execute an agreement or instrument under section 6 of the said Act?
- (17) If so, who, and in particular has Mr Kevin Edwards been so authorised?
- (18) Can the Minister reassure the House that -
 - (a) non recourse finance will be arranged for the project;
 - (b) arrangements will be completed within a short period; and
 - (c) all liability, including liability under any guarantee for the interim finance, will be released within four months?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

(1)-(18)

I am advised that -

WA Government Holdings Ltd has arranged an overdraft facility to enable preparatory work to proceed while project finance is being arranged. The facility is at normal overdraft rates and conditions.

Advances of interim finance by WAGH to Petrochemical Industries Co Ltd will be secured by a first registered charge over PICL's assets and undertakings.

No arrangement has been made with the Bond Corporation to participate in interim financing. This is not necessary since the interim finance will be repaid in full when project finance becomes available.

No guarantees have been given and no recourse has been made to powers contained in the Northern Mining Corporation (Acquisition) Act in relation to the construction and operation of the Kwinana petrochemical project.

On the basis of advice given to me, I can give a reassurance not only that project finance will be arranged but also that discussions on the package are proceeding satisfactorily and should be concluded within a short period.

LAND - RESERVES

Created - Aboriginal Inhabitants

593. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Will the Minister provide a list of the reserves which have been created for "the use and benefit of Aboriginal inhabitants" since February 1986?
- (2) What is the area of each reserve referred to in part (1) above?
- (3) Will the Minister provide a list of any other parcels of land which have been granted to, or leased to, Aboriginal communities or organisations or the Aboriginal Lands Trust since February 1986?
- (4) What is the area of each parcel of land referred to in part (3) above?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2)		(3)-(4)	
Reserve No	Area (Ha)	Lease No	Area (Ha)
1012	20 900	CT 1719/914	0.1
1475	259	CT 1740/128	0.1
11463	1 839	CT 1803/670	0.5
21236	0.1	CT 1812/339	0.1
21474	2 020	CT 1812/377	0.4
25767	10	CT 1818/131	0.1
39049	213	3116/9789	0.4
39389	0.1	3116/9841	0.2
39501	0.1	3116/10113	1 439
39503	0.3	3116/10115	24
39518	7.4	3116/10073	389
39673	0.4	3116/10058	0.9
39719	0.4	398/761	19 700
39860	46	398/744	26 560
40092	259	3116/9998	0.1
40108	17	3116/9999	0.1
40260	24	3116/9996	0.1
40277	87	3116/9997	0.1
40324	1 500	3116/10172	2.8 mil
40329	7 860	3116/10173	2.6 mil
40349	300	3116/10000	0.1
40447	147	3116/10001	0.1
40467	114	3116/10002	0.1
40515	0.2	3114/885	64 172
40536	95	3114/923	38 980
40546	1 212	3114/980	125 303
40551	16 586		

40568	101
40569	12
40570	100
40571	400
40617	200
40783	532 400
40784	80 000
40785	115 200
40786	46 200
40787	174 000

* In addition to the reserves listed above another 43 have had their purpose changed from either community welfare or nature purposes to "use and benefit of Aboriginal inhabitants" in accordance with Government policy.

** Reserve information manually extracted and compiled by Department of Land Administration.

*** Certificate of title and lease information extracted and compiled by Department of Land Administration.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN - MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT
Murchison Functions - Aircraft Hire

597. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Transport:

I refer the Minister to his recent visit to the Murchison, and ask -

- (1) Which aircraft was used to transport the Minister and his party?
- (2) What was the cost of the aircraft hire?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(2)

The Minister for Transport has supplied the following answer to this question -

I understand that the member has made use of parliamentary privilege to make false claims about my visit to the Murchison. The facts surrounding this visit are as follows -

- (a) The visit was at the request of the shire councils to discuss road funding issues, notably the widening of Great Northern Highway.
- (b) I travelled on a Cessna Conquest chartered from a local firm in the normal way.
- (c) [Struck out by order of the President.]
- (d) I was accompanied on the trip by Hon Tom Stephens, in accordance with my policy of allowing members of Parliament to use spare seats on chartered aircraft at request. I remind the member that he has availed himself of free seating on aircraft chartered by me previously.
- (e) I was accompanied for part of the trip by the Australian Labor Party candidate for Northern Rivers, Kevin Leahy, at his request. The Australian Labor Party has been invoiced for Mr Leahy's share of the charter cost.
- (f) The member appears not to have read or understood, or has deliberately ignored, answers I have given to previous questions, presumably following his practice of not letting the facts spoil a good story.
- (g) I am not surprised that the member is sensitive to Ministers

visiting his electorate as on such occasions the member's neglect of his electorate is frequently raised in conversation by local people.

CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT - DEPARTMENT
Officers - Old Growth Forests-Young Regrowth, CO₂ Reduction Claim

599. Hon E.J. CHARLTON to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) In relation to the claim made by CALM officers that replacing old growth forests with young regrowth reduces CO₂ levels, would the Minister -
 - (a) state the rationale; and
 - (b) list and table the publications upon which the claim is based?
- (2) Is the release of CO₂ through -
 - (a) the intense regeneration burn of huge volumes of logging debris in all logged areas;
 - (b) the disposal by burning of paper products made from karri-marri woodchips, which represent 85 per cent of all wood products from the average karri-marri coup; and
 - (c) the burning of off-cuts and sawdust taken into account by CALM in making this claim?
- (3) In view of the fact that all karri regrowth stock is selected for its wood production potential and not for its ability to survive drought, pests and diseases, would the Minister name and table the scientific publications which show that regrowth will be better to survive the impacts of the Greenhouse Effect than old growth forests?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(3)

I am not aware of any serious statement by an officer from the Department of Conservation and Land Management to this effect.

FORESTRY - JARRAH SAWLOGS
Karri Sawlogs - Royalty Rates

600. Hon E.J. CHARLTON to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

What are the current maximum and minimum royalty rates paid for -

- (a) first grade jarrah sawlogs;
- (b) second grade jarrah sawlogs;
- (c) first grade karri sawlogs; and
- (d) second grade karri sawlogs

by -

- (i) Bunnings Ltd;
- (ii) Whittakers Ltd;
- (iii) McLeans Ltd; and
- (iv) small sawmills?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

Information on the price of sawlogs to individual companies is confidential; however, if the member would like to be briefed on information regarding royalties which is of a more general nature, he should contact the Executive Director of the Department of Conservation and Land Management.

LAND - CLEARANCE, 1985-88

601. Hon E.J. CHARLTON to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Agriculture:

In relation to the degree of land clearance still occurring in the State, in each of the past three financial years -

- (1) What is the total area of land that has been subject to applications to clear?
- (2) What is the total area of land approved for clearance?
- (3) How many breaches of the Soil Conservation Act were documented?
- (4) How many prosecutions were -
 - (a) successfully; and
 - (b) unsuccessfully
 carried out under that Act?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) The area of land subject to notices of intent to clear in the last three financial years is -

	No	Area (ha)
1985-86	152	14 959
1986-87	254	27 277
1987-88	343	33 950

- (2) Records of the actual area approved are not available at this time. These are currently being captured onto a computer database from the agreed clearing plans.
- (3) There are no recorded breaches of the clearing regulations under the Soil and Land Conservation Act. Some areas have been subject to the issuing of soil conservation notices to prevent clearing.
- (4) Not applicable - see (3) above.

WORSLEY TIMBER PTY LTD - FOREST CLEARING
Soil and Land Conservation Act - Breach

602. Hon E.J. CHARLTON to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the recent actions of the Worsley Timber Company in the Mornington Mills area near Collie?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of a letter from his department to the Australian Conservation Foundation's Collie branch confirming that the Worsley Timber Company was in breach of the Soil and Land Conservation Act when it cleared a substantial area, some 500 hectares, of native blackbutt forest adjacent to the Brunswick River?
- (3) What action, if any, has the Minister taken -
 - (a) against the company; and
 - (b) to assess what impact, if any, the company's actions have had or are likely to have on soils in the area?
- (4) If the Minister has decided not to prosecute the company, on what grounds was that decision made and how does he intend to reassure the public that the Act is effective in controlling land management and land clearance?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Minister is aware of a letter to the Collie Branch of the Australian Conservation Foundation relating to clearing activities of Worsley Timber

Company. The letter, dated 30 June 1988, stated that the company had failed to lodge a notice of intention to clear land.

- (3) (a) The Minister has initiated action with the Crown Law Department; and
- (b) the area in question was thoroughly inspected for the impact of the company's actions on the soil and water resources of the area. This inspection took place on 16 September 1988 and involved from the Department of Agriculture a senior officer from head office and the local officer in charge, and the area manager for Worsley Timber Company. This inspection revealed that neither the clearing nor the site preparation had resulted in erosion or sedimentation in the Brunswick River, despite a wetter than normal winter in the area.
- (4) See (3)(a) above.

POLICE - OFFICERS

Wiluna Visit - Vandalism Problems

603. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Police and Emergency Services:

- (1) Is it correct that the Commissioner of Police or one of his officers is to make a visit to Wiluna next week to look into vandalism problems in the town?
- (2) If so, which officers will be visiting and who will they be meeting?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

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

HEALTH - DEPARTMENT

Head Lice Inspections - Rural Schools

605. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a policy of the Department for Community Services to carry out regular checks for head lice in schools in remote areas, including Leonora?
- (2) If so -
 - (a) how often are the inspections carried out;
 - (b) what is the procedure if head lice are discovered; and
 - (c) does the department provide medication to eradicate the head lice/nits to the -
 - (i) parents of Aboriginal children; and
 - (ii) parents of non-Aboriginal children?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) No; however, community health staff advise teachers and parents how to recognise an infestation and recommend the most effective treatment.
- (2) (a) Inspections are carried out should reinfestations occur;
- (b) children are excluded from school until treatment is finalised; and
- (c) yes. Where parents are unable to provide treatment for reasons of hardship, the department provides assistance, including the provision of medication. This applies to all members of the community.

PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES CO LTD - BILLS OF EXCHANGE
Liabilities - Shire of Kalamunda

607. Hon MAX EVANS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Economic Development and Trade:

- (1) What are the total alleged liabilities of Petrochemical Industries Co Ltd under endorsed bills of exchange?
- (2) Has he been advised that PICL will have to pay out on the bill of exchange to the Shire of Kalamunda, even if it has rights of recovery against third parties?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

(1)-(2)

I am advised that the alleged liabilities of Petrochemical Industries Co Ltd under endorsed bills of exchange arose under the terms of a Rothwells facility. I am further advised that all Rothwells related debts in PICL were extinguished by the vendors before that company was acquired by the new owners.

ROTHWELLS LTD - COLLAPSE
Inquiry - Government Access Prevention

609. Hon MAX EVANS to the Attorney General:

Will he give an unequivocal undertaking to this House that in the course of any investigation of the collapse of Rothwells by -

- (a) the office of the Commissioner for Corporate Affairs;
- (b) the National Companies and Securities Commission; and
- (c) any liquidator,

the Government will not at any time claim in favour of the State the use of Crown privilege to prevent access to the Government and its papers or any part of them?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The question is based on hypothetical future possibilities.

ROTHWELLS LTD - TRUSTEE INVESTMENT
Recognition

610. Hon MAX EVANS to the Attorney General:

- (1) On what date was Rothwells first recognised as a trustee investment?
- (2) When did it cease to be so recognised?
- (3) On 1 October 1987, what securities industry licences did it have?
- (4) When did it cease to hold each of those licences?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) In the case of company securities, qualified trustee investment status arises by virtue of the operation of the Trustees Act 1962. The Act, as first enacted, enabled the shares, debentures and unsecured notes of certain listed companies to qualify for authorised trustee investment status where certain financial conditions were met.

Authorised trustee investment status for company securities is qualified in the sense that an investing trustee must obtain advice in respect of the matters prescribed by the Trustees Act - now section 16B - before investing in such securities.

- (2) The Trustees Act was amended on 1 September 1988 so as to tighten the criteria by virtue of which company securities received qualified authorised trustee investment status. Debentures and unsecured notes issued by Rothwells ceased to attract authorised trustee investment status on that date by virtue of the tightened requirements. In respect of shares, it appears that

Rothwells shares continued to attract qualified authorised trustee investment status - subject to the taking of advice - until the date that the company was placed into provisional liquidation.

- (3) A dealer's licence issued pursuant to section 48 of the Securities Industry (Queensland) Code.
- (4) The dealer's licence was cancelled on 12 November 1987.

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION - BELL GROUP SHARES
Sale

612. Hon MAX EVANS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) Has the Government or any of its agencies, through Kevin Edwards or otherwise, made any agreement or reached any understanding that the State Government Insurance Commission will not sell its Bell Group shareholding and seek indemnity from Bond Corporation?
- (2) If so, what is the arrangement?
- (3) If not, what is the reason for the delay in sale by SGIC having regard to its need to gather in cash because of its substantial recent pay-outs and losses?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The member will be advised in writing in due course.

R & I BANK - GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

613. Hon MAX EVANS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) Since 30 June last, has the Government made any payment, advance, loan, or injection of capital to the R & I Bank other than towards Teachers Credit Society losses?
- (2) Is any such arrangement proposed?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The member will be advised in writing in due course.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT - PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT
Government Guarantee - Public Announcement

614. Hon MAX EVANS to the Leader of the House representing the Deputy Premier:

- (1) Will he announce publicly immediately any guarantee or any like arrangement on behalf of the petrochemical project?
- (2) Will he undertake to have Parliament recalled to give its approval to what would be a \$1 100 million liability?
- (3) When will the issue be decided?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) A Government guarantee has not been given in relation to the petrochemical project.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

LLOYD, MR TONY - GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

615. Hon MAX EVANS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) Is Mr Tony Lloyd now employed by the Government or any of its instrumentalities?
- (2) If so, in what capacity, on what terms, for what period, and for what consideration?
- (3) What positions did Mr Lloyd hold with the Government at the time of the 1987 Rothwells rescue?
- (4) When did he leave each of those positions?

- (5) On leaving any such position, was he paid out long service leave and/or superannuation, or is he receiving a superannuation pension?
- (6) When Mr Lloyd was appointed to the board of Rothwells as the representative of the Government, was there any agreement or arrangement made that Mr Lloyd be paid -
 - (a) by the Government;
 - (b) by Rothwells; or
 - (c) by both the Government and Rothwells?
- (7) Has the Government made any payment or given any consideration to Mr Tony Lloyd since he resigned from his positions with the Government after moving to Rothwells on behalf of the Government?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The member will be advised in writing in due course.

EDUCATION - BURKE, HON BRIAN

Pre-election Pledge - School Students, Financial Assistance

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

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the then Premier Burke's pre-election pledge to the youth of WA in which he said -

". . . to make sure young people who want to stay at school aren't forced by financial circumstances to leave, the State Government will pay parents the difference between the secondary allowance paid by the Commonwealth and unemployment benefits."?
- (2) Has she been involved in, or appraised of the progress of this promise?
- (3) Has that pledge been implemented?
- (4) If not, why not?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(4)

In the 1987-88 Budget the Commonwealth abolished unemployment benefits for 16-17 year olds and introduced a job search allowance. At the same time maximum Austudy rates were increased to equal the job search allowance, therefore removing the financial incentive for young people from low income families to leave school.

The State Government has also reviewed its two main programs of assistance for needy secondary students. Effective from 1988 the additional assistance and clothing assistance schemes have been converted to an age basis and eligibility for both benefits is on the common basis of a Commonwealth health card. The effect of these changes is to take in more needy families than the previous means test for additional allowances. Also, the amount paid under the clothing assistance scheme was increased from \$72 to \$100.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS - TRAVEL AGENTS

Licensing Fee - Increase

617. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Is it correct that the licensing fee for travel agents has been increased by \$25?
- (2) If so, why has this increase occurred?
- (3) Does this increase not run counter to the Premier's claims that State fees and charges have not risen, and will not rise?
- (4) Which authority or individual has the responsibility for the decision to increase this fee?
- (5) Did he, as Minister, approve the increase?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) Yes. For individuals and partnerships the increase was \$17, or seven per cent. For bodies corporate the increase was \$25, or 6.8 per cent.
- (2) As a result of an annual review of fees in line with the CPI as part of the budgetary process.
- (3) This increase does not run counter to the commitment made by the Premier that State fees and charges would not rise at a rate above the rate of inflation.
- (4)-(5) The increases were approved by the Cabinet financial and economic development committee on the recommendation of the Department of Treasury.

DIVORCE - APPLICATIONS
Family Court - Yearly Statistics

618. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Attorney General:

What is the number of married couples applying for divorce through the Family Court of Western Australia each year?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

Figures for the last three years are reported in the 1987-88 annual report of the Crown Law Department - p 20. They are -

1985-86	3 940
1986-87	3 877
1987-88	3 890

LAND - WATER RESERVE 860
Mandurah Town Council - Control Transfer

619. Hon A.A. LEWIS to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Lands:

- (1) Has the Government been asked by the Mandurah Town Council to transfer Water Reserve 860 at Dawesville to the control of the council?
- (2) If so, is the Government intending to agree to such a request?
- (3) What reasons have been given by the council for seeking transfer of the reserve to its control?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) Neither the Minister for Lands nor the Department of Land Administration has been approached about transferring the reserve.

(2)-(3)
Not applicable.

CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT - WATER RESERVE 860
Mandurah Town Council - Government Advice

620. Hon A.A. LEWIS to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) Because of the proximity of Water Reserve 860 to the Harvey Estuary at Dawesville, would the Environmental Protection Authority or any other Government agency or authority be asked to report and advise on any development or future use of the reserve proposed by the Mandurah Town Council?
- (2) Have any requests been received by the EPA or the Department of Conservation and Land Management regarding the future vesting, ownership and use of this reserve?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) Reserve 860 is currently a subject of discussion between the Environmental

Protection Authority red book task force and the shire. The task force is charged with implementing outstanding conservation reserve recommendations.

(2) No.

PLANNING - DAWESVILLE CUT

Construction Commencement - Works Cost Estimate

621. Hon A.A. LEWIS to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Transport:

With regard to the proposed Dawesville Cut -

- (1) When is the Government intending that construction will commence?
- (2) What is the cost estimate of the works proposed?
- (3) Does the cost estimate include the realignment of existing roads and the necessary road bridges for the Coastal Highway and Estuary Road?
- (4) What are the dimensions of the proposed cut?
- (5) Is it intended that small recreation and pleasure boats will be able to travel along the cut between the sea and Harvey Estuary?
- (6) When will the construction and associated works be completed?
- (7) Will the Minister please table, or provide me with, a location plan of the proposed works?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) As soon as possible following finalisation of the environmental report and resolution of land ownership problems.
- (2) The estimated cost of construction of the Dawesville Channel, in 1987 dollars, is \$35 640 000.
- (3) The cost estimate allows for the realignment of Old Coast Road and a two lane bridge across the channel. It is not proposed to bridge the channel at Estuary Road. Instead, Estuary Road will be made into cul-de-sacs with access off Old Coast Road on both sides of the channel.
- (4) In general terms the channel is 1 600 metres long, 200 metres wide and 4.5 metres deep. It narrows to 150 metres and deepens to 6.5 metres near the ocean. It is shallower and wider where it enters Harvey Estuary.
- (5) Yes, it is intended that small recreation and pleasure boats will be able to travel along the channel between Harvey Estuary and the sea. Conditions at the ocean entrance during north west storms may make navigation hazardous at certain times of the year.
- (6) Construction and associated works should be completed within three years of a decision being made to proceed.
- (7) I table for the member a location plan of the proposed works. Separately I have arranged for the Department of Marine and Harbours to forward a copy of the engineering report on the channel to the member. This report covers in detail the construction matters which he has raised.

[See paper No 708.]

BUNBURY PORT AUTHORITY - LAND PURCHASE

Title Numbers - Total Cost

622. Hon A.A. LEWIS to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Transport:

Further to the Minister's answer to question 566 of 1988 regarding the Bunbury Port Authority's land purchases, what were the title numbers purchased and how much did the total purchase cost?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

Total cost	-	\$1 394 500.		
Title numbers	-	Volume	1716	folio 97
			317	170A
			1125	72
			1355	768
			1771	598
			1755	819
			1717	049
			1805	632
			1633	887
			1400	966
			1434	654

STATE GOVERNMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION - HOLMES A COURT
Bell Group Shares Purchase - Funding Approval

623. Hon MAX EVANS to the Leader of the House representing the Treasurer:

I refer to section 24 of the State Government Insurance Commission Act which empowers the commission, with the approval of the Treasurer, to borrow or re-borrow moneys, obtain credit or arrange for financial accommodation for the purpose of performing its functions.

On what date was approval given to raise funds to purchase the Bell Group shares from Mr Holmes a Court which are in the accounts at a value of \$2.48 per share?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The member will be advised in writing in due course.

EDUCATION - PRIMARY SCHOOLS
East Mandurah Area Construction - Dudley Park Enrolments

624. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) When is it expected that a new primary school will be built in the east Mandurah area?
- (2) What is the -
 - (a) current enrolment; and
 - (b) expected 1989 and 1990 enrolments for Dudley Park Primary School?
- (3) How many demountable classrooms are in use at the Dudley Park Primary School this year and how many are expected to be in use in 1989 and 1990?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) Documentation is proceeding in respect of the proposed South Goegrup Primary School. It is expected that the school will be constructed for 1990, but this timing will be subject to the availability of funds.
- (2) (a) 663 primary and 104 preprimary students; and
 - (b) 1989: 696 primary and 104 preprimary students.
 1990 with the new school: 500 primary and 80 preprimary students.
 1990 without the new school: 806 primary and 104 preprimary students.
- (3) There are three temporary classrooms at Dudley Park Primary School. In 1989 there will be six, and in 1990 there will be none - or eight if the new school is not constructed.

TRANSPORT - BUSES

School - Audit and Review Branch, Internal Review

625. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it correct that an internal review of the school bus transport system has been conducted by the audit and review branch?
- (2) If so, will the Minister make the report public and, if not, why not?
- (3) What are the major recommendations of the report?
- (4) When will the report be considered by Cabinet?
- (5) When will the recommendations be implemented?
- (6) Did the audit and review branch consult with the Road Transport Association on the proposed changes to the system and, if not, will it do so before implementing any changes?
- (7) Does the internal review recommend any or all of the following changes -
 - (a) a 90c fare for all students using school buses;
 - (b) the introduction of Government owned buses;
 - (c) the introduction of a more competitive tendering process; and
 - (d) a review of the standard rate formula?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(7)

There has been an internal review undertaken within the policy and resources division of the Ministry concerning the overall issue of transportation of school students. That report is still an internal document and has not been considered by Government. The fact that the internal report makes recommendations does not automatically mean that the Government will accept those recommendations. Because of the internal nature of this report it is inappropriate for any comments to be made before consideration by Government.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT - PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT

Industrial Waste - Disposal Site

626. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Economic Development and Trade:

- (1) What industrial waste will be produced by the proposed petrochemical plant at Kwinana?
- (2) Where will this waste be dumped?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) I am advised that industrial waste produced at the Kwinana petrochemical complex will be determined by the mix of products. This mix has not yet been finalised.
- (2) All industrial waste produced at the complex will be dealt with in a manner which has the prior approval of the Environmental Protection Authority. The specific manner in which the waste will be dealt with will be finalised once its nature and the quantities involved have been determined.

EDUCATION - DEPARTMENT

Employees - Member for Subiaco Electorate Office

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

- (1) Do any ministry staff work out of the electorate office of the member for Subiaco?
- (2) If so, what are their functions?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) No ministerial officer is based in the electorate office. However, on occasions the Minister's executive assistant is required to liaise between the Minister's electorate office and ministerial office on education and related matters. This need results from members of the public frequently contacting the electorate office rather than the ministerial office on these matters.
- (2) Not applicable.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT - MEMBER FOR SUBIACO

Electorate Office Employees - Functions

628. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) How many staff are provided in the electorate office of the member for Subiaco?
- (2) What are the functions of each staff member?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) One full time position that is shared between two people.
- (2) The duties of the position are those of an electorate officer.

**EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING - TRIPARTITE INTERIM COUNCIL ON
PRODUCTIVITY AND TRAINING**

Report - Submission

629. Hon JOHN WILLIAMS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Has the interim council on productivity and training submitted its report to the Minister yet?
- (2) If so, would he table the report?
- (3) If not, when is the report expected to be submitted?
- (4) Is the Government preparing legislation based on the recommendations of the report?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1) Yes.

(2)-(4)

The report by the tripartite interim council on productivity and training was preceded in April of this year by a publicly available discussion paper released by the Premier. Submissions and comments on that discussion paper were invited. Some 56 submissions were received by the interim council and, where appropriate, I understand the interim council included those submissions in its report to me. Cabinet has approved the drafting of legislation and the State Employment and Skills Development Authority Bill will be brought to Parliament once I have fully consulted with all relevant industry associations, unions, industry training councils and community groups.

PLANNING - SWAN BREWERY SITE
Aboriginal Cultural Centre - Federal Grant

630. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Is it correct that the Commonwealth Government has granted \$13 million to Western Australia for the building of an Aboriginal Cultural Centre?
- (2) If so, has all or part of this money been used to restore the old Swan Brewery?
- (3) Is it correct that Aboriginal leaders have expressed concern about the matter?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The member will be advised in writing in due course.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

RACING AND TROTTING - WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

Committee - Members

490. Hon G.E. MASTERS to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

Some notice of the question was given.

- (1) In view of the failure of the Government to proceed with the Western Australian Greyhound Racing Authority Bill, will the Minister advise whether the Chief Executive of the WAGRA is acting legally?
- (2) Is there a WAGRA committee?
- (3) Who is on the committee?
- (4) How often does the committee meet?
- (5) Is the Chief Executive of the WAGRA subject to its direction?

The PRESIDENT: The first question is asking for a legal opinion. I direct the question to the Minister.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

I understand the quandary you are in, Mr President. I am in a similar quandary. Therefore, I will just read the answer provided.

(1)-(2)

Yes.

(3) Mr T.G. Smith; Mr R.T. Leeson; Mr R.J. Riordon; and Mr C.M. MacKinnon.

(4)-(5)

Section 8(1) of the Western Australian Greyhound Racing Association Act 1981 states -

With the consent of the Minister the Association may by an instrument in writing in relation to such matter or class of matters as is specified in that instrument and to the extent therein set out delegate any of its powers or functions under this Act (except this power of delegation and its powers in relation to the making of rules) to a member of the Committee, an officer or employee of the Association, or any other person.

I think that is a very full answer.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT - AMMONIA UREA PLANT

Kwinana - Gas, Potential Increase

491. Hon G.E. MASTERS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Economic Development and Trade:

I understand that notice of the question was given today.

- (1) Is the Minister aware of a recent report concerning the proposed ammonia-urea plant at Kwinana which indicated that a major factor against the project proceeding in the near future is the potential increase in gas prices stemming from the go ahead of the \$1 billion petrochemical plant project?
- (2) What steps has the Government taken to ensure that a competitive gas price is extended to the ammonia-urea plant project?

- (3) When is it anticipated by the Government that the petrochemical project will proceed?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

I am advised as follows -

- (1) No.
- (2) Government departments, including the Department of Resources Development and the State Energy Commission, participated in the Norsk Hydro-CSBP feasibility study, including aspects of gas pricing.
- (3) Detailed engineering design has already commenced.

EDUCATION - HIGH SCHOOLS

Goomalling District - Closure

492. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

Some notice has already been given of the question.

- (1) Is it correct that the Goomalling District High School is to be closed?
- (2) If so, why?
- (3) Are any other district high schools listed for closure?
- (4) If so, which are they and why?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I thank the honourable member for giving notice of the question. I have been supplied with the following answer -

- (1) No. The school will be reclassified as a class II primary school with effect from 1990.
- (2) In 1988 the enrolment figures for the Goomalling District High School were: Seven children in year eight; six in year nine; and six in year 10. The enrolment will be of this order in the foreseeable future. Under the provisions of regulation 180A, to maintain status as a district high school a school must have at least 25 pupils who are following a secondary course of study. Clearly, Goomalling cannot meet this requirement.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.

SMITH, MR ROBERT - TELEPHONE TAPPING

Crown Law Department - Instituting Procedures

493. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Attorney General:

I refer the Attorney General to -

- (1) section 57 of the Criminal Code which refers to the giving of false evidence to a committee of the Parliament;
- (2) the recent charges laid against Mr Robert Smith which include allegations that he and/or his employees tapped the telephone of a member of Parliament;
- (3) the evidence given by Mr Smith to the Select Committee of Privilege of June 1988 in which he denied any involvement in telephone tapping; and
- (4) the close business relationship between Mr Smith's company and Burswood Management Ltd,

and ask: Will the Attorney General request the Crown Law Department to institute proceedings against Mr Smith for a possible breach of section 57 of the Criminal Code?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

I am frankly not sure that I have absorbed the full implications of the question, but if the honourable member will provide me with a copy I will certainly forward it to Crown Law officers for their early attention.

ARTS - HIGGINS, MR JEREMY

WA Film Council - *"Clownfish/The Traveller" Script, Assistance Application*

494. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for The Arts:

Some notice of the question has been given.

- (1) Is the Minister for the Arts aware of an application to the WA Film Council on behalf of Jeremy Higgins for funding assistance to develop his script for *Clownfish/The Traveller*?
- (2) Does she or the council regard Mr Higgins highly?
- (3) Is she aware of considerable international interest in this script?
- (4) Can she indicate whether people from outside Western Australia have recently received financial assistance from the WA Film Council at a time when Jeremy Higgins' case has been met with a refusal?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

I am advised as follows -

- (1) Yes.
 - (2) As this question requests an opinion, it is out of order.
 - (3) The film council is aware that in response to a request from Mr Higgins, a foreign director, Waris Hussein, has agreed to work with Mr Higgins on a second draft of the script for a fee.
 - (4) The council only provides funding for the development of projects to be produced in Western Australia, irrespective of whether they are written by Western Australians. Only one interstate screenwriter has received council assistance in 1988. The assistance amounted to \$2 000.
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