

Legislative Council

Wednesday, 22 October 1986

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

VALUATION OF LAND AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Hon. J. M. Berinson (Minister for Budget Management), and read a first time.

Second Reading

HON. J. M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan—Minister for Budget Management) [2.37 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill remedies a number of administrative difficulties, clarifies some technical matters, and removes an anomaly in the present Act.

In particular, the Bill proposes that the Valuer General be authorised to establish the date on which valuations are fixed for the purpose of a general revaluation.

The Act specifies presently that the completion date be used for this purpose. Where considerable time is taken on a general revaluation, the current provisions cause difficulty because values determined early in the period must be brought into parity with those determined at the end.

The Bill also seeks—

To provide for land reserved for a public purpose and used for a private purpose to be valued as if it were owned privately, so as to maintain equity between taxpayers or ratepayers;

to extend the rights of objection and appeal to an agent acting on behalf of a ratepayer or taxpayer, and to ensure the reasons for an objection are fully stated;

to clarify the law so as to limit the effect of any reduction in valuation as the result of a successful objection or appeal to the year of assessment to which it relates and to future years, and not to apply retrospectively;

to establish beyond doubt that the valuation roll compiled by the Valuer General is the legal record of valuation for rating and taxing purposes;

to clarify the authority of the Valuer General to determine values other than for rating and taxing purposes; and

to increase the maximum penalty for offences under the Act from \$500 to \$1 000.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon. V. J. Ferry.

PRISONERS (INTERSTATE TRANSFER) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 7 October.

HON. JOHN WILLIAMS (Metropolitan) [2.40 p.m.]: The Opposition supports this Bill. It really is just picking up one of the themes which occurred after we passed the Prisoners (Interstate Transfer) Bill in this State last year. The Commonwealth has realised that it too has prisoners imprisoned for Commonwealth offences, and they are no less affected than State prisoners when it comes to the question of interstate transfer, not just as we originally had it for welfare and rehabilitation purposes, but rather for offences they committed in other States which may have been committed under Commonwealth law and for which they can only be charged in that State.

An interesting sideline to this is that it requires the agreement of Ministers in both States or Territories concerned, and that is terribly important.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I do not know how many times I have to remind honourable members, including Hon. Jim Brown who continues to talk while I am talking, that audible conversations are out of order. Each individual carrying on his private conversation probably thinks he is not making very much noise, but when about 10 members are doing it, it starts to get difficult even to begin to hear what Hon. John Williams has to tell us about this terribly important piece of legislation. I think we ought to listen to him.

Hon. JOHN WILLIAMS: I have spoken unofficially with the Minister for Prisons, and he tells me—and I have no reason to doubt him—that the scheme originated in this State; and with the consent of Attorneys General in other States it is working satisfactorily. I am pleased to see that such a scheme is working satisfactorily.

In commending this Bill to the House I congratulate the initiative taken by the Attorneys General and the prison authorities in various

States. When one imprisons or incarcerates a person for a long period of time, the authorities are entitled to be able to work at some form of rehabilitation, not just punitive measures.

I support the Bill.

HON. J. M. BERINSON (North Central Metropolitan—Minister for Prisons) [2.43 p.m.]: I thank Hon. John Williams for his support and his contribution to this debate.

I am not in the habit in this House of responding to critical media comments, but I believe an item on this Bill which appeared in the *Sunday Times* of 12 October calls for some response. The article was headed, "Prisoners get the chance to head west". It was genuinely disappointing for its superficial approach, and indeed for its demonstrated lack of knowledge of the subject. It was also a shame that Mr George Cash MLA, as Opposition spokesman for prisons, aligned himself with an attack on the Government in what has always been regarded as a non-partisan and indeed non-contentious issue.

Legislation providing for interstate transfer of persons has been implemented on a uniform basis by the Commonwealth and all of the States. The *Sunday Times* commented on the scheme in these terms—

A CONTROVERSIAL scheme that allows eastern States criminals—including murderers, rapists and drug smugglers—to transfer to WA prisons has been amended by the State Government to allow more inmates to do the same.

The scheme has been going for some time, but this week Parliament extended the transfer plan to allow Commonwealth prisoners—those sentenced for crimes such as fraud, drug importation, tax evasion or immigration rackets—to do time in WA compliments of WA taxpayers.

The paper elaborated on this theme with this comment under the further heading, "Times are good—at a stretch". It reads—

When the State Government started its publicity campaign inviting everyone to Fremantle for the America's Cup, it wasn't joking.

Imagine a prisoner spending the summer in Fremantle, watching the yacht races on his own television set in the privacy of his cell, knowing that the crews were battling for the Auld Mug just a few miles out to sea from where he was sitting.

Then, once February was over, he could put in a transfer to Pentridge just in time to catch the start of the VFL season....

Long Bay, in Sydney, has a nice view of the Pacific, so why not spend his 1987/88 summer in cool surroundings.

Mr Cash's words were reported in this way—

The plan has come under fire from Opposition prisons spokesman, Mr George Cash.

"It is ironic that we have a situation at the moment where we are having trouble keeping tabs on our own inmates—and the Government wants to bring in more prisoners," he said....

But Mr Cash said, "We must make sure that we do not have more prisoners coming into WA than the number going out.

"Perth is seen around the country as a fairly pleasant environment to do time.

"The Opposition does realise that in some cases inmates must be transferred for their own safety or for pending court cases.

"But when it comes to prisoners transferring to Perth because it may be a nice place to stay that is going too far.

The facts are that, firstly, all States cooperate in this scheme on a bona fide basis. The prisoners are transferred on strictly defined criteria, and it would be destructive of the scheme and inconsistent with its cooperative basis that States set out on a numbers game with a view to exporting more prisoners than were accepted. Secondly, it is ludicrous to suggest that transfers to Perth would be approved on the basis that prisoners preferred it as a "nice place to stay".

There are in fact two main grounds for transfer. The first is to allow a prisoner to stand trial in another State. This may indeed be to the prisoner's advantage in making his future prospects clearer. However, it is also important in many cases for the proper administration of justice. Where trials are delayed by a defendant's lengthy imprisonment elsewhere, all sorts of things can go wrong. Witnesses can be dispersed or die, and recollections can be blurred. An early trial therefore has its advantage, from many points of view.

The other main reason for transfer is the availability to a prisoner of family contact and support in another State. Those who regard this as just another case of going soft on criminals should consider the matter further. For practi-

cal purposes, every one of the thousands of people going into prison each year is going to be released at some time or other. It is in everyone's interests—the prisoner, his family and the community—that when a prisoner is released his return to society should be as orderly as possible and with the least attainable degree of risk of his further offending. That prospect will be maximised where he is able to retain family contact and support during his imprisonment, and it will be jeopardised otherwise. In other words, it is an important factor in dealing with an application for interstate transfer that that transfer should involve an element of public benefit.

I have already stressed that the scheme is not and cannot be conducted as some sort of numbers game. Nonetheless, the question having been raised, it might help to put the scheme into perspective to indicate that in over two years of operation, it has led to the transfer of only six prisoners into this State and 11 prisoners out.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Hon. J. M. Berinson (Minister for Prisons), and transmitted to the Assembly.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) BILL

Consideration of Tabled Paper

Debate resumed from 21 October.

HON. P. G. PENDAL (South Central Metropolitan) [2.53 p.m.]: I rise to support the motion and in doing so make the observation that it is traditional for all Treasurers and Ministers for Budget Management to claim they have exercised a great deal of financial discipline and restraint in bringing down a particular Budget.

To the extent that that is true of the 1986-87 State Budget, I commend the Government for showing that level of restraint and discipline. To the extent that it is not true—and that was outlined in this House yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition—I put it to the House that

the Government ought to be roundly condemned for some of the actions it has taken in the Budget.

To get a first-hand view of the level of restraint that has allegedly been practised by the Government, not just in one Budget but in the last three years, it is worth referring to a study of figures prepared for the Opposition which shows that in the time that the current Government has been in office, far from restraint having been shown, one can readily suggest there has been a high level of financial extravagance that has relied on very sharp increases in State taxation to sustain it.

For example, I refer to land tax. In the three years the Government has been in office, land tax has brought in an extra 48.6 per cent in revenue. Stamp duty has accounted for a 78 per cent increase in the Government's revenue in the same period.

Hon. J. M. Berinson: Are you opposed to improving business, because that is where most of it has come from?

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: No. The Minister for Budget Management has come in very early in the piece. If it is correct—and of course stamp duty is a reflection of commercial transactions—that the increase has been of the order of 78 per cent in the Government's revenue in that three-year period, then that is an argument to revise the levels of stamp duty. If the level of commercial activity means that the revenues are higher and if the Government were really interested in containing costs and charges, then it would have taken some action—after all, it has had 3½ years of office—to ensure that the level of that percentage is reduced.

I refer too, for example, to licences for liquor and tobacco which one can suggest hit the low income earners far more severely than is the case with medium or high level earners. The increases in revenue from those licences in the three years under the Burke Labor Government have amounted to 126 per cent.

Overall—and I am missing out quite a number of the taxes but I am quite happy to deal with any of those now—in the 3½ years that the current Government has been in office we have seen an increase in the State revenues from these sources in the order of 53.5 per cent.

I mention that at the outset because no-one who knows the meaning of the word restraint or no-one who knows the meaning of the words financial discipline can in any way suggest that the Government has been restrained or disciplined. Indeed, the arguments are very

much to the contrary. The Government has taken full advantage of increasing the level of State taxation and State charges at every available opportunity, even to the extent of introducing new types of taxation in the form of the financial institutions duty, the casino taxes and a few others such as the soccer pools income. One cannot claim any level of restraint in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary.

In the course of my comments I want to touch on a number of matters; in respect of some I will be critical of the Government and in respect of others I will be quite happy to commend the actions it has taken.

Hon. J. M. Berinson: Do we get to hear the good things first or the bad things?

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: I will intersperse them—a little of the good things and then a little of the bad things.

The first area I want to touch on—because I have the responsibility in the Opposition ranks—is the Tourism portfolio and I will give a brief examination of the figures that are produced in the estimates for the Western Australian Tourism Commission. The first thing that is apparent to anyone who makes a cursory examination of the figures is the quite alarming and even staggering increases that have been permitted for administrative expenses within the Tourism Commission in the last 12 months.

More than that, at a time of great turmoil within that organisation those administrative expenses were overspent to the tune of 21 per cent.

Again I ask members to bear in mind that on the one hand we have been told that the Government is imposing a strict level of financial scrutiny over departments and statutory bodies, yet on the other hand we find from an examination of those figures that the Tourism Commission's internal administrative expenses have been overrun to the extent of 21 per cent. We have been given no explanation of that. I can commend the Government for its overall increase in the tourism allocation this year, which is in the order of 13 per cent, because one could quite easily argue that it is a small amount of money in the overall scheme of things to be spent in order to attract huge levels of investment to the State. However, when we see the high level of the commission's budget that has been siphoned off over the last 12 months for internal administrative expenses, over and above what it was allocated a

year ago, it gives cause for serious alarm. Specifically, last year at this time the commission allocated itself within its own budget \$3.5 million to look after its internal administrative expenses. One Budget down the track we find in the Budget papers this year that the commission spent not \$3.5 million on administrative expenses but fully \$4.2 million. The figure I arrived at was an overrun of something like 21 per cent or \$624 000. There are other overruns in that same Budget but none of the same proportion.

That also reflects something else that I suggest is going wrong within the Tourism Commission, because the figures also indicate that at this time last year it was planned to allocate to the commission \$1.2 million in grants and subsidies. A year down the track we see that only \$978 000 of that sum was allocated. That is a 19 per cent drop in the moneys that might be going, for example, to small tourist bureaus, information centres and the like throughout WA. I know for a fact that there are those country tourist bureaus that rely quite heavily on those amounts of money and that there are those country tourist organisations that have been quite frightened that that small amount of income they get from the State Government would be affected in the State Budget, and indeed that has turned out to be the case. I repeat: They were allocated \$1.2 million but they received only \$978 000.

I suppose the first thing that someone might say is, "Isn't that an instance of the commission and the Government imposing financial restraint and financial discipline? That they have underspent in those fields is surely a good sign." That is not the case if in fact the commission is underspending in that area of grants and subsidies in order only to compensate for the huge 21 per cent overrun in its administrative expenses.

The second point I will touch on here is the commission's staff complement. Just prior to lunch I was at a major State Government instrumentality and I asked the head of the instrumentality, "To your knowledge is the staff freeze on Government bodies still in place?" He replied that it was. I turn the attention of members to the details of what has happened at the Tourism Commission, because there is an allocation that will permit a 13 per cent increase in the commission's funds for staff this financial year. Last year it had 156 staff members and this year that figure will rise by 21, to 177 people. Again, in one way I can accept that in a growth area such as tourism, in an area

wanting to take full advantage of the America's Cup, in an area wanting to take advantage of huge amounts of investment taking place at the moment, there could well be an argument to exempt the Tourism Commission from that staff ceiling. However, some silly things happen, and I will refer to just one of them.

About a month ago the Government officially opened the new Norseman Holiday WA Centre, built at a cost of something like \$300 000. This venture is something I personally endorse and I commend the Government for having done this. But, Mr Deputy President (Hon. D. J. Wordsworth), you and other country members would know that Norseman is our front door, as it were, for Eastern State's road traffic.

Hon. Tom Stephens: The bottom front door.

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: If Mr Stephens is feeling particularly patriotic to the north today, I understand that. Nevertheless, Norseman is an important link with Eastern States' road traffic. Ten or 15 years ago the Leeuwin Way concept was introduced. What happened was that all those great southern and south-western centres banded together to say to themselves, "Let's go up to Norseman and find ways of persuading people to come into WA via the great southern and the south-west and bring them up to Perth that way rather than the traditional way of going north into the goldfields and then westwards towards Perth." The outcome of the Leeuwin Way has probably been one of the most outstanding examples of the volunteer ethic that any part of the WA economy has seen ever in its history, because it has had a most dramatic impact on the growth of tourist facilities and the tourist influx into that southern part of the State. That is the good news.

The bad news of that is that the Government put up this new \$300 000 centre but then made the decision to allocate only one staff member to it. Not only that, but the Government decided that this \$300 000 centre should be open and remain open for only 37½ hours a week. How ludicrous it is. Tourists do not cross the border and enter WA and approach Norseman and say to themselves, "It's after knock-off time in WA so we had better not get to Norseman too early, because the centre won't be open." It is not only the formal tourism structure by way of the commission that will be affected by this; it is the informal structure by way of those Leeuwin Way volunteers.

I put the suggestion to the Minister for Tourism only a week or two ago that, if there are staff ceilings and if there is a need for financial restraint, why not allow those volunteers to go out there to Norseman and instead of operating out of a caravan as they do now at no cost to the Government; why not allow them to man the \$300 000 centre after the time that the commission officer knocks off at 4.30 p.m. or whenever? A number of people in the Leeuwin Way chain would willingly, and without cost to the State they tell me, man that office from 4.30 p.m. at least until nightfall and again at weekends. It is not a button off their shirt because they are there already. I understand that they drive out there for a period of four months, beginning around August when the greatest influx of tourists can be expected.

Would it not make sense to take some advantage of that volunteer effort and allow them access to the keys of the tourist centre in Norseman so that when the official officer knocks off, those people take over?

By way of a series of questions, I asked the Minister on 7 October whether that could not happen. I asked in part—

(3) Will it be open seven days a week?

(4) If not, will the Minister arrange for the centre to open seven days a week, possibly with the help of volunteers, so that tourists who have crossed the Nullarbor may be equipped with information soon after arrival in WA?

The Minister, in answering the question, bracketed (3) and (4) together and said "No." That is ambiguous because I do not know whether she is referring to its being open for seven days a week or whether she will not arrange for the centre to open along those lines with the help of volunteers. It is ambiguous because she then says—I ask the House to take note of this—

However, arrangements have been confirmed for officers at the adjacent agricultural checkpoint to disseminate relevant tourist literature . . .

Can anyone think of anything sillier than the responsibility for dispensing tourism information being given to people who man agricultural checkpoints?

Hon. J. M. Brown: Have you seen it happen?

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: Yes, and it has worked in other places. However, let me make my point. Why put the matter into the hands of people who are not skilled in that field?

Hon. J. M. Brown: Yes, they are. They are skilled in that sort of work.

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: Yes, I know what they have done in the past but they are not as skilled as the tourist volunteers. Volunteers are sent there by people involved in the Leeuwin Way. They spend four months there anyway and are more skilled in the tourism trade than are the agricultural checkpoint people. Why would the Minister want to turn to those who man those checkpoints in preference to using someone who would not cost the State any money? I understand the need for some level of financial restraint. However, I cannot understand why the Government would not take advantage of those volunteers.

Having said that, the Minister then finished ambiguously by saying—

Volunteer industry assistance is also being investigated.

I put to the House that there is no need to investigate that because they have already made it clear that they are willing to do that work on an annual basis. It would simply mean that they would become trusted officers of the Government in a voluntary capacity.

There are other oddities in the Tourism Commission budget that, in some respects, defy logic. There is one area of massive overspending that I cannot get too upset about because I think it is probably in the long-term interests of the State. I am referring to the America's Cup promotion. People may not realise it but, in the last year, that allocation was overspent by about 100 per cent. The amount allocated was \$1.1 million and the Budget documents this year indicate that an amount of \$2.1 million was actually spent. I repeat that it is difficult to be too critical of that overspending, given that it is a small enough investment in view of what we all hope the State will get out of the America's Cup and the crowds who come to see it.

However, there is another element in the Tourism Commission's budget that puzzles me. Last year a substantial amount of \$750 000 was set aside for South-East Asian development—I think that is what it was called. Upon asking questions of the Minister, I discovered that that was intended to develop market strategies for South-East Asian markets and particularly for markets in Japan. I found that \$469 000 was actually spent. On the one hand, one could say that is commendable because \$300 000 was not spent. However, if the reason for its not being spent was to make up for the huge

overspending in the administration costs of the commission, I repeat that someone has been derelict in his duty. Everyone knows that a huge tourist market is available to the nation in the South-East Asian region and particularly in Japan.

It surprises me, therefore, that not only did we vastly underspend in last year's allocation, but also a measly \$100 000 has been set aside this year for that purpose. It may be that all of those market research strategies have been completed and are now in place and therefore there is no need to spend such a substantial amount of money. I would be rather surprised to learn, however, that we could discover all we need to know about the South-East Asian tourist market in such a brief time with only a few studies being carried out over one financial year. I think the Government has been remiss, firstly, for allocating \$750 000 in one year and substantially underspending in the same year—I suspect to offset a big increase in administration spending—and, secondly, for allocating such a relatively small amount this year to the development of the South-East Asian market.

We are being asked to pass a Budget which includes a small allocation of \$130 000 for development of the South-East Asian tourist market for Western Australia. There is no comparison between that amount and the amount allocated for the America's Cup. I think the Tourism Commission is still spending large amounts this year on the latter, even though one cannot help but wonder whether any more spending now will be to the advantage of this State.—It is odd to be spending that huge amount on the America's Cup over the next four months and spending only a small amount of money on the development of tourism in the South-East Asian region.

I wish to ask a question which I hope will be answered by the Minister when he responds to the debate. If not I hope he will answer by mail. We were told in the Budget that the Government, in order to save huge administrative costs, was altering the position whereby Government departments and agencies pay payroll tax. I recall the Minister stressing that Government bodies which were in a trading position and were in competition with the private sector would be required to pay payroll tax. I understand that the Tourism Commission is a trading organisation. It competes with the private sector more than it should, but that is another question. The Budget papers do not make it clear whether the Tourism Com-

mission has been exempted from paying payroll tax. Certainly the figures shown in the Budget documents do not indicate that. There was a time in State Budgets when one could see the payroll tax component for every Government department. As far as I can see, that is now not the case. I am interested to know whether the Tourism Commission will pay its share of payroll tax.

Hon. Fred McKenzie: How does it compete with the private sector?

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: It sells travel. I have asked questions in the House in the last week, replies to which indicate the Tourism Commission sells about \$12 million worth of travel each year.

As Mr McKenzie would know, it handles all ministerial, parliamentary and Civil Service travel. An amount of \$12 million is a large amount to be diverted from the private sector. I remind the House that that is what has happened under the present Government. An edict that these people must now book their travel with the Government travel centre has been issued. I suggest that if the Government travel centre is not paying payroll tax, it ought to be because by not paying such tax it is being given a huge commercial advantage.

I turn to another area in the Budget that in a loose sort of way touches on tourism, but which also touches on my electorate. I refer to the Burswood Island Casino. Much has been said about it in the past, but that is all history. I was vehemently opposed to seeing that casino built on that prime piece of land. However, it is now a reality and even I must admit that not a bad job has been done in beautifying it with golf courses and lakes. Indeed, I admitted that to Dr Tom Rickett and others who were involved in the project.

The point I raise now concerns a Budget item that is very strange. I refer to an allocation over two Budgets for \$3.9 million to relocate SEC pylons in relation to the casino. There is no explanation of it in the Budget. As far as I am aware there have been no public announcements. It was not part of the original agreement with the developers to relocate any of the SEC pylons. I suggest that in the past the cost of relocating any pylons has been borne by the person developing the site.

Hon. D. K. Dans: Mr Pendal, you are interesting me. Is it the casino or the Burswood Island Bridge that we are relocating for? I knew there were some plans to relocate some pylons for the bridge.

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: The explanation given by the Leader of the House also occurred to me, because the bridge work is going ahead. However, the Budget item specifically states, "Burswood Island Casino—relocation of SEC pylons". The allocation is curious not only for the reasons I have mentioned, but also because the allocation of \$3.9 million is being made from the Consolidated Revenue Fund. It is not coming out of the State Energy Commission's allocation. That suggests that the State Energy Commission has said, "Not on your nelly; we are not going to pay for these pylons to be relocated." It means that a very substantial amount of money has been diverted into that project. If it was part of the original agreement and if that agreement was a public document, no-one could complain. However, if it is the case that a gift of \$3.9 million is being made, I register the strongest possible objection. It is even more interesting to find that the money is to come from Consolidated Revenue rather than from the State Energy Commission's resources.

Another area of interest in the Budget papers is the fact that more than \$500 000 has been allocated to the Western Australian Events Foundation. The Western Australian Events Foundation gained some public notoriety earlier this year when the fiasco of the John Denver concert resulted in the taxpayers of this State having to fork out something like \$250 000 for someone who simply mucked it up. This year again there is this curious item which appears with no explanation, not dissimilar to that with respect to the Burswood Island Casino. The item states simply that an allocation of \$550 000 has been made to the WA Events Foundation. My first question, given that many people in the community have varying needs for that money, is why such a substantial amount has been allocated.

My second question revolves around the same concern that led me to question why the SEC does not pay for the pylon removal. Why is the half million dollar allocation to the Events Foundation not coming out of the coffers of the WADC? Only a week or two ago the chairman of the WADC appeared on public media praising his organisation's huge profit for this financial year. I recall hearing at that time that the chairman was very reluctant to talk about any losses that had occurred and was prepared to talk only about the allegedly huge profit made by the WADC.

Hon. Tom Stephens: He was probably trying to make up for the imbalance in the public comments of the Opposition.

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: If there has been any imbalance in the commentaries made by the Opposition, that is a reflection on the amount of space that the media is prepared to make available to matters of that kind, because whether Mr Stephens likes it or not we are dealing with public funds. A sum of \$550 000 has been allocated to the WA Events Foundation. I would like to know what function the foundation will organise. What will it sponsor this year? Is another John Denver concert on the way? If the allocation is for some other purpose, why does not the Western Australian Development Corporation finance it out of its resources as it ought? People are entitled to know the answer to that question.

There are a number of very sad things in the Budget, to say the least. I refer to page 73 of the Estimates where there is a reference to the regional cultural assistance fund. This initiative was taken by the Court Government some seven or eight years ago in order to help provide country towns and regional centres with cultural facilities that were at least commensurate with the importance of large regional and country towns. In addition, the initiative was designed to give people in those areas some access to the finer things in life. The initiative taken by Sir Charles Court had a tremendous impact around the State.

The first to get off the mark was Geraldton with the Queens Park Theatre complex. If I remember correctly, Esperance received a substantial grant which now means that that town has what I am told is a very impressive cultural facility that allows travelling performances like opera and ballet companies to go to the town and perform in the centre. Companies of that size would be unable to perform without such a facility. Only a couple of months ago I was in Karratha and saw the Walkington Theatre, the like of which we do not even have in Perth.

Hon. Tom Stephens: Oh, come on!

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: That drama theatre has something like 500 seats. It is far superior to the Playhouse which would be the premier drama theatre in central Perth. Surely Hon. Tom Stephens could not dispute that.

Hon. Tom Stephens: It is a good theatre.

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: It is certainly a good theatre. I stood on the stage before the microphone and did not utter a word, which would please the honourable member.

Hon. Tom Stephens: The place was empty, I hope.

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: Yes, it was. They knew I was coming.

The point I am making is that that was a facility, as the honourable member would know, which was financed in part by the State Government. A substantial amount of money was put in by the local authority, a generous amount of money was put in by the company, and then the regional cultural assistance fund also put in a generous allocation.

Without that fund, the Walkington Theatre would not have gone ahead. I cannot be too sure about that, but that would be a fair guess. Without it the theatre in Geraldton would not have gone ahead. Without access to that fund, the Esperance facilities would not have gone ahead; and there are others on the goldfields.

To return to the Budget, unfortunately page 73 of the Budget would indicate that that fund is no more; it has been abolished. Hon. David Wordsworth would know the impact that that will have, because places in his electorate have been beneficiaries in the past. I think there has been a trust fund in the past. What happens is that each year the Government tops it up. Ever since the Court Government established the fund, the Government has topped it up so that at any given time, if local government is willing to establish a cultural authority of that type, there is something there.

I am sorry to say that the fund appears to have been abolished; or at the very least, not one dollar has been allocated this year. The Government owes us some explanation.

Last year something like \$925 000 was put into that trust fund. It would appear now that any other country centre in Western Australia hoping to benefit will find that there is no capacity for it to do so.

The same thing has happened in another area. Another initiative of the Court Government was a regional or community sporting facilities fund. That was run on a similar basis. A trust existed, and each year the Consolidated Revenue Fund topped it up, perhaps by \$1 million or \$2 million, and it was always there for local authorities throughout the State to take advantage of.

Last year, \$2.9 million was allocated to that fund; this year not one cent. I accept what the Minister and the Treasurer have said about the need for financial restraint, but that does not mean turning the tap off entirely, certainly not when the Government can still find huge sums of money for other areas, which a lot of people would find questionable. These are not only just reined in; they would appear they are being abolished. They appear in the Budget under the general heading of payments to local authorities. It will be the local authorities, and in the long run the people in those communities, who will suffer.

I want to make an additional point. The Budget contains grants to charitable and public bodies of \$5.4 million this year. That is a 15 per cent increase on last year. One wonders why anything needs a 15 per cent increase if inflation is not running anywhere near that, given that on the other side of the ledger we are having to abolish such important funds as the regional cultural assistance fund.

Not only do the charities and other bodies go up by 15 per cent, but payments to local authorities have gone down by a quite dramatic 46 per cent. They received \$4.4 million last year, and this year they will receive \$2.4 million. Again it is a matter of the Government's priorities, which are not looking very good at this stage.

I commend the Government for one particular item, and that is the allocation made to the Western Australian Heritage Committee. Last year it was a modest amount of \$230 000. This year that amount has virtually trebled to \$776 000.

In congratulating the Government I ask the reason for a very generous increase, albeit one that I totally endorse. It may be that the Government has finally got round to bringing in that long-awaited heritage legislation. There were rumours during the parliamentary break that heritage legislation would be introduced in this session. It may be, therefore, that that increase to \$776 000 is in some way to cater for that work. But I will not ask the Minister for Budget Management to interject with the answer; it may be better if he responds later.

The fringe benefits tax has long been a matter of controversy in Australia—ever since it was announced a little over 12 months ago. I ask members to recall that when it was introduced by the Federal Government, we were given the utmost assurance by the Premier of this State that it was a very fine

tax—a justifiable tax. We were told it would catch the tax avoiders, the tall poppies would not be so tall after it, and the Government would begin to wind in some of these rewards which were rightly its own.

Nothing that the Government said at that stage would in any way admit that it was going to have any sort of impact on Western Australians. I repeat—and members will recall—that the belief in the community's mind by way of the Premier's comment was that the people on high incomes who had so far been working a bit of a rort would no longer be able to work that rort.

Is it not ironic that for the first time in the history of the State of Western Australia the State Budget has a special allocation of \$3.5 million in fringe benefits tax? Only 12 months ago the Premier told us—

Hon. T. G. Butler: Do you think they should avoid tax?

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: Who?

Hon. T. G. Butler: The State Government.

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: I do not think anyone should avoid paying tax.

Hon. T. G. Butler: What are you complaining about?

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: The member did not listen. What I am saying is that it was the Premier who said, 12 months ago, that he supported to the hilt—

Hon. T. G. Butler: I understand that.

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: The member should listen; he asked the question. He supported the introduction of the fringe benefits tax, and he said it would not have any impact on the ordinary mass of Western Australians. The Premier has changed his tune very significantly and very substantially in the course of 12 months, as the member well knows.

Hon. T. G. Butler: I do not know that.

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: Let me remind the member that the Premier has joined with the business community and flown to Canberra to have those anomalies removed.

Hon. T. G. Butler: Anomalies; not tax.

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: I accept that. The Premier has been caught, or hoist with his own petard. He is having to pay \$3.5 million of taxpayers' money to the Commonwealth for a tax which 12 months ago he said would have no effect on WA.

Hon. T. G. Butler: Do you think he should avoid the tax?

Hon. E. J. Charlton: That is not a sensible question.

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: Hon. Eric Charlton should know by now that it is pretty difficult to get any sort of sense out of the member who is interjecting.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! It is becoming far too difficult to follow what is happening here. The only person who should be speaking is Hon. P. G. Pendal. It is hard for him to get a word in edgeways. I suggest everyone else waits until it is his turn.

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: Hon. Eric Charlton is quite right on that point. I am not suggesting, as Hon. Tom Butler suggested, that the Government should avoid it. I am simply saying it is only six months ago that the Premier said the fringe benefits tax was a furphy and that it would have no effect on the State of Western Australia. Now he has found he has to allocate \$3.5 million of our money in order to pay Paul Keating to keep further egg off his face. It is a straight donation to the Commonwealth.

If the Burke Government is serious, it ought to join with Jo Bjelke-Petersen in the High Court challenge that the Queensland Government is taking against the Commonwealth because it has been part of the Constitution of this country for 84 years that one Government cannot tax another. The only person in Australia who is prepared to take on the Federal Treasurer is the Premier of Queensland. I am suggesting the Premier of Western Australia ought to become a formal party to that High Court action to save the taxpayers a direct sum of \$3.5 million—which is what we are paying this year—and to save private individuals many millions of dollars more.

I refer to the Government's allocations in the field of sport and recreation. I find it a rather odd situation. Last year the Government spent \$6.9 million on the Department of Sport and Recreation. It must be one of the few departments in the history of mankind which, this year, has got the same job to do but less money to do it with. It is not only a case of it being kept back to the rate of inflation. In raw terms it is now getting \$100 000 less than it received last year—\$6.8 million as against \$6.9 million.

I hope that has nothing to do with the Government's belief that since it has put in such a huge amount of money into the new McGillivray sports centre near Perry Lakes that it has somehow discharged its obligations to the sport and recreation community and there-

fore can start making the department pay by reducing its budget.

One other organisation that seems to be in the extraordinary position of being able to spend less money this year than it did last year, and yet is still carrying out the same function, is the Perth Theatre Trust. It was given \$1.5 million last year. It has actually gone back to \$1.4 million this year. One of the puzzling aspects is apparently there are to be no staff retrenchments. How is it that the Government is to pay its officers less money in this financial year than in the last? It is absolutely beyond me. The Budget does not give any explanation as to why that position has occurred.

There is a provision in the Budget called "act of grace payments". I am not sure whether that is the same as what we used to call "act of God payments". The lack of information in the Budget in this item, on page 74, is another of these oddities that, upon further examination, requires a pretty quick explanation on the Government's part.

Last year the Government spent \$37 500 on act of grace payments, whatever they may be. This year the figure has gone to \$232 000. I do not know whether that is because God intends to be a bit more active this year and there will be some more catastrophes, but there is no explanation. More important than that, bearing in mind that the figure has gone from \$37 500 to \$232 000, I ask what the Government has in mind when it has allocated \$232 000? It is a specific amount and the Government sounds like it has had advanced warning of what some higher authority is going to do. One could imagine a round figure of \$200 000, \$250 000, or \$100 000 being allocated. How can one be so precise about what is to happen in the future under these payments called "acts of grace" when one is dealing in such an uncertain field? Yet the figure is a very precise amount.

There are many other aspects of the Budget that I would have liked an opportunity to comment on, but the hour set aside for me is fast coming to a close.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.00 p.m.

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: I started my contribution to the Budget debate by asking why it was necessary, over the three years of the Burke Labor Government, to have a 48.6 per cent increase in land tax revenue, something like a 73 per cent increase in stamp duty revenue and a 126 per cent increase in revenue from liquor and tobacco fees, which makes an average 53.3 per cent increase in revenues from State taxes

and charges in the three years that the Treasurer has been in office. Of course there is a reason for that, but not many people ever stop to think what it might be.

A huge proportion of a State Budget is absorbed in labour costs—the payment of civil servants and others on the Government payroll. It is devastating to note that in 1980 when the Court Government was in office, total Government employment stood at 106 000, give or take 1 000; under the O'Connor Government a year or so later, total Government employment stood at the slightly increased figure of 108 000; but in three years under Mr Burke there has been not a small increase, or a modest increase, in Government employment, but by anyone's definition a massive increase in the number of people on the public payroll. Something like 119 000 Western Australians are now directly employed by the State Government.

Hon. Tom Stephens: Next you are going to tell us they are all Government advisers.

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: That is the reason for the massive increases in taxes and charges in the three years of Mr Burke's Government. It really is as simple as that. One could even put aside for the moment the extravagances in spending, and God only knows they have been bad enough. In a nutshell, the State Government spends a huge amount—70 per cent or 75 per cent—of its gross expenditure on the wages and salaries of its employees.

This Government has continued to add in an extravagant way to the number of people on its payroll. Is it not strange when we are told there are supposed to be staff ceilings and that the number of Government employees has been frozen for the last 12 months? Despite that, they continue to grow. I put it to the House, and to the Minister for Budget Management who tabled the document in this place, that we will never come to grips with the growing amount of taxation being paid by the taxpayers until the problem of increased Government employment is somehow reined in.

Whatever the Government says it is doing about this problem, and whatever figures Mr Burke used when he introduced that glossy magazine and tabled it in Parliament four or five months ago when he talked about the frugality of Government, it is nothing but talk. Government employment has gone up by 10 000 or 12 000 in that short space of time, and that is the reason—the bottom line—we are faced with a 53 per cent average increase in

State taxes and charges over that three-year period.

Once that starts to get through to the general public and they see that they are the ones who are footing the bill, they will have one alternative open to them—to get rid of the present Government because they cannot afford it.

I support the motion.

Debate adjourned to a later stage of the sitting, on motion by Hon. Tom Stephens.

AMERICA'S CUP YACHT RACE (SHOPPING HOURS) BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon. D. K. Dans (Minister with special responsibility for the America's Cup), read a first time.

Second Reading

HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Minister with special responsibility for the America's Cup) [4.07 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The object of this Bill is to provide the appropriate environment enabling the retailing industry to contribute to and share in the benefits that the America's Cup defence is expected to bring to the State. The commencement of the period is proposed as 1 November 1986.

The unprecedented demands of the tourism industry, the requirements of resident consumers, and the statutory rights of small business were factors contributing to the preparation of this Bill. Submissions from retailing associations, chambers of commerce, and unions were considered.

The Bill provides for all classes of shops to trade to 5.00 p.m. each Saturday between 1 November 1986 and 14 February 1987. Sunday trading by smaller retailers has been enhanced by relaxation of staffing limits formerly imposed upon those enterprises. An increased number of essentially smaller businesses will thus have the opportunity to service consumers' demands on Sundays during the life of this Bill.

Individual retailers who exercise their option not to trade during the extended hours provided by the Bill are afforded legislative protection from those provisions of tenancy or lease agreements which may otherwise force them to trade.

Authority to modify specific Acts or related provisions of Acts is vested in ministerial authority as a contingency mechanism for unforeseen circumstances or emerging situations.

The Bill is related to the unprecedented circumstances surrounding the staging of the America's Cup defence. A sunset clause has accordingly been provided for the Bill to expire on 15 February, 1987.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned to a later stage of the sitting, on motion by Hon. Max Evans.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) BILL

Consideration of Tabled Paper

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

HON. TOM STEPHENS (North) [4.10 p.m.]: The Premier's Budget speech makes it clear that a severe downturn in Australia's terms of trade in agricultural and mineral products, together with an overdue need for structural change in the public sector, has presented Western Australia with a serious economic and Budget situation.

The option of any further increases in taxes to cover projected Budget expenditure was considered and rejected as an impractical and counterproductive method of facing that severe economic and budgetary situation. It was counterproductive to the Government's basic aim of maintaining economic activity at relatively high levels in this State. The Budget strategy, therefore, was designed to reorient Government activities to assist in the development of a healthier economy, and to provide a prospect of growth with the opportunity for further improvement in employment opportunities.

The Budget papers reveal that revenue for 1986-87 is expected to be in the order of \$3 278.8 million which, while representing an increase of 7.4 per cent in cash terms, nonetheless represents a real reduction in revenue after taking into account the Commonwealth estimate of an inflation rate of 8.25 per cent and other factors which have been enumerated quite clearly in the Budget papers.

The anticipated distribution of revenue and expenditure is illustrated in figures 1 and 2 of a series of graphs and tables which I have prepared and which I would like to seek leave to have incorporated in *Hansard* together with my analysis and summary of the Budget in so far as it relates to the north-west.

The **DEPUTY PRESIDENT** (Hon. D. J. Wordsworth): Order! I do not believe it is possible to accept the documents without sighting them. It may be that *Hansard* may not be able to handle it.

Hon. **TOM STEPHENS**: I did discuss the question with the Clerk and I was told that by seeking leave of the House this material could be incorporated.

The **DEPUTY PRESIDENT**: I have noticed that in another place the Speaker actually examines the documents to ascertain whether they should be incorporated in *Hansard*. I am in no position to put the question to seek leave of the Chamber to have the documents incorporated.

Hon. **TOM STEPHENS**: I was following a precedent which was established by my parliamentary colleague, Hon. Neil Oliver, when he sought leave and obtained permission to include similar graphs in *Hansard* a few weeks ago.

The **DEPUTY PRESIDENT**: I will accept the member's motion this time, but I think that the House should, in some way, look at this matter of members seeking leave to incorporate documents in *Hansard* when other members do not have any idea whether it is possible to do so.

The following material was incorporated by leave of the House—

Mining Production.

Despite the relatively small direct contribution to the State coffers from mineral production, its overall significance to Western Australia and to the North West of Western Australia in particular, should not be underestimated.

Mining Production

Despite the fact that in 1985-86 the value of mining production was 12.4 per cent above the 1984-85 level (see table below). The outlook for 1986-87—with the declining trend in world commodity prices and possible further adverse movement in the terms of trade—could well bring about a dampening of the State's economic activity.

FIGURE 1: REVENUE

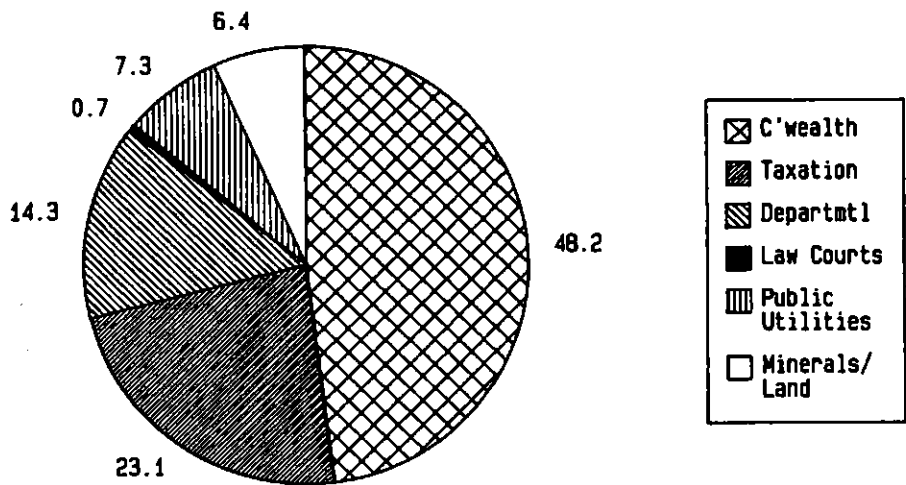
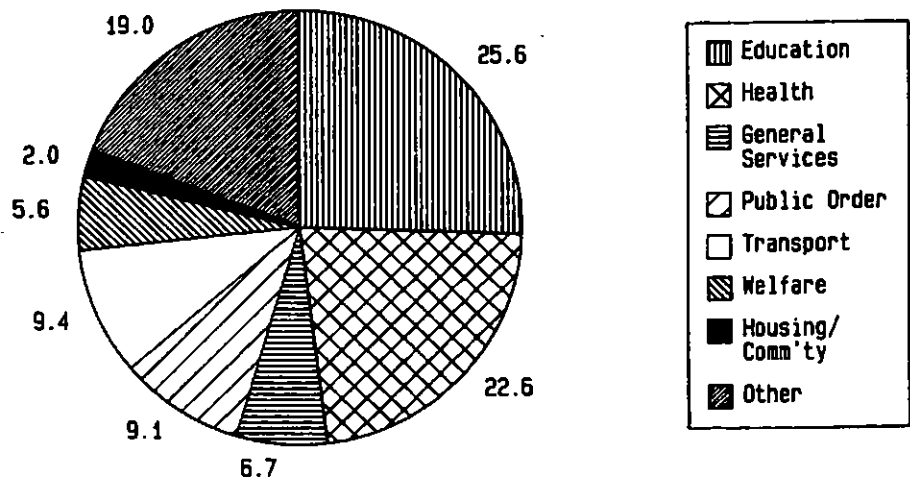
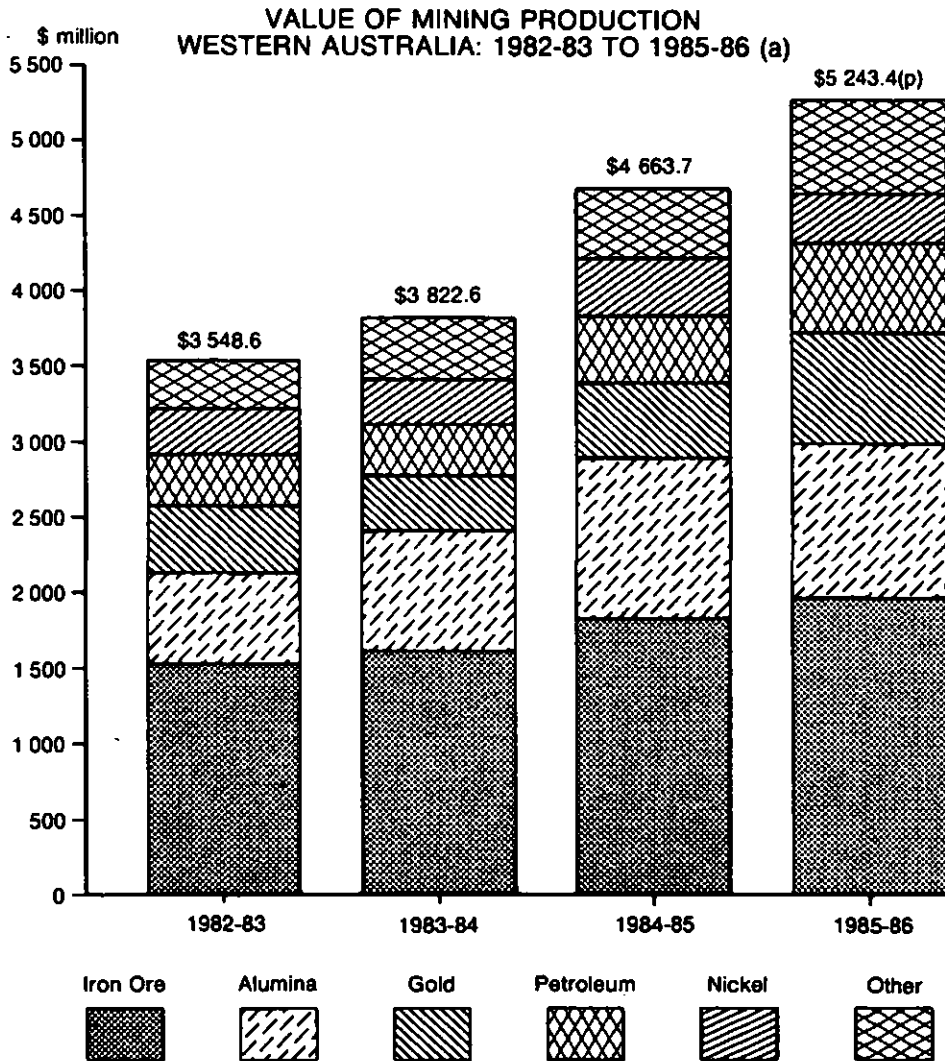


FIGURE 2: EXPENDITURE





(a) Value of mining production for nickel and mineral sands has been estimated using actual data for the first three quarters of 1985-86 and Mines Department estimates for the final quarter of 1985-86.

(p) Preliminary.

VALUE OF MINING PRODUCTION—WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Commodity	1982-83 \$'000	1983-84 \$'000	1984-85 \$'000	1985-86 \$'000	Change 1985-86 on 1984-85 %
Iron ore	1 528 419	1 609 662	1 830 540	1 965 667	7.4
Alumina (a)	708 912	796 707	1 056 840	1 029 284	-2.6
Gold	334 802	365 453	508 892	707 114	39.0
Petroleum (b)	341 843	336 691	450 635	603 533	33.9
Nickel	309 655	309 647	363 307	319 868 (c)	-12.0
Mineral sands	79 533	103 293	134 621	157 829 (c)	17.2
Coal	95 529	106 325	109 120	126 841	16.2
Diamonds	32 843	61 220	45 057	147 568	227.5
Salt	54 078	67 033	88 561	95 327	7.6
Other	62 954	66 600	76 129	90 330	18.7
Total Mining Production	3 548 568	3 822 631	4 663 702	5 243 361	12.4

(a) For 1982-83 the estimate is based on production details reported by the Mines Department and average Australian export values for alumina in the same period as reported by the Bureau of Mineral Resources.

(b) Comprises crude oil and natural gas.

(c) Based on actual data for the first three quarters of 1985-86 and Mines Department estimates for the final quarter of 1985-86.

Source: Department of Mines.

The depreciation of the dollar and the reduction in real unit labor costs has led to a sharp improvement in our international competitiveness. But if high levels of inflation persist, then we are faced with a very real threat to continued competitiveness.

However, almost as bold statements of confidence, the State's iron ore producers are planning substantial investment in new mine developments and in existing projects over the next few years: The Channar ore body east of Paraburdoo; two separate development proposals for Yandicoogina north-west of Newman and the McCamey's Monster tenement in the East Pilbara. These developments are very important to maintaining our position as iron ore exporters to the world.

Clearly the improved value of mining production is reflected principally in the increased diamond, gold and petroleum production.

Budget Outlook.

Nonetheless, the overall Budget situation is not good.

As a result a number of stringencies have necessarily been imposed. Nonetheless, the Government has managed to maintain a very high level of Budget support for the North West.

CONSOLIDATED REVENUE EXPENDITURE

As well as a substantial capital works program in the Pilbara and Kimberley region, the 1986-87 Budget papers reveal a dramatic \$50 million jump in expenditure from the CRF for the north west since the last Liberal Government Budget was handed down in Western Australia.

An amount of \$190 085 000 has been allocated in the current year; this figure compares favourably with the 1985-86 allocation for the North West (\$183 697 061) and is in stark contrast to the 1982-83 Liberal Government Budget of \$140 525 848.

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM HEALTH

\$4 223 000 has been allocated for expenditure in the North West during 1986-87 as part of the Health Department's Capital Works Program.

An amount of \$2 503 000 has been provided for the continuation or completion of works currently in progress and an additional \$1 720 000 is allocated for new initiatives for health facilities in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions.

I particularly welcome the decision of the State Government to allocate \$1.1 million for the redevelopment of the Derby Regional Hospital in the current financial year. This allocation will be warmly welcomed, in particular by the residents of the West Kimberley region. There had been some doubt about the position of this project as a result of the difficult budgetary circumstances confronting the State Government. For a while it looked like the funds for this redevelopment project had been irretrievably removed by the Budget Sub-Committee. However after intensive lobbying of the Minister for Health by local Members of Parliament and following my presentation to the Parliament of a number of petitions with in excess of 1 000 local signatures, the Hospital redevelopment program came back on to the State Government's program. The redevelopment Stage 2 and Stage 2A involves a total expenditure on the Derby Regional Hospital of \$3 205 000. Of this amount, \$104 807 was spent during 1985-86, and \$1.1 million is to be spent during the current financial year. This will ensure that work can start virtually immediately on providing the hospital with a new laundry/mortuary complex to replace existing inadequate facilities and at the same time ensure that sections of the hospital site can be cleared in order to make way for the orderly construction of the complete redevelopment of this quite old hospital complex.

A \$1 million redevelopment of the Derby Numbala-Nunga Nursing Home will commence as a result of new budgetary initiatives in 1986-87. This will involve extensive upgrading of existing ward areas, providing new therapy facilities and additional cooling to patient areas.

— CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND

— EXPENDITURE, NORTH WEST

ESTIMATE FOR 1986-87 COMPARED WITH EXPENDITURE IN PREVIOUS YEARS

Head	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
DEPARTMENTAL —					
Crown Law	1 437 990	1 733 195	1 724 705	1 898 180	2 123 000
Prisons	2 428 958	2 744 500	3 382 347	3 732 637	4 006 000
Water Authority of Western Australia	12 628 435	16 293 698	16 898 909	15 832 699	16 624 000
Police	7 706 519	8 536 227	8 086 220	10 624 531	11 497 000
Agriculture	4 658 622	5 568 111	6 107 596	6 433 663	6 900 000
Education —					
Department	34 544 754	40 818 584	45 059 512	50 097 165	53 604 000
Hedland College	1 984 000	2 424 000	2 790 000	3 160 000	3 658 000
Karriatha College	1 434 000	2 177 000	2 711 000	3 044 000	3 315 000
Health	36 168 250	40 041 972	48 594 074	49 934 134	49 859 000
Building Management Authority	7 455 504	4 060 335	5 169 637	4 279 092	4 277 000
Marine and Harbours	3 724 861	3 856 135	4 656 456	2 827 639	2 084 000
Regional Development and the North West	265 289	385 646	465 910	722 650	770 000
Community Services	3 771 217	4 661 060	4 493 107	4 612 397	4 967 000
Other	3 960 570	4 227 854	4 984 613	5 459 604	5 464 000
ORD RIVER IRRIGATION PROJECT —					
Salaries and Allowances	340 505	373 102	458 908	533 181	560 000
Operating Expenses	1 731 916	1 859 660	2 204 721	1 812 074	1 902 000
Service to Local Industry	53 773	61 067	42 616	46 000	...
Other	936 149	1 175 188	783 099	631 629	633 000
GENERAL —					
Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission — Loss	14 849 536	15 418 989	15 865 895	17 795 786	17 862 000
Rent Reductions North West Houses — Reimbursement to State Housing Commission	445 000	304 000	132 000	220 000	...
TOTAL	140 525 848	156 720 323	174 611 325	183 697 061	190 085 000

The redevelopment of the Kununurra hospital (stage 1) will be completed in 1986/87 as a result of allocations under the Health Department's capital works program. As well the \$4.8 million stage 2 redevelopment of the hospital will commence in the current financial year with the allocation of the initial \$100,000 for the completion of plans and specifications. This allocation represents a forward commitment for work to start on the actual construction of stage 2 in the next financial year.

This work will be carried out over 3 years and will allow for a new laboratory and blood bank, x-ray and outpatients clinics, therapy and administration facilities.

The stage 1 redevelopment will be completed during the current financial year with an allocation of \$1,275,000 which brings the total cost of stage 1 to \$3,928,000. The combined stage 1 and stage 2 redevelopment represents a massive \$8,728 million commitment on the part of the Burke Government to the Kununurra township.

Clearly there is a need to provide a modern, upgraded hospital to this rapidly expanding northern gateway to Western Australia. With the growth of the mining industry in the area and the rapidly expanding growth of tourism, the larger resident population needed an improved hospital facility. As a result of the Burke Government's programming, such a

hospital facility will soon be available in the township of Kununurra.

The Budget also provided a funding allocation to the Health Department which will cater for additional staff accommodation in the North West. Indeed it would appear that sufficient funds have been provided to enable the immediate needs of the Health Department for staff accommodation to be met.

Accommodation units are to be provided at Kununurra and Fitzroy Crossing and houses for staff are to be built at Port Hedland, Tom Price and Fitzroy Crossing.

The total cost of staff accommodation projects in the country areas of Western Australia for the Health Department is \$6 232 000. A total in excess of \$3 million was spent on this project to cater for Health Department staff up to the 30th June 1986 the allocation for the current financial year will involve expenditure of \$2 062 000 on these various staff accommodation projects.

I am particularly pleased to see that a considerable percentage of these accommodation facilities are to be built in the Kimberley and the North West. These accommodation facilities are absolutely essential for attracting appropriate Health Department staff to work in those locations.

	Esti- mated Total Cost	Expenditure to 30 June 85	Actual 1985-86	Proposed 1986-87
	\$000	\$000	\$	\$
HOSPITALS AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES				
Broome—Redevelopment Stage 2	2 735	174	2 222 864	339 000
Derby—				
Redevelopment Stage 2	205	—	104 807	100 000
Redevelopment Stage 2A	3 000	—	—	1 000 000
Kununurra—				
Redevelopment Stage 1	3 928	31	2 622 071	1 275 000
Redevelopment Stage 2	4 800	—	—	100 000
Numbala Nunga—				
Redevelopment Stage 1	772	6	52 785	713 000
Redevelopment Stage 2	1 000	—	—	200 000
Port Hedland—Redevelopment	6 184	5 929	204 299	50 000
HEALTH CENTRES AND COMMUNITY HEALTH FACILITIES				
Kulumburu—Clinic and Accommodation	375	—	10 000	340 000
Major Remodelling—				
Derby (Looma) Clinic	200	—	—	40 000
Halls Creek Clinic	200	—	—	40 000
Noonkanbah—Clinic and Accommodation	190	—	163 652	26 000
Total:	23 589			
	6 232	545	2 524 437	2 062 000

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES' HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Government Employees' Housing Authority will undertake a statewide works program of \$24.7 million.

An amount of \$19.3 million has been provided for construction and will enable 180 units to be commenced during the year. The program recognises the need for additional housing in the north of the State and addresses the need in the Pilbara region as a result of the expansion of government services due to the export phase of the North West Shelf Gas project.

The balance of the funds will be expended on acquisition of land and furniture, the upgrading of older properties, the provision of cyclone screening and the completion of the \$700 000 program to install an additional air conditioner to houses in the north which do not have a fully ducted air conditioning system.

The allocation by the State Government to GEHA demonstrates the determination of the Burke Government to provide as adequately as possible for the accommodation needs of its employees in the North West.

One of the matters of the moment is the industrial action that was recently taken by Government employees in the North West against increases in GEHA rents. It is my view that the following graphs clarify the facts in regard to this dispute.

These graphs clearly highlight situations of inequity in regards to rentals in the North West. The Government's position is that it wants to bring some equity into this situation. The Government has expressed a willingness to negotiate with the respective unions on how best to move towards this goal. It seems appropriate that the union representatives of the workforce should quickly get down to the conference table to sensibly discuss this matter and resolve it.

Rent standardisation in Government employee housing is designed to restore a fair level of equity amongst Government workers. There will be no massive increases in rent for either existing tenants or new tenants in GEHA houses.

Teachers and other government workers paying GEHA rent have had the benefit of four years of no rent increase (other than \$1.70 in 1985). This was to enable rent standardisation negotiations which began in 1982, to be finalised—but some unions have not been prepared to reach agreement.

It is proposed to set the benchmark level of GEHA rent for 1987 at \$58.70. Thereafter increases will be limited to the CPI.

Existing tenants will move to this level only by annual increments of \$6 per week. This will apply only to standard three bedroom accommodation. Appropriate adjustments will be made for non-standard accommodation, isolated and institutional housing.

The present level of Government rents represents a continued subsidy of more than \$13 million a year for Government workers' housing. The Government's efforts to achieve some equity in GEHA rents does not constitute "harsh treatment" of the Government's north west employees.

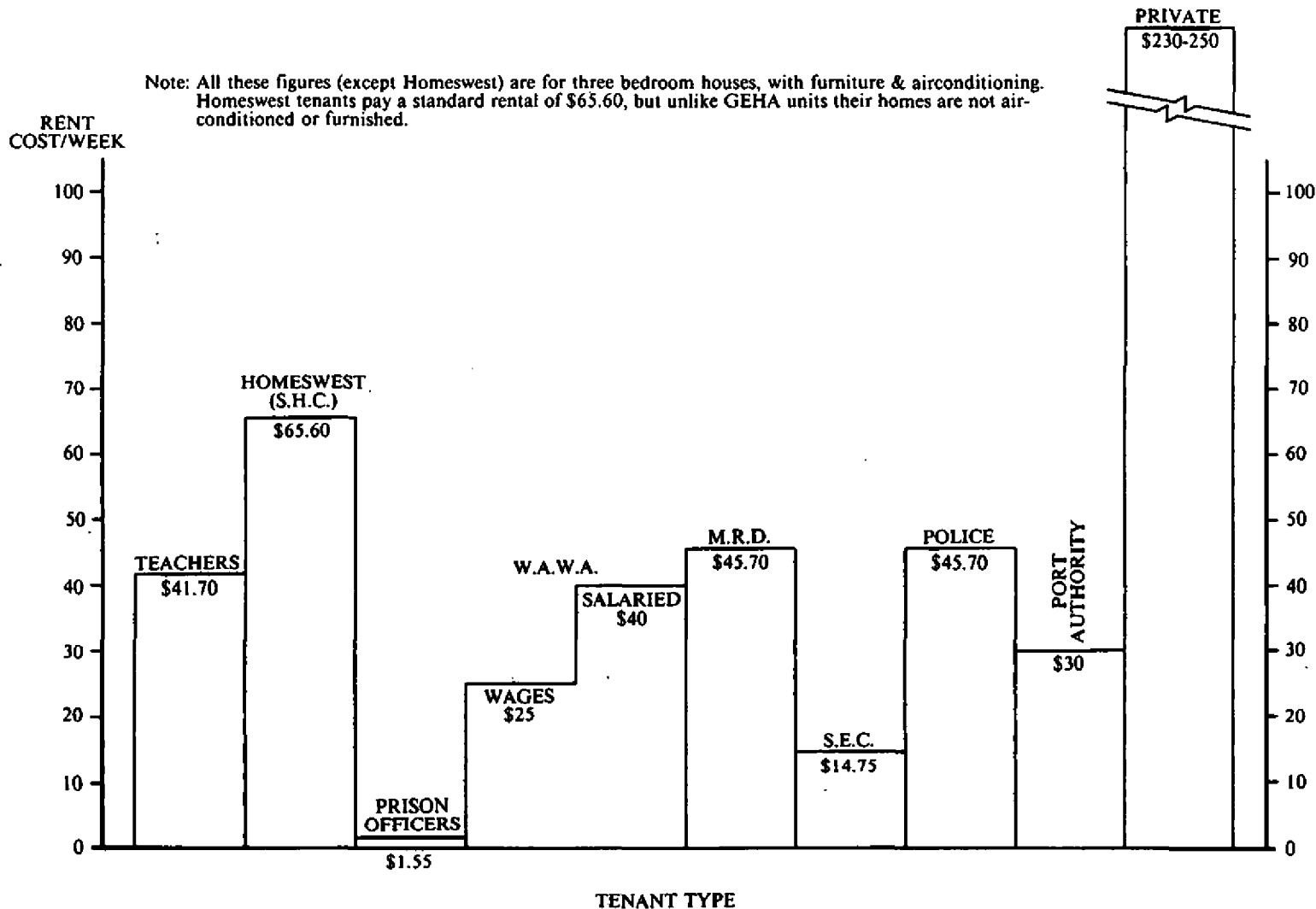
HOUSING

One of the most important achievements of the Burke Government's first term in office was indeed the greatly increased emphasis on housing, reflected in the trebling of funding for Homeswest.

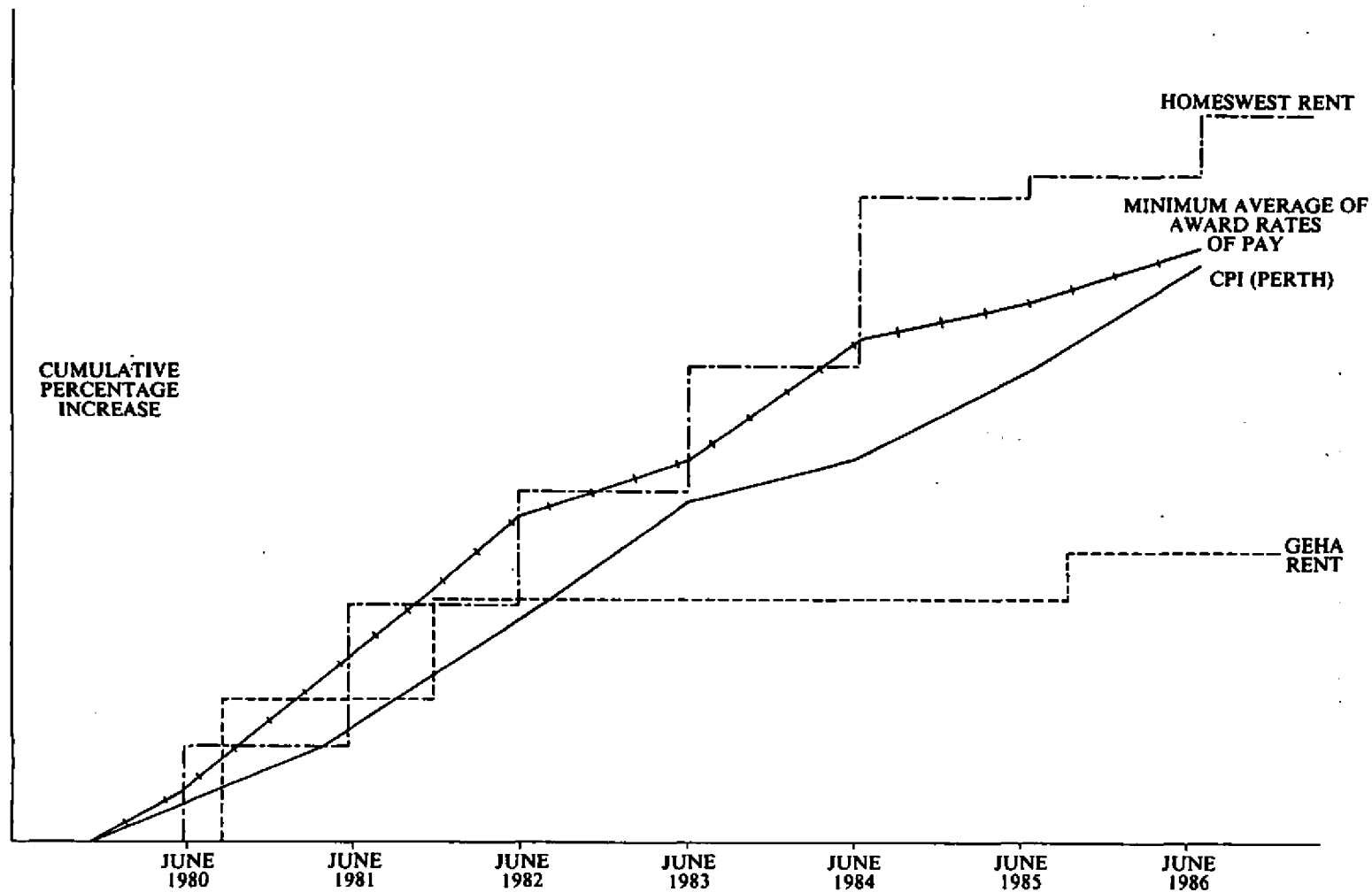
The impact of this expenditure has been felt in the North West with a shortening in the waiting lists for public housing and the significant generation of economic activity and jobs.

This emphasis on housing programs, including programs in the North West, will continue during the Burke Government's second term of office. The \$204.9 million Homeswest capital works program for 1986-87 will enable a construction program for more than 1 000 units of public housing in addition to the 1 000 homes that are currently at various stages of construction.

In addition, the State Government has set aside in the current budget funds for more than 2 000 housing loans for people on low incomes.

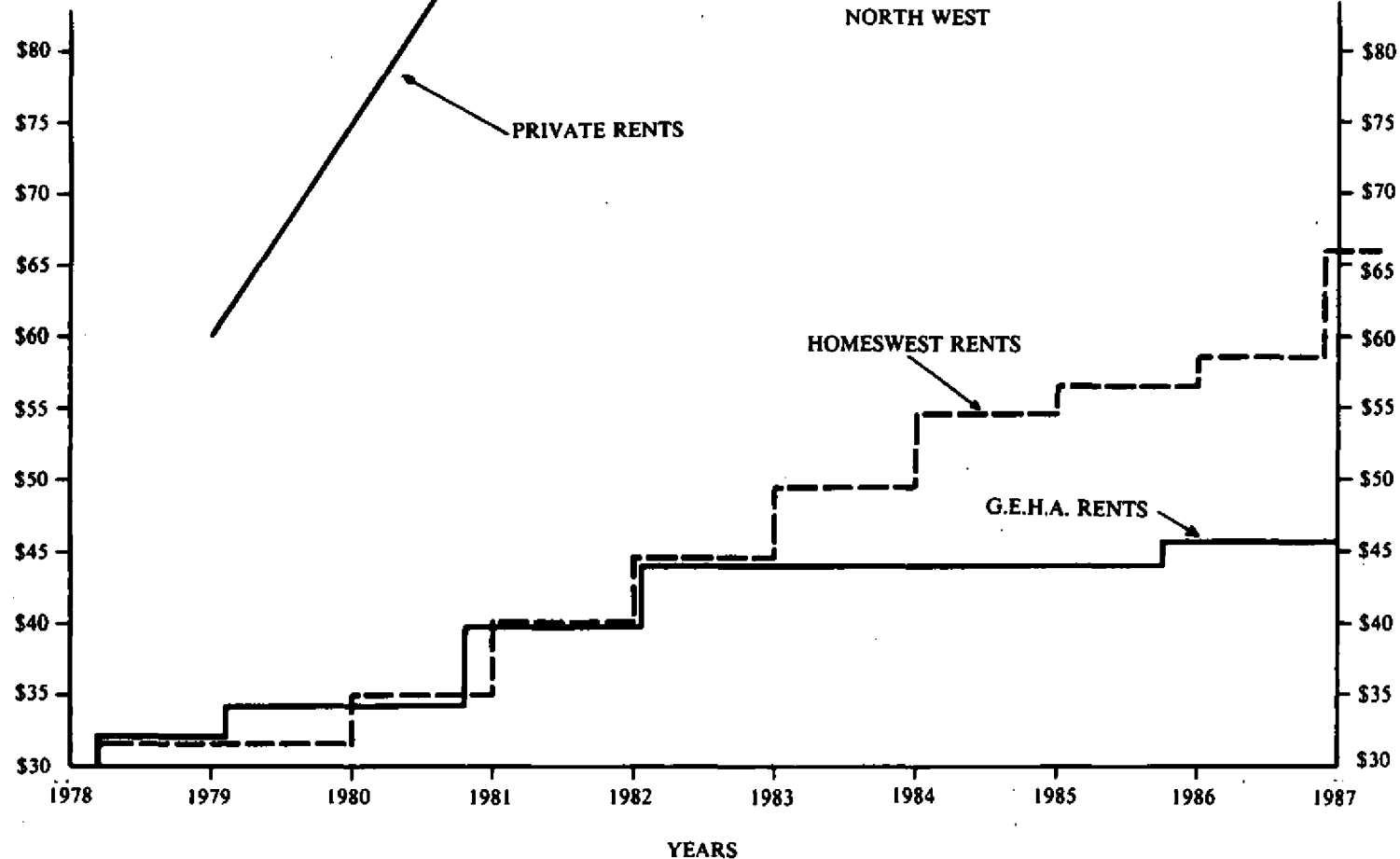


[Wednesday, 22 October 1986]



RENTS
COST/WEEK

COMPARATIVE HOUSE RENTS
NORTH WEST



[Wednesday, 22 October 1986]

	Esti- mated Total Cost	Expenditure to 30 June 85	Actual 1985-86	Proposed 1986-87
	\$000	\$000	\$	\$
Primary and Secondary Education Buildings				
Additional Stages at High Schools				
Karratha	2 000			150 000
Additions and Improvements to High Schools				
Hedland	3 526		53 586	2 550 000
Additions and Improvements to District High Schools				
Broome	1 500			450 000
Derby	609		728	548 000
Kununurra	2 120	309	1 188 917	622 000
Other School Facilities				
Kimberley—Broome	600		357 292	
Camp School				243 000
Halls Creek	700			500 000
Jigalong	294			294 000
Oombulgurri	80			80 000
Toilet Upgrade				
Kalumburu	120		36 750	83 000

EDUCATION

\$5 220 million in Education Department capital works program in the North West.

Expenditure in excess of \$5 220 000 is proposed in the 1986-87 financial year on Government school buildings in the North West, as part of the Burke Government's statewide capital works program.

Several major initiatives are included in the program including:

1. \$150 000 allocation for the planning of additional stages for the Karratha High School; the total cost of this project is estimated to be \$2 million, with planning to be completed in the current financial year and the project to start in 1987-88;
2. \$2.55 million will be spent during 1986-87 on the \$3.5 million project to provide additions and improvements to the Hedland Senior High School;
3. \$450 000 will be spent in 1986-87 on the Broome District High School additions and improvements; the total cost of this project is \$1 500 000;
4. The Derby District High School will receive expenditure of \$548 000 in this financial year towards the \$609 000 project to complete additions and improvements for that school;
5. The Kimberley Camp School will receive an allocation of \$243 000 towards the completion of a \$600 000 program to provide additional facilities at that site;
6. Special Secondary facilities will be provided at Halls Creek (\$700 000), Jigalong (\$794 000) and Oombulgurri (\$80 000), while the Kalumburu

School will see the completion of its toilet facilities upgrade.

PILBARA COLLEGES

Of the \$3.3 million allocated in the State Budget to the Capital Works Program (C.W.P.) for WA's three independent colleges, \$2.74 million will be spent on the campuses of the two Pilbara colleges.

The Newman campus of Hedland College receives a \$581 000 allocation in the WA State Government's 1986-87 Budget. The allocation is for the joint Shire/College library to be built in the mining township of Newman. \$25 000 has been allocated to complete site works at the Newman Centre that were commenced during the previous financial year, and which involved total capital works expenditure by the State Government of \$100 000.

The Hedland College Council has also been allocated \$927 000 in the Budget's C.W.P. to complete the student residential facilities, building modifications and renovations associated with the South Hedland campus. The Budget provides for the final \$178 000 allocation for the \$2 833 000 Stage 2 catering and computing classroom project. A residual \$734 000 was allocated for the completion of the \$1 588 000 student residences project and \$15 000 towards the renovation of the Trades Area; both of these projects being on the South Hedland campus.

Karratha College's program of \$1.3 million provides for the completion of staff offices, auditorium and student residential facilities.

The Budget Papers reveal that CRF expenditure for the Pilbara Colleges totals \$6 973 000.

ESTIMATE FOR 1986-87 COMPARED WITH EXPENDITURE IN PREVIOUS YEARS

	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Hedland College	1 984 000	2 424 000	2 790 000	3 160 000	3 658 000
Karratha College	1 434 000	2 177 000	2 711 000	3 044 000	3 315 000

The total allocations, therefore, for the Hedland College Council (CRF + CWP) is \$5 191 000; for Karratha College \$4 572 000; this represents a \$9 763 000 total allocation to the Pilbara Colleges for 1986-87.

This figure starkly demonstrates that the State Government has managed to maintain a very commendable level of financial support for these two excellent educational facilities within the Pilbara region.

Capital Works Program for Year ending 30 June 1987

	Estimated Total Cost	Expenditure to 30 June 85	Actual 1985-86	Proposed 1986-87
	\$000	\$000	\$	\$
Hedland College—				
Newman Campus—				
Newman Centre—Site Costs	100	....	75 000	25 000
Joint Library	581	....	....	581 000
South Hedland Campus—				
Stage 2 Catering, Computing and Classrooms.....	2 833	1 003	1 652 889	178 000
Student Residences	1 588	144	710 055	734 000
Trades Area—Renovations	108	....	92 582	15 000
			2 530 526	1 533 000
Source of Funds—				
General Loan and Capital Works Fund—				
Commonwealth Grant—				
Tertiary Education Assistance Act			1 985 618	643 000
Other GL & CWF .....			....	684 000
General Loan Fund			334 000	....
Internal Funds and Balances			210 908	206 000
			2 530 526	1 533 000
Karratha College—				
Auditorium.....	2 700	859	1 802 242	39 000
Staff Offices	1 288	....	97 000	1 191 000
Student Amenities Building.....	1 004	997	7 129	....
Student Residences	1 072	31	1 013 655	27 000
			2 920 026	1 257 000
Source of Funds—				
General Loan and Capital Works Fund.....			....	1 089 000
Contributions.....			1 512 094	57 000
General Loan Fund			1 236 809	....
Internal Funds and Balances			171 123	111 000
			2 920 026	1 257 000

Estimates of Expenditure for the Year ending 30th June, 1987

— HEDLAND COLLEGE

		Vote	1985-86 Expenditure	1986-87 Estimate
		\$	\$	\$
....	Amount required for Services for the year.....	3 160 000	3 160 000	3 658 000
Details		1985-86 Actual	1986-87 Estimate	
Salaries and Establishment 1/7/86		\$	\$	
1	Director	55 378	62 000	
2	Heads of School.....	66 972	98 000	
33	Lecturers and Co-ordinators.....	789 607	970 000	
27	Administrative Officer, Accountant, Counsellor, Librarian, etc	537 170	615 000	
2	Temporary Assistants.....	129 747	44 000	
....	Part-time Lecturers and Support Staff	350 348	368 000	
Other Payments				
....	Allowances — Overtime, Higher Duties, Annual Leave Loading, etc.....	217 695	225 000	
....	Additional Assistance	9 198	11 000	
....	Provision for Salary and Wage Adjustments .....	....	23 000	
			2 416 000	
Less savings on staff turnover and delays in filling vacancies.....		....	23 000	
65		2 156 115	2 393 000	
Contingencies				
....	Other Staffing Costs.....	387 804	425 000	
....	Communications.....	78 462	87 000	
....	Services and Contracts	257 443	289 000	
....	Consumable Supplies	524 253	610 000	
....	Maintenance of Plant, Equipment, etc.....	122 527	140 000	
....	Purchase of Plant, Equipment, etc	112 808	134 000	
TOTAL GROSS EXPENDITURE.....		3 639 412	4 078 000	
Less —				
Income from Fees and Recoups from Other Funds.....		469 753	420 000	
Adjustment for Bank Balances.....		9 659	....
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE		3 160 000	3 658 000	

Estimates of Expenditure for the Year ending 30th June, 1987

— KARRATHA COLLEGE

	1985-86 Vote	1985-86 Expenditure	1986-87 Estimate
	\$	\$	\$
Amount required for Services for the year.....	3 019 000	3 044 000	3 315 000

Details	1985-86 Actual	1986-87 Estimate
<i>Salaries and Establishment 1/7/86</i>	\$	\$
1 Director	55 564	57 300
2 Heads of School	74 397	93 300
32 Lecturers	839 986	957 000
26 Administrative Officer, Accountant, Librarian, etc.....	485 849	583 000
.... Part-time Lecturers and Wages Staff.....	421 871	430 000
<i>Other Payments</i>		
.... Allowances — Overtime, Higher Duties, Annual Leave Loading, etc.....	157 948	169 000
.... Additional Assistance	26 804	25 400
.... Provision for Salary and Wage Adjustments .....	....	24 000
		2 339 000
<i>Less savings on staff turnover and delays in filling vacancies.....</i>	....	10 000
63	2 062 419	2 329 000
<i>Contingencies</i>		
.... Other Staffing Costs.....	374 051	427 000
.... Communications.....	60 874	64 000
.... Services and Contracts	167 066	169 000
.... Consumable Supplies	587 266	684 000
.... Maintenance of Plant, Equipment, etc.....	141 401	149 000
.... Purchase of Plant, Equipment, etc	157 008	75 000
TOTAL GROSS EXPENDITURE.....	3 550 085	3 897 000
<i>Less —</i>		
Income from Fees and Recoups from Other Funds.....	505 396	581 000
Adjustment for Bank Balances.....	689	1 000
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE	3 044 000	3 315 000

	Esti- mated Total Cost	Expenditure to 30 June 85	Actual 1985-86	Proposed 1986-87
	\$000	\$000	\$	\$
Point Samson—Fishing Boat Harbour, Jetty, Pens and Slip	2 483	2 440	23 196	20 000
Onslow—Minor Improvements	104	—	91 618	12 000

MARINE & HARBOURS

Thirty two thousand dollars has been allocated for capital works projects in the North West with the Department of Marine and Harbours in the 1986-87 financial year.

Point Samson will receive an allocation towards the construction of a Fishing Boat Harbour Jetty, Pens and a Slip. This expenditure was a part of a total project cost estimated at \$2 483 000.

The *Onslow* based fishing industry facilities have been allocated an additional \$12 000 for expenditure on minor improvements. This brings the total expenditure by the State Government on these facilities over a two year period to an amount of nearly \$104 000.

The Consolidated Revenue Fund for 1986-87 provides—\$330 000 for casual wharf labour for the North West ports and \$1 221 000 for the Pilbara Harbour Services Pty Ltd refund of pilotage fees.

PORT HEDLAND PORT AUTHORITY

The Budget provides for a \$2.414 million capital works program for the Port Hedland Port Authority. The funds allocated include \$207 000 on navigational beacons \$108 000 on dredging the No. 1 Berth extension \$140 000 on staff housing and \$925 000 to complete the \$6 million allocation towards the construction of a tug harbour.

An additional \$722 000 was allocated towards completing the construction of the tug operator's office and workshop, and a \$100 000 allocation to cover the cost of a wave-rider

buoy. This year's capital works program for the Port Hedland Port Authority will be covered by the State's consolidated revenue through internal funds and balances rather than through borrowings.

STATE ENERGY COMMISSION

As a result of approvals contained in the Budget papers, significant funds are to be spent on the Karratha-Port Hedland transmission interconnection. In addition \$3.6 million has been allocated to allow for the installation of an additional diesel generating plant in the township of Kununurra. Further work is to be undertaken during the current financial year to complete the Dampier to Wagerup Natural Gas Pipeline. Planned expenditure of \$42.2 million on this project will allow for final work of gas heaters, communication facilities, electronic monitoring of selected sections of the main line, and work on the maintenance bases.

The Budget also provides for final costs associated with the takeover of the pipeline from the construction contractors and the purchase of strategic and operational spare parts.

A total of \$17.9 million is budgeted for the purchase and installation of pipe, gate stations and metering stations for laterals from the Dampier to Wagerup trunk-line. Work will proceed on three important laterals:—

- the supplying of gas into Carnarvon;
- an L.P.G. plant lateral;
- the lateral into East Perth.

	Esti- mated Total Cost	Expenditure to 30 June 85	Actual 1985-86	Proposed 1986-87
	\$000	\$000	\$	\$
BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS				
WATER AUTHORITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA				
Country—				
Water Supply—				
District—				
Karratha.....	79 644	39 297	3 161 452	574 000
Kununurra.....	10 042	4 845	1 396 806	1 207 000
Port Hedland	2 432	4	1 607 518	725 000
SUB-TOTAL COUNTRY WATER.....				2 506 000
Sewerage—				
District—				
Karratha.....	1 710	23	183 287	315 000
Kununurra.....	6 100	291	1 137 586	1 729 000
Port Hedland	473	159	30 077	94 000
SUB-TOTAL COUNTRY SEWERAGE				2 138 000
Drainage—				
District—				
Kununurra.....	104	—	—	102 000
Irrigation—				
District—				
Kununurra.....	3 063	459	270 487	303 000

Capital Works Program for Year ending 30 June 1987

	Estimated Total Cost	Expenditure to 30 June 85	Actual 1985-86	Proposed 1986-87
	\$000	\$000	\$	\$
Port Hedland Port Authority—				
Beacons	207	....	....	207 000
Dredging No. 1 Berth Extension	159	....	51 419	108 000
Fire Tender	67	....	14 200	53 000
Fork Lift	55	....	55 065	....
Motor Vehicles	130	....	65 513	64 000
Radar	118	....	117 651	....
Staff Housing	140	....	....	140 000
Tug Harbour	6 006	....	5 081 204	925 000
Tug Operator's Office/Workshop	725	....	3 252	722 000
Wave Rider Buoy	100	....	....	100 000
Minor Works including Equipment	161	....	65 747	95 000
			5 454 051	2 414 000
Source of Funds—				
Borrowings			3 500 000	....
Internal Funds and Balances			1 954 051	2 414 000
			5 454 051	2 414 000

— PORT HEDLAND PORT AUTHORITY

Details	1982-83 Actual	1983-84 Actual	1984-85 Actual	1985-86 Actual	1986-87 Estimate
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
REVENUE ACCOUNT					
EARNINGS —					
Wharfage, handling and haulage	1 366 617	1 528 743	1 749 689	1 732 047	1 761 000
Pilotage dues	828 483	1 027 384	1 138 684	1 127 491	1 197 000
Tonnage rates	1 340 531	1 759 178	1 794 404	1 745 440	2 147 000
Wharf labour recoups	560 296	599 960	722 576	721 703	497 000
Lease rentals	284 754	312 155	347 545	359 120	1 076 000
Harbour maintenance levy	37 700	55 872	60 285	99 536	93 000
Port improvement rates	1 633 322	....	....	....	....
Other	446 302	457 672	700 748	778 722	487 000
TOTAL EARNINGS	6 498 005	5 740 964	6 513 931	6 564 059	7 258 000
EXPENSES —					
Administration	1 639 830	1 610 670	1 866 295	1 937 300	2 326 000
Maintenance	834 178	1 048 179	880 102	1 053 211	925 000
Helicopter and hydro survey/pilot boat	428 580	581 678	574 428	636 893	934 000
Interest	614 543	598 612	603 085	659 043	1 067 000
Depreciation	359 965	357 046	353 641	347 388	483 000
Provision for—					
Dredging maintenance	440 000	400 000	252 000	796 677	350 000
Superannuation	135 600	253 600	1 108 400	124 347	214 000
Other	414 044	718 875	512 912	974 142	784 000
TOTAL EXPENSES	4 866 740	5 568 660	6 150 863	6 529 001	7 083 000
Loan Repayment Reserve Appropriation (a)	1 633 322	....	....	....	....
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(2 057)	172 304	363 068	35 058	175 000

(a) Prior to 1983-84, under agreements with mining Companies, buoys and beacons were transferred to the Authority in consideration for loans since repaid to the Companies, from proceeds of Port Improvement Rates.

II. — CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND

TABLE 8 — ORD RIVER IRRIGATION SCHEME — INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

ESTIMATE FOR 1986-87 COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

Head	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
ACCRUED INCOME —					
Water Supplies.....	362 964	352 357	456 430	543 207	594 060
Sewerage.....	142 645	185 131	209 562	236 280	258 000
Irrigation.....	248 599	257 055	212 945	256 270	280 000
Kununurra Airport.....	116 276	117 517	191 547	11 441	38 000
TOTAL INCOME	870 484	912 060	1 070 484	1 047 198	1 170 000
EXPENDITURE —					
Salaries, allowances and administration expenses.....	422 310	467 155	582 056	533 181	560 000
Operating Expenses —					
Irrigation.....	1 285 696	1 361 953	1 618 060	1 423 238	1 494 000
Water Supply.....	252 994	272 496	300 820	276 158	290 000
Sewerage.....	51 863	48 335	91 763	112 678	118 000
Airport.....	141 363	176 876	194 278	93 967	144 000
Service to Local Industry —					
Crop Spraying Subsidy.....	53 773	61 067	42 616	46 000	....
Commercial Scale Agricultural Experiments.....	435 000	560 805	123 640	37 096	....
Western Australian Agreement (Ord River Irrigation) Act, 1968 — Principal and Interest	331 190	415 612	421 250	407 626	391 000
Kununurra Townsite Services.....	23 594	28 927	28 320	3 057	4 000
Maintenance of Amenities for Public at Dams.....	43 398	45 787	60 255	57 111	60 000
Publicity.....	21 162	30 004	26 486	32 772	34 000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE.....	3 062 343	3 469 017	3 489 344	3 022 884	3 095 000

WATER RESOURCES

An amount of \$2 506 000 has been allocated for water supply programs in the North West; an additional \$2 138 000 to sewerage projects; \$102 000 to drainage and \$303 000 for irrigation.

These allocations are to be channelled through the Water Resources portfolio held by the local Kimberley Member of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Ernie Bridge, MLA and they are divided between the North West areas as indicated in the table on page 3374.

ORD RIVER IRRIGATION SCHEME

The Budget figures indicate that an amount of \$3 095 000 will be spent from CRF on the Ord River Irrigation Scheme for 1986-87.

MINERALS AND ENERGY

The Iron Ore (Goldsworthy & Nimingarra) Agreement Act calls for CRF expenditure in 1986-87 of \$223 000.

\$639 000 has been allocated to the Argyle Social Impact Study Group and \$50 000 to the East Kimberley Impact Assessment Project.

OTHER EXPENDITURE

The 1986-87 Budget contains \$349 000 to complete the alterations and additions to the Broome Police Station and the remaining \$8 000 of the \$290 000 allocation for the Derby Police Station Project.

The Budget Papers also reveal an allocation of \$80 000 to the *WA Fire Brigades Board* for the construction of a new 2 Bay pre-fabricated fire station at Roebourne. This allocation will be warmly welcomed by Roebourne residents.

The new building will include a training room, station keeper's room, kitchen and toilet. The fire brigades board is in the process of considering a suitable site for the location of the new fire station; and construction is expected to commence in 1987.

The *Building Management Authority* has received amounts of \$175 000 and \$328 000 in the 1986-87 Budget to complete Government office accommodation facilities in the township of Karratha and Kununurra.

The transfer of responsibility for patient travel from country areas from the Commonwealth to the State sees the setting aside of \$2 360 000 to the I.P.T.A.S. Scheme in the 1986-87 CRF allocation to the Department of Community Services.

An amount of \$80 000 has been allocated in 1986-87 for the Broadcast Translators for Fitzroy Crossing and \$500 000 for the Wittenoom Assistance Scheme.

The spectacular Bungle Bungle massif will be declared a national park and management plans will be completed in 1986-87. Funds have been set aside to employ two full time rangers for the park. The Government has also taken steps to support the restoration of the historic North West port of Cossack.

PASTORAL INDUSTRY

The Government endorsed the findings of the Kimberley Pastoral Industry Inquiry which was completed in October 1985. The final report of the inquiry contained recommendations for the future direction of the Kimberley pastoral industry.

Following this study, the Government launched the Kimberley land use study which recently was renamed the *Kimberley Region Planning Study*. The aim of this project is to bring together technical and data bases to identify the land capabilities of the Kimberley region and to match them with people's aspirations. The overall aim of the study is to develop a strategy for land use in the region.

The Government is also examining policies to ease the burden on new business of head works charges for water. This is especially important for businesses starting up in the North West.

Through the WA Exim Corporation and its subsidiary, WA Livestock Holdings Ltd, the Government has a major presence in the Kimberley Pastoral Industry.

Four cattle stations in the West Kimberley region, Gogo, Cherrabun, Christmas Creek and Meda, are owned by Government agencies. Those stations were acquired in early 1985 as part of a major pastoral industry restructuring exercise. The cattle on these leases form the largest herd in the West Kimberley.

Bovine tuberculosis is a major threat to the Kimberley pastoral industry. WA Livestock Holdings is committed to bringing the disease under control on the leases it manages. Once the disease is under control the leases will be sold to the private sector in a subdivided form.

AGRICULTURE

Funds will be made available for land acquisition and improvements of the Agriculture Department's Research Institute at Kununurra, which is now known as the Frank Wise Research Institute for Tropical Agriculture. An amount of \$150 000 is allocated in the Budget for expenditure in 1986-87 for the operation of this Research Institute.

LAND ADMINISTRATION

Major subdivisions are to be undertaken at Karratha, Newman, Tom Price and Broome.

FACILITIES FOR ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

The Government has deliberately focused considerable attention on the needs of Aboriginal communities of Western Australia. In the 1986-87 Budget, this focus is clearly demonstrated with the commencement of the previously announced 5-year Commonwealth State assistance package for Aborigines. This will provide housing, water, power, and social services to raise the health and living standards of Aborigines. Commonwealth funding is to be used largely for capital expenditure and State expenditure will be largely on services. A joint task force has been appointed to secure the support and involvement of Aborigines in determining priorities.

HOUSING

The Aboriginal housing program will again provide for new urban and village housing and the upgrading of older houses throughout the State.

The State will again provide grant money of \$650 000 to Homeswest to enable the continuation of the Aboriginal loan scheme. Over 120 families have obtained housing finance under this scheme over the last few years. I am hopeful that this scheme will be utilised by more Aboriginal people in the North West during the current financial year.

The *Kalumburu Community* will see the construction of a \$375 000 project providing them with a health clinic with staff accommodation attached; Looma will see the start of a

\$200 000 remodelled health clinic; and Noonkenbah's \$110 000 health clinic will be completed.

The Numbalanunga Nursing Home in Derby will see the commencement of the second stage of its \$1.772 million redevelopment. This allocation will involve the upgrading of the existing ward areas, providing new therapy facilities and additional cooling to patient areas. I am especially heartened by this decision of the Government because it results from a close personal involvement that I had in lobbying the Minister over this matter.

The staff and patients at this home have been putting up with totally unacceptable conditions for far too long. I am delighted that this Budget will bring about some worthwhile changes in their working and living conditions.

EDUCATION

Secondary school facilities will be provided for the Aboriginal communities at Jigalong (\$294 000) and Oombulgarri (\$80 000) while a special secondary facility costing \$700 000 will be built at Halls Creek to cater for the needs of the predominantly Aboriginal school student population.

The upgrading of the Kalumburu School toilet facilities will be completed at a total cost of \$170 000.

SPORT & RECREATION

\$400 000 has been provided to continue the Sport and Recreation Initiatives Scheme in 1986-87 for Aborigines in remote parts of the State. These funds will upgrade facilities and provide specialist personnel and programs in selected Aboriginal communities.

Debate resumed

Hon. TOM STEPHENS: Thank you, Mr Deputy President. I am not sure what I would have done had leave not been granted. To describe the graphs in great detail would have taken some considerable effort. As I said, it involves a series of graphs and tables, an analysis, and a summary of the Budget papers in so far as they relate to the north-west.

Figure 1 reveals the breakdown in revenue for the State of Western Australia for the current financial year. They reveal that 48.2 per cent of the revenue for Western Australia is the Commonwealth's contribution to this State's coffers; 23.1 per cent represents State taxation; 14.3 per cent comes from departmental revenue; and there are a number of other items which are referred to in that graph as constituting State revenue.

Interestingly enough, the second graph, figure 2, reveals expenditure in the order of 25.6 per cent on education and 22.6 per cent on health. They are the two major components of the expenditure of State Government revenue.

I have collated and summarised from the Budget papers the material contained in the graphs and tables analysis. It was largely incorporated in the Budget papers which were presented to the Legislative Assembly last Thursday by the Treasurer and tabled and noted in this House. This material constitutes

evidence of a very adequate level of ongoing commitment on the part of the Burke Labor Government to the people of the north-west.

I turn now to a number of aspects which were referred to in the Budget papers and which are of some concern to me. One budgetary item is the amalgamation of the Solar Research Institute of WA and the Western Australian Mining and Petroleum Research Institute. I am particularly interested in that amalgamation proposal because of its implications for the north-west.

I guess that in Western Australia, with the gas legacy this Government has been left by its political opponent when it left office in 1983, we face the temptation to ignore alternative developments in the field of energy production. Perhaps there is also a temptation to ignore the issues of energy efficiency and conservation. We have enormous volumes of gas from the North-West Shelf which we need to consume as a State otherwise we are left with either the cost of leaving it in the ground or its being brought to the south of Western Australia and simply stored.

The State Energy Commission's operations in the north-west are expensive operations that cannot draw on the gas products available from the North-West Shelf by and large, except for the new grid that has been established in the Pilbara area. Some towns in the north-west, such as Wittenoom and Kununurra, rely heavily on the import of diesel fuels for the generation of power in that area. It seems to me that it is essential that the SEC's operations in the remote locations—which are dependent upon the generation of power from fossil fuels—should be efficient in energy use, conserve energy fuels, and, at the same time, it should explore alternative sources of power generation.

Solar energy is one such source and I am pleased to be reassured by the public statements of the Minister for Minerals and Energy that the amalgamation of the Solar Energy Research Institute and the Western Australian Mining and Petroleum Research Institute is really not a lessening of commitment on the part of the Government to exploring alternative energy forms. In fact, it is a statement to the contrary.

The Government is determined, through the amalgamation of the two institutes, to be sure that funds can be channelled quite quickly and directly into research, to avoid unnecessary and expensive costs of overheads associated with

administering research funds, and to ensure that private and academic research projects are funded directly and efficiently by this process.

A lot needs to be done about the question of solar energy. SERIWA quite successfully pioneered a project which has been of considerable use to the remote Aboriginal communities in my electorate. Hopefully a much publicised power-pack will be available more widely through work being done by Exim and a private investor.

I hope that that venture will benefit exploration companies and pastoralists, as well as the Aboriginal communities in my electorate.

The SEC will continue to work in the area of fuel conservation and efficiency. In addition, it will ensure that experimentation continues with wind technology. I understand that in Esperance at the moment the SEC has successfully pioneered wind technology for augmenting the power supply to that town. I understand this flows on from work carried out on Rottnest Island. This moves in the direction of ensuring a lessening reliance on fossil fuels for power generation in these locations and augmenting the power supply with alternative means.

In the north-west, other areas of exploratory work need to be carried out in this field. Quite clearly the waters of the Ord River inspire great enthusiasm for hydroelectricity schemes. I have noticed that the Budget contains an expenditure item to provide an additional diesel generating unit for Kununurra. I hope that—and I will certainly be encouraging them both—the Minister for Minerals and Energy and the SEC will continue to explore the economic viability of the installation of a hydroelectricity scheme on the Ord. I suppose it is question of the point at which the power supplied by diesel generation becomes too expensive and necessitates an investment in the hydro scheme.

Anybody who has stood on the wharf near the town of Derby watching the great gush of the tidal currents past the jetty could not help but be attracted to the concept of further exploration of tidal power. It may seem far-fetched but I hope that at some stage the enormous energies so obviously present in those great tides of the north, particularly in Derby, will be harnessed to assist with the reduction in costs associated with the generation of power in the north-west. But, more importantly, such conservation steps should be taken towards what effectively are the finite resources associated with fossil fuels.

I looked at another item on the Budget papers, arising from my interest in the film industry. I was particularly keen to monitor this item. I refer to an article which appeared in *The West Australian* on 27 August 1986, headed, "What's up with the WA film industry?" The article went on to ask the following question—

So what's happening in the West Australian film industry?

Only a few years ago you'd answer that question with a big zero. Today there are signs of a fledgling industry establishing itself; new production houses are opening, projects undreamt of five years ago are being conceived and produced in this State.

But it's only a beginning. There's a lot of work to be done before the film industry in WA begins to hum.

Some of this work is being undertaken by the WA Film Council, a funded body created specifically to stimulate the film industry here. According to the council's executive director, Andrew Swanson, the WAFC has done, and is doing, some tremendous work, but it is too cash-strapped to make the serious impact it should.

That, of course, highlighted Mr Swanson's view that there was a need for additional funds for the Western Australian Film Council; I share that view.

A quick glance at the Budget papers reveals that the State Government has not been able to increase the allocation to the council. That would have filled me with some concern were it not for the fact that the Minister for The Arts, David Parker, who has responsibility for the WA Film Council, has previously announced the commissioning of a consultant, Ms Ann MacBeth, a former director of the FTI, to make recommendations to the Government on exactly what is needed to ensure sustained growth in the Western Australian film industry.

Perhaps to some extent not enough was done early enough in Western Australia to cash in on the favourable position in which the film industry had been placed as a result of Federal tax legislation. The legislation which applied to the film industry in recent years provided that industry with a golden opportunity to attract sizeable investments of funds. With the recent changes to that Commonwealth legislation and the reduction in the taxation advantage for investment in the film industry, naturally, there will be some reduction in this investment.

Therefore, there is a risk that Western Australia has to some extent missed the boat in taking advantage of that taxation legislation.

That makes the task ahead all the more challenging to me and nonetheless compelling. I quote the director of the Western Australia Film Council, Mr Swanson, who said, "The issue is one of investment and reward." Quoting from the article previously referred to, Mr Swanson was reported as saying—

You put money into a project and it attracts more money from private investors that will eventually end up in this State.

It has been estimated, he says, that of the \$4.2m expended by Victoria on stimulating film production, \$56m is reaped in production investment. This can benefit specific localities. In the small town of Echuca, during the filming of "All the Rivers Run" \$100 000 was spent each week in the town.

He went on to say—

Look at a local example: "A Fortunate Life" which received an initial \$20 000 from the WAFC for Ken Kelso to write the script. The mini-series had a budget of \$6.2m, two-thirds of which was spent in WA.

The article continued—

So Swanson is justified in saying: "We're not just making films here for the entertainment of the public." It's also good business.

I very much share that view. I believe that the film industry has great potential for regional and local economies as well as the State economy.

Mr Swanson is quoted as saying that in the early days of the creation of the Western Australian Film Council the problem in Western Australia was simply an absence of scripts. To a very large extent the WAFC, with its funding of that area of activity in the film industry, has ensured that that shortage has now been replaced by a plethora of good scripts which can well and truly be utilised by the film industry for excellent feature films and documentaries.

One of the reasons I am attracted to the film industry is that my own electorate in the north-west has a history and a geography that is almost in itself a sufficiently compelling enticement to attract the interest of the film industry. Recently I was very pleased to see the commencement of two scripts that are associated

with the history, and intimately connected with the geography, of the Kimberley region.

One script for a major feature film is about an Aboriginal resistance leader known as Pigeon. This man helped stop the movement of the white population into the tribal lands of the Bunapa people in the north and north-west Kimberley region. He managed to do that over a period of 10 years, and the debates in the Legislative Council at that time show the fear he had inspired in the minds of the settlers of the Kimberley, and the concerns of the Government of Western Australia. It is a very compelling tale—

Hon. P. G. Pandal: What era?

Hon. TOM STEPHENS: —of courage and treachery set in the 1890s. It is a story of great poignancy and is set against the beautiful backdrop of the Napier and Oscar ranges, with settings in places such as the Windjana Gorge and Tunnel Creek.

I was fortunate recently to travel along those ranges with an Aboriginal man who is very interested in that film project and very keen to see it made into a feature film—a man called Banjo Worrumurra. As we were driving down along the side of the Napier Range it was getting close to sunset. The range itself had been lit by the setting sun—a beautiful black range against a sky that was becoming orange and paddocks that were a most brilliant yellow. That beautiful scenery will hopefully feature in this film when it is eventually produced.

The Aborigines associated with Banjo Worrumurra have formed an Aboriginal production company called the Bunapa Production Company. They are the linguistic group who are the direct descendants of the resistance leader, Pigeon, and of his "tribe", and they have attracted funds from the Western Australian Film Council in getting their script ready. They have also attracted funds from the Australian Film Commission, and have employed the services of a historian, Howard Petersen, who is a very good friend of mine and has done a magnificent job in ensuring that the scriptwriter, Ian David, was able to produce a very compelling film script that relates the cruelty, brutality, and courage of that period.

I am hopeful that at some early stage the necessary costs associated with these early steps of a film's production that are quite difficult for the private investor to pick up will soon be available under the auspices of Government agencies to ensure the production of a film such

as this. The spin-off in terms of the local economy is tremendous, as are the employment opportunities it creates, as well as the advantage for Western Australians to be able to see in that feature film medium their history. Hopefully, through that medium, they will come to terms with that history. Very significantly as well, the film affords the opportunity for many people throughout the world to be attracted to that region because of the beauty of the topography and geography of the region. Finally, the Aboriginal people would be delighted to share their own knowledge of that period of their history that is so quickly being forgotten by the rest of the community.

Interestingly enough, there is another film script from that same section of my electorate, the Kimberley region, which is almost the other side of the story. It is the script that flows from the book *Kings in Grass Castles* which was written by Dame Mary Durack Miller. It tells the story from the vantage point of the white settlers. It is a tale that spells out in great detail the history of my wife's family and the great family tree associated with that family as it moved from North Queensland to the Kimberley region in the 1880s. It is the opposite viewpoint to the script I was just speaking about, which gives the vantage point of the Aboriginal people of the Bunapa land. Once again, it is a tale of great pioneering spirit and courage on the part of the patriarch of that family group, Patsy Durack, and the perseverance of his family. It details with great clarity their courage and bravery; and as well, through the sensitivity of the writer, Dame Mary Durack, the cruelty of that period is documented as two totally dissimilar populations come into one area to compete for a scarce resource, land.

I have heard it said that the scriptwright, David Williamson, is having problems at the moment with his script because he is apparently attracted through poetic licence to the proposition of having Patsy Durack, at the end of the film, surrounded by the graves of all of his children bar one, all of whom have supposedly died at a young age. This proposition is very amusing to me, for I accompany my wife sometimes into the theatres of Perth and I am staggered at the number of cousins we have to say hello to in any one theatre at any one time. To have this film going off the deep end with the suggestion that their lineage was all from one son of Patsy's is a historical inaccuracy that seems so unnecessary on the part of David Williamson. How on earth are we to explain

Senator Peter Durack, and Doug Durack the journalist, and Prendiville the hotel entrepreneur, and everyone else from that vast family who have now populated this State, by suggesting in a film which is of considerable importance to Western Australia that all of Patsy Durack's children bar one died at a young age? The contribution of people like M. P. Durack, who was a member for Kimberley—

Hon. P. G. Pental: They reckon some odd people married into that very fine family.

Hon. Kay Hallahan: Some very fine people did, too.

Hon. TOM STEPHENS: Be that as it may, it is a great family history that has been told very beautifully by Dame Mary.

Hon. P. G. Pental: It is a good book, too.

Hon. TOM STEPHENS: And in it she describes with great frankness the cruelty of her own family. I suppose it is very hard not to be judgmental, from this vantage point, of the difficulties of that period.

But that all leads me on to say there is yet another script which, with a bit of tidying up, will be available for the Western Australian film industry, for use in the production of another feature film within our region.

Therefore I am hopeful that the results of Ann MacBeth's report will be available for the Government to ensure that the Western Australian film industry can rely on a Government poised to step in at appropriate places to support the development of films in this State.

Finally, on a completely unrelated item of the Budget papers, I was intrigued to notice in a biography, or a history really, of the Whitlam Government that was produced by the great man himself recently, that he spoke about one of his former Ministers—who was, of course, the member for Perth at that time and who is currently our Attorney General—having drawn to his attention while they were in Government to the fact that Perth was the only city in Australia which did not have the old classic Greek forum. The 1986-87 Budget papers, interestingly enough, contain very large items associated with the redevelopment of Forrest Place. In fact, there is a projected development of something in the order of \$23 million associated with work on the Forrest Place development; with \$8.6 million allocated in 1986-87 and an additional \$540 000 for planning of the north-west corner. The allocation of these funds in the State Budget obviously is again evidence of the determination, I suspect, of the

Minister for Budget Management to ensure that Perth is equipped with a very attractive focal point at its heart. The contribution of the Attorney General, Hon. Joe Berinson, to ensure that this project is on the drawing board well and truly needs to be commended.

Despite the fact that these are times of budgetary restraint, this project will clearly go ahead. I commend Hon. J. M. Berinson for that.

HON. JOHN HALDEN (North Metropolitan) [4.42 p.m.]: In speaking in support of this motion, I would like to make some comments about the financial problems facing the people of this country, and the Federal and State Governments.

I would like to start my remarks by looking back to 1983 when the prices and incomes accord was developed by the Hawke Labor Government. That accord had three primary aims—the pursuit of high rates of economic and employment growth, reduced unemployment, and the aim of holding down inflationary pressures. The decision to tackle unemployment and inflation simultaneously was a complete break from the previous Fraser Government's approach, which was of fighting inflation by generating a large reserve of unemployed.

The incomes policy of the prices and incomes accord has worked. There can be no doubt the policy faces major problems at this time. After the Hawke Government's election there were some impressive upturns in the economy and in the macro-economic indicators. There was a doubling in the rate of economic growth; there was a rising in private consumption expenditure; there was stimulation of private growth fixed capital expenditure, and increased household income and disposable income; there was an enlarging of gross operating services by fivefold; there was increased export growth by fourfold; there was a massive expansion of private dwelling investments and approvals; there was a doubling in non-dwelling constructions; there was an increase in employment growth by fourfold; there was a reduction in the unemployment rate of two per cent; there was a halving of the number of days lost due to industrial disputation; and there was a reduction in the CPI rate of one-third.

Undeniably, wage restraint has assisted this economic turnabout in combination with the rural and world economic recovery. However, over the last 12 months, the engines of econ-

omic growth have begun to slow down. There is a disturbing series of indicators which have highlighted problems in the economy. Together these threaten the survival of the prices and incomes accord, and the growth promotion strategy. Recently, economic news has been dominated by the balance of payments problem and the situation in the exchange rates. The downward movement in these two variables has seen business leaders call for tighter monetary policy, strict budgetary targeting, and real wage cuts.

Traditionally, the balance of payments and the exchange rate were regarded as among the goals of economic management, but not the sole goal. Meanwhile, other objectives which have been considered goals in our economy, such as growth, employment, investment, and higher standards of living, have been placed on the back burner. The economic policy, which is designed to improve in the short term our balance of payments figure and the exchange rate, has been implemented.

However, I feel that we must talk about the short-term policies and compare them to the long-term consequences, and perhaps the long-term policies that are needed. There is no doubt that our balance of payments situation is not necessarily healthy. I accept that there is a need for a fundamental reshaping of the balance of payments situation with the rest of the world. The obsession, however, with the imbalance in our external economic relations is based upon perceptions by international money markets. If we concentrate on these perceptions too heavily, we will reduce the ability of this Government to intervene on behalf of Australians.

In order to maintain the value of the Australian dollar, we have been told in this House that Government expenditure must be cut. Members had only to listen to the Leader of the Opposition in this House yesterday to realise that he is hellbent on Government cuts. I am not quite sure in what area, but there must be cuts. If we accept that there must be Government cuts, we must accept that there will be a reduction in the social wage; if these cuts occur, there will be, in the long term, a deferment of the productivity gains and the ability of this country to get itself out of the economic problems which it now has. It must be remembered that the public sector is able to stimulate the private sector through its consumption ability.

Not surprisingly, those advocating an increased dose of constraint are—not necessarily the Leader of the Opposition in this House—as indicated in the Press, clearly international money managers and foreign exchange dealers. It is my belief that economic policy in this country must be determined by Australians for Australians. There is no doubt that Australia is part of the international economy.

Point of Order

Hon. C. J. BELL: Mr President, I believe the honourable member is reading. I think this contravenes Standing Order No. 73.

The PRESIDENT: I am not sure whether the honourable member is reading his speech or not, but if the honourable member is, then he knows that contravenes Standing Order No. 73. However, that is not to say the honourable member cannot make reference to copious notes. If that is what he is doing, that is perfectly all right.

Debate Resumed

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: I am well aware of the Standing Order in respect of this matter. I do not wish to comment on such an interjection.

As I was saying before that rather pointless interjection, Australia is part of the world economy, and naturally international perceptions of our economy are important. However, they should not be allowed to totally dictate Australian economic policies.

Further, I believe that we are being pushed into symptom-based policy reaction, rather than looking at the casual problems facing the Australian economy. Consequences of symptom-based reaction are that we have been called upon to have tighter monetary policies, primarily by increasing interest rates and providing short-term improvements to the value of the Australian dollar. High interest rates may be an attractive short-term solution. There is no doubt that they attract overseas capital and that they temporarily relieve the pressure on the dollar. However, the consequences of high domestic interest rates mean that there is likely to be a reduction in real investment rates in the economy. As a result, economic growth slows down and overall demand declines; and if and when interest rates decline, capital is likely to outflow. Clearly in the long term we have to look at those sorts of problems.

High interest rates have the potential to cripple the housing industry and private consumption. Clearly they have the potential to do many other contractionary things to the economy. This must be addressed by all Governments. However the cost can also be reflected in unemployment and reduced economic activity. When monetary policy is relaxed, the same balance of payment problems is likely to re-emerge. Tight monetary policy and high interest rates when relaxed will see an inevitable outflow of capital. Thus we will have contraction. Business and conservatives constantly tell Australians that the overseas debt problem is due to excessive Government expenditure and borrowing to sustain the deficit. I would like to point out to the honourable gentlemen opposite that if one looks at the 1985-86 Budget papers of the Federal Government, one will see that during the five-year period to June 1986, foreign private debt accumulated at about twice the rate of the public overseas debt.

If this private capital inflow had resulted in new productive capacity and increased employment opportunities, Australians may have had cause to support the austerity measures. However, the Reserve Bank of Australia's occasional paper No. 8A shows business investment as a proportion of GDP has remained subdued under the Labor Government. Unfortunately, most of the capital that has been brought into the country is indebted and not equity capital designed to reap the short-term financial gains available in this deregulated market. The tendency towards refinancing the exchange of existing assets rather than developing real assets is one of the most disturbing features of the Australian economy at the moment.

There are those who are making considerable gains from the financial markets, but there is little benefit to the Australian worker and the working class and the middle class. The benefits being reaped at the top are going to those who have most to gain from the market and most to put into the market. They are not diversifying and expanding our export and manufacturing base.

There are those who call for fiscal attacks on the working class. There are many conservatives in our society who want to further reduce workers' living standards. No clearer example can be seen than among the New Right, and I am sure it has some sympathisers on the benches opposite. One of them is laughing.

Hon. G. E. Masters: You must be worried about them. You never stop talking about them.

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: The New Right will be judged by the populace, and the Leader of the Opposition will be judged along with it; there is no doubt about that.

There is no doubt that if we look at reducing workers' living standards there will be a short-term rebound in the value of the dollar. Tough fiscal policy is supposed to demonstrate to international economic capitalists that the Government is taking tough decisions, and as a result foreign capital will flow into the economy and boost the dollar. In some cases there is a lot of wishing and hoping in that. Mr Masters would probably think that is not so, but I think many of his policies are the same in that they contain a lot of wish and hope.

Hon. G. E. Masters: I am looking forward to your going to meet the subcontractors and explaining your position to them.

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: I am waiting for Hon. G. E. Masters to go to a meeting of the Perth Tenants Association.

Hon. G. E. Masters: I have been.

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: Cutting Government spending will reduce the level of demand and employment in Australia. Our rate of growth will slow down, and as a result import demand will fall, thereby improving the current account situation.

Hon. C. J. Bell: What is happening to rental rates in this country at the moment?

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: They are going through the roof.

Hon. C. J. Bell: Why are they going through the roof?

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: Because of hungry landlords.

Hon. C. J. Bell: No, it is because we have a Government which has made it unprofitable to own rental property.

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: An analysis of Government expenditure cuts suggests that in the long term there are likely to be problems. If Government expenditure cuts are to be effected it will be done in three areas: Firstly, interest rates on existing public debt; secondly, expenditure on capital works; and thirdly, expenditure on social welfare, health, housing, and education. Since cuts cannot be made in the first sector, I can only suggest they will be made in the other two areas. Over time, it is consequential that the living standards of

Australians will therefore fall. Failure to invest in the so-called human capital can only result in a decline in our productivity.

The third rationale for cutting Government expenditure is that less Government borrowings means less competition by the public sector for scarce private sector resources, and as a result interest rates will fall. I would suggest that the flaw in this argument is that there is no international evidence to suggest the relationship between the size of the Budget deficit and the level of interest rates. Even if interest rates do ease there is no guarantee that private investment will expand. If all economic variables remain constant a fall in interest rates should stimulate further investment. However, profits are determined by a host of factors—costs, volume sales, profits, revenues, and so on.

The conclusion is that tough fiscal policy could militate against the imperative in this country of re-industrialisation of the Australian economy. Then there is the old furphy that is put up so often by members opposite, that we will get into the realms of cutting wages, a favourite weapon advocated by members opposite. By cutting the workers' share of the fruits of production in our society it is believed there will be more profits available to the business sector, the business sector will re-invest those profits, and there will be more jobs, and so on. The basis for that sort of thinking is challengeable.

I would pose the question as to why labour should continually bear the burden of adjustments in this economy. It is undoubtedly true that labour must bear some costs, but if we continue down the road advocated by the New Right, and perhaps those opposite, labour will bear more costs.

Hon. N. F. Moore: Are you in the Old Left?

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: The Old Left or the New Left?

Hon. N. F. Moore: Old or new?

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: The New Left.

Hon. N. F. Moore: I am pleased you are here. I thought your type had all left the Labor Party. It really encourages me to know that some of the Old Left are still around.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: It is pleasing to see Larry, Curly, and Moe on the front bench opposite.

Hon. P. H. Lockyer: At least they do not read their speeches like drongos like you. Put your notes away and make your speech off the cuff.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: It is challengeable that labour has to continually face the burdens in this economy. There is a limit to which people can go in facing those burdens. It must also be remembered that the disposable income of the working and middle classes is essential when one considers it is those surpluses which bring about consumption and industrial growth in our economy.

The accord undeniably has delivered to capital the most favourable terms for many years for it to take advantage of economic indicators and surplus money so that this country can have industrial revitalisation. It is questionable whether labour can continually keep on accepting considerable cuts. Surely with favourable terms of trade at the moment—and we have seen the value of the Australian dollar devalued by 30 per cent—the doors to export should have been opened very widely, but this is not happening. The economy is still stagnating, and we have seen in a recent survey on "Exploiting opportunities in the Pacific Basin" by McKinsey and Co, some interesting and telling points made about Australian management practices. It said that Australian companies were largely concerned with labour costs, the industrial relations climate, and the exchange rate. Customers rated them in the bottom 50 per cent for their willingness to adapt their products for local markets. Too many Australian companies did not have the commitment to succeed in a demanding, competitive marketplace.

Australian companies face a productivity problem related to long-term disinvestment. The report said only one-third of companies were concerned with the availability of appropriate skills and technology. Unfortunately there was a strong tendency reflected in the survey's response to rely on others, especially the Government, to solve problems for managements.

Despite the restitution of profit share and every incentive to reinvest, the economy still awaits business action. In line with the accord we require investment agreements between union and industry. Australia suffers from a lack of investment in research and development, and an export orientation. Australian subsidiary companies are locked into being franchise dealers for their parent bodies in

other parts of the world. Many suffer from inappropriate management practices and skills, and the subsidiaries are primarily franchise dealers for the rest of the world.

The Australian economy really must take off in order to continue the ability to be just sellers of international products which are produced elsewhere. That is not likely to happen.

[Questions taken.]

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: It is important that we realise that Australia can no longer continue to live under the luxury of being a quarry and food basket for the rest of the world. It can no longer look forward to what the Fraser Government perhaps did in looking forward to a recovery based on a mining recovery. Exposure of our economy to deregulated markets of the world has happened at the same time as there have been depressed prices in world commodities.

We can no longer continue to be dependent on primary commodities, and we must look towards the manufacturing areas of our economy to assist us. It has been the case for many decades to allow capital to be run down to the point where it is not competitive on international money markets.

The Government and members of Parliament should not look to some of the fallacies that the New Right has put forward, including the further cutting of worker's wages and a further tax on the working and middle classes. We should look forward to the Government playing a significant and important role in revitalising Australia's manufacturing areas. If we look at those sorts of issues, there are a number of things the Australian Government should do and it should receive this State Government's support. The Federal Government should enact legislation to remove the tax avoidance loopholes which encourage large-scale company take-overs—activities financed by foreign borrowings which have questionable benefits to the Australian economy. The Commonwealth should abolish tax concessions on debts financed by overseas investments and should not be too worried by the approach that speculators and international brokers have in regard to the Australian economy.

It is important that the Australian working and middle classes are remembered in all considerations—they are not the considerations of the money moguls of this world. I repeat that I believe it is important that we develop an interventionist industrial policy which binds em-

ployers and employees to investment agreements geared to develop our export replacement capabilities. Without export replacement capabilities we will be continually locked into a situation where we will have to buy overseas. It is important that we all support the "Buy Australian" campaign and stop the importation of foreign commodities into this country.

It is important also that the Government looks at the issue of prices control. Although I know that prices control legislation has been rejected, it is important that we look at those sorts of issues. There is no doubt that with commodity prices increasing by 10 per cent and wages increasing at a lesser rate, considerable burdens are being placed on people at the lower end of the economic scale.

It is only a question of time—not as the New Right would suggest, that workers can continually absorb cuts in wages—that we will have to look at compensating people on the basis of the CPI.

There should be a rejection of the concept of civil conscription for unemployment benefits for youth. The basis of that does not have any economic grounds and it would probably cost considerably more than the exercise will reap. The whole process is abhorrent to Australians. There must be a consultative and interventionist approach by the Government.

I refer now to the Japanese economy which has fared well since the war. The Japanese economy has been very successful post-war, and one of the reasons is that the Japanese Government has had a Ministry for International Trade and Industry. The Japanese Government has played an influential part in the way it has intervened and advised—

A member interjected.

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: The honourable member talks about productivity, but if he listened to my speech he would have heard me make reference to Australian capital and he would know why we have become the franchise dealers for the world.

If and when we stop that sort of approach and realise that this economy must be governed by Australians for Australians, we might get somewhere. There is always this excuse that it is the fault of the working class. That is what the Opposition is saying and going on about—blame the working classes. The philosophy of conservatives and the New Right is to blame the underdogs, those least able to defend themselves.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. P. G. Pental: We thought you guys had gone, we didn't know there were any more like you.

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: Hon. P. G. Pental interjects continually—

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. John Williams): Order!

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: He is the sort of person who tries to enter a greyhound in a horse race and cannot understand why the dog is not let run. The Leader of the Opposition would blame it on Mr Connell and say that the socialist Burke Government was responsible for that.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: There is no doubt that the public knows exactly where members opposite should be—in the Opposition.

I believe it is essential for the Federal and State Governments to recognise that our primary focus should be the reindustrialisation of our economy. It is almost essential that we as politicians look very carefully at the alternatives proposed and at the sort of thing members opposite and those of the business world would have foisted upon the working classes of this State and this country. Clearly, in any future elections those sorts of contradictions will be highlighted. We shall look at the question of who can best manage the economy in difficult times. We have seen conservative Governments thrown out of office and I do not think they have a great deal to offer the masses of Australia. The policies enunciated by the Leader of the Opposition in this House have nothing to offer because in reality, no policies are offered by this Opposition.

Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition went through the Budget and said quite clearly that he was not happy with this, that, or the other item. However, he gave no indication of what an alternative Government would provide. We continually listen to mindless criticism offered by members opposite.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. John Williams): Order!

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: It is important that Governments in this country realise that if Australia is to get into the world economy in some significant way, we must adopt a policy of reindustrialisation through an intervention-

ist approach. That is absolutely essential. It has proved a successful policy world-wide and I think it is time we looked at these issues.

Of course, Mr Hawke does not necessarily agree with everything I say, but the Hawke Government does have an interventionist approach, a prices and income accord, and a wages policy. When the Liberal Party was in Government it had no policies and that is the difference between it and us. We have policies, practices, and ideas. The members of the Opposition are just knockers.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! The Leader of the Opposition and Hon. Tom Butler will stop their interjections across the Chamber.

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: I do not necessarily say that our policies are the panacea of this country's ills, but they highlight the difference between members on this side and Opposition members and illustrate why members are on opposite sides.

I have tried to highlight the areas I believe the Government needs to look at. It must bear in mind its responsibility to the people. All I have heard from members opposite is knocking, piffle, and trivia.

Hon. Tom Stephens: That is why they are on that side of the House.

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: Exactly. One puts up a series of proposals with a clear indication that they are reasonable—

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! If Hon. P. G. Pental continues interjecting, I will insist on following the President's ruling.

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: I have suggested that these proposals should be considered and that they are worthy of discussion. I have heard nothing from members opposite except some extremist rhetoric and their normal clap-trap. This probably epitomises the unfortunate state of this House, when everything said is taken to some absolutely trivial extent by those opposite.

Several members interjected.

Hon. JOHN HALDEN: I have not heard either of the two members interjecting make their speeches yet. I will wait with great anticipation.

I have simply put forward these proposals and suggested that people should give consideration to them; no more. I am waiting for mem-

bers opposite to make a contribution to this debate. I have heard for one hour today members nit-picking through the Tourism Commission and a discussion about Norseman. Of course, that is legitimate; but should it take an hour?

If this country is to successfully establish itself on international monetary markets, it must look at reindustrialisation and being compassionate to those at the lower end of the scale. Compassion is a commodity which seems to get lost by members on the other side; although I might add that that does not apply to all of them. It is essential that those elements be considered. We should not govern for one sector or blindly follow the political ideologies put forward by the most powerful members in our community.

I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon. Max Evans.

AMERICA'S CUP YACHT RACE (SHOPPING HOURS) BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

HON. MAX EVANS (Metropolitan) [5.19 p.m.]: We have had a short period in which to consider this legislation and the wishes of the Government. We are very concerned about this legislation and the effect it may have on business. We are also concerned that it may be the first leg of implementing the recommendations of the Kelly report to deregulate shopping hours and the labour market. We are concerned to make sure that business can run properly.

It would be far better for everyone in the community if the Government allowed the deregulation of hours or alternative hours for different businesses and locations so that employers could spread the 38-hour a week pay for permanent employees over 50 or 60 hours, or a lot more, during the time of the America's Cup.

This would then enable staff to have time off on Mondays and Tuesdays, or alternative days, as nurses or those in other occupations enjoy having weekdays off. This has not been allowed under the present awards. This legislation would have provided a good opportunity to deregulate labour rates and hours as a real trial period for the benefit of the community, to see if it works out. It will be a trial period anyway.

We are glad to see the legislation has a sunset clause which causes it to expire on 15 February 1987.

I hope the Government appreciates that this legislation could, and probably will, actually diminish the net profit of some companies, which will see a lot of outside staff coming in with extra costs of penalty rates for double time, although I know there is a move to get that reduced. There is also payroll tax of 5.75 per cent on payrolls of over \$1.8 million a year plus workers' compensation, and so on. It is quite an imposition. In fact, most firms will require another \$10 of sales for every extra \$1 of wages, or roughly around that proportion, depending on their margin. I know some of the small boutiques have much bigger margins and they will do very well out of it in the areas where the public are going.

We hope the public use the benefits given to them during this period and maximise trade. This legislation means more than just shopping at an alternative time, it means the public must spend more dollars than they would otherwise have spent or the retailers will be out of pocket. If the public spend the same number of dollars from 1 November until 14 February as they usually do—and I am talking about local consumers, not just visitors—the retailers will be worse off. We hope that giving them more time to spend money—for instance, so that husbands and wives can shop together—more money will be spent.

When this legislation expires on 15 February we request the Minister to work in close consultation with the retailers, the chambers of commerce, and unions—who are mentioned in the letter, and I know they are supporting this deregulation. We want the Minister to consult very closely to see exactly how the experiment has worked out. It is a trial period in which we can assess the real hands-on effect of it.

After all, as the Minister must realise, if business people end up with a net profit they will be happy to work more hours. To work more hours for less profit makes people very unhappy and eventually could see them going out of business. We hope they will be able to discuss the deregulation of hours, the spread of the 38 hours over the week as they see it, with the agreement of the staff and at a flat rate of pay. We request that consultation be had with those organisations and the businesses concerned, large, medium, and small.

I wish to foreshadow an amendment that has been already moved in the other House to discuss the exemption of motor vehicle dealers

from this legislation. The Bill has really been brought in to facilitate the general retailing environment, as the Minister has said, for people visiting during the America's Cup period. We do not consider they will be coming out here to buy motor vehicles.

People in the car dealing industry have been lobbying all members of this House and are very perturbed about this legislation. They do not just work between opening and closing times in the shop. Car dealers have salesmen who are on a salary, or on a straight commission, but they work more than 50 or 60 hours a week to make their sales. They honestly believe that to work those extra five hours in the weekend is not conducive to more sales being made, and they would prefer not to do so. We must consider the dealer himself. He must have a telephonist or a clerk on hand in addition to salesmen. He will therefore have penalty rates to pay, as well as additional payments to salesmen on commission or on salaries and part commission.

We believe that the case put by the motor vehicle dealers must be considered very seriously. We have excluded filling stations from the legislation and we believe motor vehicle dealers should be excluded from Saturday afternoon trading, as requested by the trade. These people are family men who already work 50 to 60 hours a week to make a living. Some make a very good living, but some are finding it very hard to sell cars today.

Hon. Doug Wenn: What about shoe shops and others? What if they do not want to work the extra hours?

Hon. MAX EVANS: It is up to them to put up their submission. The Government is bringing in the legislation. Shoe shop proprietors should bring it up with the Minister, and not with me. We do not consider that the motor vehicle dealers being open during that period will contribute anything towards the visitors expected during the America's Cup period, the people for whom this legislation has been brought in.

HON. TOM McNEIL (Upper West) [5.25 p.m.]: I oppose this legislation very strongly because, having been a small business proprietor before coming into Parliament, I know the sorts of hours that shopkeepers work. We have just heard from my honourable colleague on my right (Hon. Max Evans) the effect it

would have on car salesmen. I recognise that, but if we are going to go around the legislation in order to exempt one type of business from weekend trading, we should take a look at the whole dashed set-up. No-one would suggest that the Public Service, the Post Office, or the banks, should open on a weekend, but what about the people who work in the shops? I would have thought the Government would be on side with the shopkeepers.

A Government member: It is not compulsory.

Hon. TOM McNEIL: Here we come to another kettle of fish. It is never compulsory. What happens when a big white shark like Boans, Coles, or Woolies opens up the road? There is only a certain number of dollars, so in order to compete the little shopkeeper must open or he will not get a share of the dollars, and all the shops which have the right to trade on Saturdays and Sundays will lose trade as well.

Hon. D. K. Dans: That was a real fear in New South Wales, but it has not happened.

Hon. TOM McNEIL: I had better get over to New South Wales and give them some sort of protection.

Hon. D. K. Dans: You had better get a shop over there. With your personality you would make a million dollars a week.

Hon. TOM McNEIL: It is a very confusing issue. Some two or three weeks ago *The Geraldton Guardian* contained a comment about it. I will quote from that quite copious article—

ALL shops in Geraldton will be allowed to open until 5pm on Saturday during the four-month period of the America's Cup challenge series.

I might point out that this is Geraldton. I do not know how we are going to see America's Cup races from there.

Hon. D. K. Dans: I will tell you something—when I did shut the shops there they nearly hanged me.

Hon. TOM McNEIL: I would have cut Mr Dans down.

Hon. P. G. Pental: Why didn't they?

Hon. D. K. Dans: They missed.

Hon. P. G. Pental: A grave dereliction of duty.

Hon. TOM McNEIL: Mr Gayfer said, "A lot later", but I would not do that to the Leader of the House. The article continues—

The move is part of an effort by the State Government to cater for tourists expected in WA during the yachting challenge.

From November until February all shops in the state will be given the option to stay open later on Saturdays.

The decision was made by the Minister for Employment and Training, Peter Dowding.

Under his portfolio, Mr Dowding is responsible for occupational health, safety and welfare, which covers the Shops and Factories Act, which regulates trading hours.

Guardian inquiries today revealed that several of Geraldton's major retail outlets plan to take advantage of the extra trading hours, while others have yet to decide.

Most shops at the Northgate Shopping Centre will be staying open.

Centre manager, Meryl Gould said the large stores, Target and Coles, would definitely be staying open.

However, she said that at this stage she could only say that most of the speciality shops would be trading the extended hours, without naming specific ones.

Woolworths in Geraldton is awaiting a decision from Perth as to whether the store will trade on Saturday afternoon.

Boans' Geraldton manager, Jim Grimley, had no comment on the matter.

Chairman of the Downtown Traders' Promotional Group, Bill Van Ast, said the group had not had a meeting on the extended hours yet.

"I do know that the Chamber of Commerce did a survey of businesses on the issue of all-day trading on Saturdays and that the response was negative," Mr Van Ast said.

The survey questioned businesses about all-day Saturday trading on a permanent basis, not just for the four months nominated by Mr Dowding's office.

Mr Van Ast said he had received no feedback from traders about whether they would be staying open.

He said a decision about whether Bennetts Elite, would open longer had not been made.

Geraldton Chamber of Commerce president, Darryl Ingvarson, was not available for comment this morning.

This is a good one, Mr Dans, and I want you to listen to this one—

New legislation was not needed to bring the new hours into practice, as Mr Dowding as minister, has the power to alter trading hours as needed.

That was a new one on me, and it quite confused me.

Hon. D. K. Dans: No, it has not.

Hon. TOM McNEIL: To continue—

A spokesman for the minister's office said that some amendments may be needed to protect small shop owners who were bound by lease agreements.

The lease agreements may require some traders to open for business when other traders in the same shopping complex are open.

"No one will be forced to stay open under this change," the spokesman for Mr Dowding said.

I refer to Hon. Tom Butler's comment when he said that no trader would be forced to stay open. We all agree on that. People are not forced to stay open. People are out there trying to get a dollar out of the work force. I heard the comment that the car people work about 50 hours trying to get business. That is only a drop in the ocean compared to what the mum-and-dad shop does—the small corner deli. When I was working in Geraldton and owned my own small business, I used to work from 6.15 a.m. until 9.30 p.m. seven days a week.

Hon. Doug Wenn: There was no compulsion.

Hon. TOM McNEIL: There was no compulsion, but the regulations at that time were quite strict. We did not have the guy down the street with the semi-Woolworths-Coles-type operation who could open up on a Saturday afternoon and take a large amount of our trade away.

What this Bill proposes to do is allow Coles, Target, Myers, and Boans to open their doors. They will staff them with their self-service units so they can put about four or five checkouts on. All the mum-and-dad shops and small businesses will take a drop in turnover.

Hon. T. G. Butler: Does that not happen in Busselton now? To my knowledge Coles opens in Busselton during the summer vacation.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon. John Williams): Order!

Hon. TOM McNEIL: The point I am trying to make is that if these laws are enforced they will be discriminatory. They will take care of the people who work in the Public Service and Government offices. They only do their five days a week. Imagine the screams if we told them they had to open on a Saturday to take care of the public who wanted to pay their telephone bills or electricity accounts. We will not see the America's Cup yachts in Geraldton unless they get lost in a fog. Here we have four months extra trading in Geraldton.

Do not be fooled for one moment about this sunset clause. We have heard all about sunset clauses. After the America's Cup is finished and the liquor licences are taken away, let us see the reaction when we turn around and say, "Now we are going to take it back." We will see whether the sunset clause has any teeth in it.

Hon. Tom Stephens: They already have unrestricted trading hours in my electorate.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon. Tom Stephens knows the rules of debate in this House. If he wishes to reply to the member on his feet, he has the opportunity to make his own speech.

Hon. TOM McNEIL: I will vote against this Bill, not because I believe these guys should be working when someone else is not. The point I am making is that we cannot be any more discriminatory than we are at the moment. If we are to exclude the banks, post offices, and people who have their five-day week, think about the shopkeepers and the people who man the counters and the people who will have to give up their sport and leisure. We cannot be discriminatory like this. It is no good saying they do not have to open. That is just a red herring across the track. Anyone who has worked in small business would know.

I am a Geraldtonian and I like to see Geraldton prospering and doing well, but what about the towns surrounding Geraldton when the Geraldton shops will be open for four extra months and have extra trading? What about Northampton, Mullewa, Chapman Valley, Dongara, Three Springs, and Mingenew?

Hon. D. K. Dans: The people go to Geraldton now.

Hon. TOM McNEIL: They have not got it but they will be saying, "Come on, let's go to Geraldton for the weekend and we will do our shopping up there." What about the ghost-typed effect that the surrounding areas will experience? The smaller country towns will suffer because of this legislation. I will be getting onto *The Geraldton Guardian* about this when I get back because I disagree with Mr Dans; it was never on for Mr Dowding to have the automatic authority to say that Geraldton will have these extended trading hours for four months.

Hon. D. K. Dans: You used to have a fair percentage of the year in Geraldton when the shops opened on a Saturday afternoon.

Hon. TOM McNEIL: I am against the extension of trading hours for what it will do to the people who man the businesses. The small people who run these businesses are trying to make a dollar. I am dead set against the big national companies who make the big dollar, take it out of Fremantle or Geraldton, and send it over to the Eastern States and then overseas. The Government has not got my vote on this Bill. I am dead set opposed to it.

HON. P. G. PENDAL (South Central Metropolitan) [5.36 p.m.]: I support the Bill in so far as it contains an amendment to be moved along the lines already signified by Hon. Max Evans. Of all the subjects that come before this Parliament, there are few—and this would be one of them—that have less political mileage for any political party or individual than something akin to the regulation of trading hours.

Only six or seven years ago, when the previous Government, through the then Minister for Labour and Industry, moved to deregulate hours for Thursday night late trading, the impression was given that the world would come to an end so far as the Western Australian border was concerned. Most of the fears that were expressed on that occasion by all sorts of people—even to the extent of being inconsistent with their own political beliefs—simply did not come to pass.

In the main, I do support the general trend we are heading towards in terms of the deregulation of a whole range of things in our society, including the deregulation of trading hours. I support it for one reason alone, that notwithstanding some of the points made by Hon. Tom McNeil, the fact is that there is always one individual who says, "You are preventing my right to trade if I want to trade outside what is regarded as being the norm for

trading hours." Many people will say, "I don't want to see extended trading hours come in because while it is a voluntary thing, I will still, in the final analysis, be forced to open my doors." We have just heard that argument.

The opposite to that is that one individual says, "I am being prevented from trading now because the majority do not want to trade" for all sorts of reasons, some of which are valid and some of which are not. It is for that reason that I support the general trend towards the deregulation of our trading hours.

There is a second component to this. I think it has been very well laid down by Hon. Max Evans in relation to the extension of trading hours for the America's Cup period. He made the point that the Government, and indeed the Opposition, ought to be responding to the demands of the people in the car sales industry for the reason given by Hon. Max Evans. Of all the industries that might need to be open to cater for an influx of tourists, the car sales industry has the least need. I do not know of anyone who would suggest that people coming here from interstate or overseas for the America's Cup will want to have the facility to buy a used or new car at the weekend. Therefore, I think that is a rational reason why the car sales industry ought to be excluded from that overall trend towards deregulation, even if the Bill is only for a trial period.

It seems odd to me that we are talking about deregulating the hours for the particular purpose of the America's Cup period; yet, is it not strange that the Bill, from my reading of it, does not go into the area of the tourist industry itself?

If ever an industry needed to have deregulated trading hours, it is the tourism industry. I have already raised this in an earlier debate today, but it is an absurd position that we have in this State the Government agencies which are most involved with the tourism industry still working hours that are more akin to Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. It was for that reason that I was trying to make my point by referring to the Norseman tourism facility, which a Labor member attempted to ridicule as not being of importance.

The Minister for Tourism in this State, in view of the Bill before the House, told us that it was a furphy, to use her own words, to talk about the need to deregulate the wages, salaries, and conditions of the people involved in the tourism and hospitality industries. She said that her source for that was confidential

comments made to her by members of the tourism and hospitality industries, who say it is not an issue and that the industries simply do not need to have a deregulation of the wages and salary structure. I do not know to whom she spoke, but they are clearly different people from those to whom I speak on this matter.

In all of that, it is extraordinary to me that this Government, albeit through another Minister in this Government, is moving to bring in a form of deregulation, in this particular instance to do with hours. I was not here during the speech of Hon. Max Evans but I hope, and I am sure, that he would have mentioned that point in respect of the deregulation of the very rigid salary structure. One cannot have one without the other, and yet this Bill is attempting to do that. The Bill will, in the final analysis, load costs on employers and people who carry staff in this State, while giving them a deregulated trading position so far as hours are concerned.

Consequently, I must say that I can see a great inconsistency in what the Government is doing. However, I hasten to add that there is not much consistency in the whole argument by anyone in the community. Some of the most rabid free enterprise people whom I know are the ones who say, "No, let's keep the regulated trading hours." I can never work out how those people have the temerity or the inconsistency to say those things in the one breath, but I repeat that there is an argument to the effect that there is a trend around the world towards deregulation. If one goes to other countries, one finds that they think it ridiculous that we in this State operate under such archaic trading conditions.

Therefore I will support the Bill, so long as we seek an exclusion for those people—the car sales industry—who are selling a product which will not be in demand by America's Cup tourists—and anyone who suggests to the contrary does not live in the real world.

To that extent, I support the Bill.

HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Minister with special responsibility for the America's Cup) [5.44 p.m.]: I thank members for their comments on this very vexed question.

I deal firstly with some of the comments of Hon. Max Evans. No, it is not a sneaky way or a backdoor method of putting the Kelly report into operation. I was the Minister who commissioned the Kelly report because of some of the things that Hon. Phil Pandal has said;

namely, this division of opinion in the community. I remind members that if they read any of the legislation with regard to shops and factories or whatever, they will find that not once is the consumer mentioned.

In fact, I was rather surprised, when I had a number of meetings with traders—I thought that all of the opposition in those days was going to come from the unions—to find, indeed, that some of the most vehement opposition came from various trading groups. At that time I formed the opinion that there were some people who would like to open the shops three days a week, from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. In other words, they wanted to force people into the shops in that particular period.

This legislation is simply for a trial period, and members of the Opposition—and I do not disagree at times—have gone on public record saying that they agree with total deregulation. I am not arguing with that one little bit. It would have been foolish to try to apply it to one area, because one would have had a backlash from other parts of the State. Again, I must say that it is completely voluntary. Shops do not have to be opened unless the owners want to do so.

Let us get down to the nitty gritty of this because I have learnt a few things about shopping hours.

Hon. G. E. Masters: So did I!

Hon. D. K. DANS: Both of us did. When I was the Opposition spokesman I received a number of phone calls when Hon. Gordon Masters did that heinous thing, and one would have thought that I was the guy who did it to them.

Hon. Tom McNeil: You are the only one who came out of it with any credit.

Hon. D. K. DANS: Let us have a look at what is happening now. If members go into any suburb, they will find markets open, selling all manner of produce. If I were a trader near those markets, I would be hitting the roof. When members go a little further outside those markets, say, somewhere near where I live in Bicton, they would find all manner of shops open because they are simply thumbing their nose at the regulations. They are small shops and it is not true to say that simply because one shop opens, another shop must also. That simply is not true. If members go to a place which was founded on free trade—Hong Kong—there are many shops—and I have been there many times—which always close on Sunday. North America, including Canada, is often cited as having some shops open and

some shops closed. If members go to all of the retail establishments, even in New York, which open on Sunday afternoon, they would find that they may close early on Wednesday. Let me remind members that in New York they open at about 10.00 a.m. We have the foolishness, the almost ridiculous situation, of Rockingham and Mandurah engaging in holiday trading for almost half the year, yet a person in Medina or Calista cannot go to the local supermarket but can go down to Rockingham where the shops are open all day Saturday and Sunday to midnight, and again, to Mandurah. What kind of situation have we got?

Let us come now to Geraldton, which is Hon. Tom McNeil's territory. We received some letters once again to grant the holiday trading facility to Geraldton, and being the democrat that I am, I wrote to Jeff Carr, and also approached Hon. Tom McNeil himself. I asked Hon. Tom McNeil, "What do you think?" Hon. Tom McNeil and Mr Carr then went around Geraldton. I do not know whom they saw, but I received a letter from the chamber of commerce saying, "Do not grant it." I thought we had had a very good examination of the situation, so I refused. What Hon. Gordon Masters got when he opened the shops was nothing to what I received when I closed them. Mr Carr said he had made a mistake and I said, "I know—a bloody awful mistake!" I had letters from all those outlying places which Hon. Tom McNeil mentioned saying that people could no longer go into Geraldton to do their shopping because this legislation forced them to go in early on Saturday mornings.

Above that—and this is the point that at some stage in our life we must grow up about—we have the really sincere, tragic letters from parents saying, "Look, my daughter does not have all that many skills, but she was able to do this particular job at certain times. You have taken that opportunity away from her."

Hon. Tom McNeil: What sort of skills?

Hon. D. K. DANS: Working in Coles.

Hon. Tom McNeil: Until she gets to 17 or 18 and the penalties go up so she is sacked and another youngster is put on.

Hon. D. K. DANS: That has been with us since the beginning of time, and that is why the people have a Labor Government trying to stop that.

I had cause to talk about the shopping hours with people from some of the bigger groups, and I was amazed to find that a big shopping centre is not very successful unless it is sur-

rounded by a number of variety stores. I thought it was the other way around. If members do not believe me, I suggest they go to the Booragoon shopping centre and look at the card shop, which pays, I am told, something in the vicinity of \$100 000 a year in rent.

It is a very confused situation.

I refer now to penalty rates. Like Hon. Phil Pental, I am confused about penalty rates, especially after I attended the first economic summit which was held in Canberra. One of the industry leaders from a big hotel chain reported to the summit the results of a particular inquiry and made a statement that penalty rates in Australia put up the price of rooms in a hotel by 50c per bed. How the inquiry arrived at that, I do not know.

I am sure that members have travelled overseas and they are aware that in some parts of the world people in the hospitality industry are paid very little and in some cases are not paid at all. They have a begging system called tipping. When a person picks up his bill he is hit with all sorts of different taxes and could be hit with a rate per day far in excess of what he bargained for.

The people working in the hospitality industry in this country are very courteous and helpful and our rates are the lowest in the world. Members need look only at the airline brochures to realise that Perth is one of the cheapest places to visit in the world and that Hong Kong is one of the most expensive.

Hon. P. G. Pental: That is not part of the argument.

Hon. D. K. DAns: It is an aside—I agree with Hon. Phil Pental.

We appear to be a little mixed up in our ideas about what this legislation will do. A sunset clause is included in the legislation which will give the consumer—the people who spend the money such as the Mums, the Dads, the sons and the daughters—the opportunity to express opinions about whether they agree with it. Will the consumer like it and will it be worthwhile? I do not swallow the argument that we should look at the results of similar legislation in New South Wales; that is, that simply because the opposition opens his door one is felt obliged to open his door.

Hon. Tom McNeil: It is a blind Labor State.

Hon. D. K. DAns: I do not know about it being a blind Labor State. The facts are that businesses in Sydney are able to open on

Friday nights and not many of them do. However, they do open all day Saturday.

This legislation is an experiment to ascertain whether it will be successful. At present there is chaos and I have already quoted a few examples.

With respect to the motor trade, I oppose the proposed amendment because this legislation is not aimed at tourists who are visiting this State. It is aimed at the family man to give him the opportunity to shop with his wife for a motor vehicle or for other items. I have been approached by people in the motor vehicle trade who are opposed to this legislation, but I have also been approached by others in the trade who have said that it is a good idea.

We are all aware that the greatest offenders against the Act are those people who sell motor vehicles. They open their doors at all hours and with or without this legislation they will continue to do it. With the exception of service stations, which are covered by a different Act, we should continue to cover the motor vehicle industry in this legislation. If the industry which represents the motor vehicle dealers is as solid as it says it is, it is a simple matter for it to decide when the dealers will operate.

If a businessman opens his doors and finds that he is not doing any trade, he will not open again. I do not know where it will end with, or without this legislation.

Fremantle is a very law abiding place. It is probably the most law abiding town in Western Australia, but because of its ethnic population the majority of businessmen do not know much about shopping hours and that is what makes Fremantle an attractive place. We would need an army of people to police the situation. People who visit Fremantle love it and the shop owners love to serve them.

I did carry out an experiment in Fremantle which had something to do with a bike race. I did not tell anyone about it, but I gave permission for the businessmen to open their businesses on Friday night and all day Saturday. I also wanted to give permission for them to open on Sunday, but I was talked out of it—I wish I had not been. The shopkeepers and the big retailers such as Myer Stores Ltd were delighted with the experiment and they made a profit. However, on the following Monday morning I thought I would be shish kebabs by the unions and by some people from the Retail Traders Association. People remember that and the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce (Inc) supports—not as an

experiment—extended trading hours. An experiment was held for a couple of days and it proved successful.

I admit that all shops will not open during all trading hours and that some of them will close their doors on Mondays or Tuesdays. This sort of thing occurs all over the world.

I am asking this House to give this legislation a chance to operate during the America's Cup and not to make allowances for exemptions. The Minister has that power and I hope he will not have to use it. If the Opposition moves to amend the legislation in order to exempt motor vehicle dealers it will create a problem before the legislation hits the streets. I hope members will examine the legislation intelligently. The legislation will operate from 1 November 1986 to 15 February 1987 only.

Question put and a division taken with the following result—

Ayes 22

Hon. C. J. Bell	Hon. Garry Kelly
Hon. J. M. Berinson	Hon. G. E. Masters
Hon. J. M. Brown	Hon. Margaret McAleer
Hon. T. G. Butler	Hon. N. F. Moore
Hon. D. K. Dans	Hon. Mark Nevill
Hon. Graham Edwards	Hon. P. G. Pandal
Hon. Max Evans	Hon. S. M. Piantadosi
Hon. John Halden	Hon. Tom Stephens
Hon. Kay Hallahan	Hon. Doug Wenn
Hon. Tom Helm	Hon. John Williams
Hon. Robert Hetherington	Hon. Fred McKenzie

(Teller)

Noes 9

Hon. J. N. Caldwell	Hon. Neil Oliver
Hon. E. J. Charlton	Hon. W. N. Stretch
Hon. V. J. Ferry	Hon. D. J. Wordsworth
Hon. H. W. Gayfer	Hon. P. H. Lockyer
Hon. Tom McNeil	

(Teller)

Pair

Aye	No
Hon. B. L. Jones	Hon. A. A. Lewis

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 p.m.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Hon. D. J. Wordsworth) in the Chair; Hon. D. K. Dans (Minister with special responsibility for the America's Cup) in charge of the Bill.

Clause 1: Short title—

Hon. TOM McNEIL: I comment on something the Minister said in his second reading summing up—the suggestion that exemptions should not be provided—and I refer to the amendment proposed by Hon. Max Evans that

there should be an exemption for car firms. That does not sit too well with me.

I would have thought that one of the most important things in relation to this Bill is that when a person purchases a small business, the laws and the rules and regulations are preordained. He buys that business with that set of rules applying at that time. Whether he pays \$20 000 or \$80 000 for a small business, he does so in the knowledge that if he has the ability to trade at the weekends, that represents a set amount of his income in so far as we are talking about delicatessens and so on in the Geraldton area, where Saturdays and Sundays are the biggest days.

If the Government intends to increase the hours of trade to such an extent that it allows other people to enter that market, it will downgrade a lot of value in the business that has already been purchased. In other words, the Government is in the middle of a football game and has decided to change the rules, and in the majority of cases it is the big trader that benefits from a move such as this. The small business proprietor has his business, and either built it up or bought it at a time when those rules were in existence—when others could not trade in the weekends in this manner. But the Government comes along in this instance—and I am referring to the remarks the Minister made in his second reading speech—and changes the rules for the small businessman. He might have paid \$60 000 for a small business when he knew other businesses could not compete against him. Now we are changing the rules and a lot of big boys can compete against him, and there is no redress available to the small businessman.

The Government says it is not compulsory and that the small trader should not open if he does not want to, but the poor fellow has to protect his investment so he has to work. There is no such thing as saying it is not obligatory to work, because it is. Otherwise, when the small trader attempts to sell his business and it has fallen off in that four-month period—and we are talking about the America's Cup period—he will lose that amount in goodwill and turnover decrease.

The legislation will have an adverse effect on small business. I oppose the title.

Hon. D. K. DANS: I will answer that amazing statement, by Hon. Tom McNeil. The fact of the matter is that we are talking about a temporary deregulation for the period 1 November to 15 February. We are not talking

about deregulation, but about an extra four hours' trading a week. In a climate where people from all sections of the political spectrum clamour daily for deregulation of the labour market, I am amazed that people are saying, "It is okay to deregulate wages and the labour market, but don't deregulate shopping hours."

Hon. G. E. Masters: We could turn exactly the same thing around on you.

Hon. D. K. DANS: That is true. Some of the problems that beset Australia are very long in history. They go back to the Rum Rebellion and the New South Wales Corps, and members know what happened to Captain Bligh when he tried to straighten up that situation—and it is still with us. We all want to defend our own little bailiwick, every single one of us, and at no stage has anyone here addressed what the consumer wants. Even the legislation does not have a thing to say about the consumer.

I will take a punt and say that if we were to deregulate a little and allow a bit of money to enter the economy and let people relax a little, we would create an awful lot of jobs. Some of them may be part-time jobs, because a lot of people would like to work part-time. We are trying to get a contracted situation that in my opinion is only a very light touching that really went out with button-up boots.

How interesting it is that in other parts of the world some grocery shops open from eight o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock at night, and the guy down the road opens from eight o'clock at night until eight o'clock in the morning, because the market eventually determines who stays in and who stays out and what the market will bear. They work it out. People do not often go broke in other parts of the world.

Even in our own State, north of the 26th parallel, there are no restrictions: Shops can open when they like. I suppose that was okay before those big iron ore towns were established, but now they will all be multi-nationals, or the local nationals, or yesterday's nationals, or tomorrow's nationals. They are all up there, yet people are still operating small businesses. Either we intend to have restrictions at some stage or we do not. We are talking about a temporary relief, but in doing so I must talk about some other things. Members must understand that any outsider looking at our present situation would think we are stark raving mad. Has Hon. Tom McNeil ever read the Act? One can sell a tin of sardines, but if one sells a tin of

tuna one might get pinched. I might have that around the wrong way. One can go to Mandurah or Rockingham and trade until midnight, but if one does so in the big population centres of Medina or Calista, one is in breach of the law. One can go to the Fremantle Markets on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, but if one goes around the corner and opens one's shop, one gets pinched.

We are not dealing with wholesale deregulation, we are simply dealing with about the lightest thing one can imagine—four hours a week. The Government is in receipt—and I am sure Mr Masters is too—of all kinds of suggestions from all sections of industry.

Hon. G. E. Masters: It is not only four hours a week.

Hon. D. K. DANS: Yes, it is, in terms of extensions. Small shops can open and they do not have to obey the regulations as to staff.

Hon. G. E. Masters: That is on Sundays.

Hon. D. K. DANS: That is true, but what we are trying to do with all the submissions is have the Government be a man for all seasons. It is about the lightest level we could get.

It is not until six o'clock, it is until five o'clock. We are looking at only four hours. I do not think that will blow the country apart. I believe we, like good Australians, should give it a go for that short period. There will be many areas—and Geraldton may well be one—where no-one will bother to open. There may be stores in Perth that will not open. Eventually the trade will determine the hours they will open. I want people to see it that way.

Essentially, what Hon. Tom McNeil is talking about is quite simple—four hours on a Saturday afternoon; not five or six hours, but four hours. I do not think that will tear the world apart or reduce the value of a business that was purchased for \$80 000. We are not changing the rules in the middle of the game. The force of consumer demand—apart from this legislation—will force change because we have reached the point where it will be impossible to police. It is as simple as that.

Hon. TOM McNEIL: To suggest that four hours every Saturday will not affect small business—

Hon. D. K. DANS: To 15 February.

Hon. TOM McNEIL: From November to February. That is probably the busiest period in the Fremantle district for milk bars, delicatessens and Mum and Dad shops. The Minister is suggesting only four hours are involved be-

cause of Saturday, but he very conveniently jumps over page 2 of the second reading speech. This was a quote from the second reading speech. Sunday trading by smaller retailers has been enhanced by relaxation of staffing limits formerly imposed on these enterprises. An increased number of essentially smaller businesses will have the opportunity to service consumer demands on Sundays during the life of this Bill. We are not talking about four hours on a Saturday from 1.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. or 12.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. We are talking about upgrading small businesses from the Dad and Mum self-starters to the minor supermarket-type that has the benefit of purchasing from Foodlands or Big W. This is a real problem for small business. They do not have the bulk purchasing power that is available to a few shops that are just waiting to be delegated to a four-man shop without the benefit of the proprietor or proprietress being on the premises. The Government is not suggesting this will take place only on Saturdays. It also includes Sundays. It has not suggested for one moment that it will downgrade the wages regulations as has been suggested by Hon. Max Evans.

Hon. D. K. DAns: I covered that in my second reading speech.

Hon. TOM McNEIL: It could come to the stage where the small business might say, "Okay, we do not want to open on Monday or Tuesday because there is no trade around. Let's open on Saturdays and Sundays." For the Minister to suggest this has no effect on small businesses is absolute rubbish. He is talking about the most productive period, between November and February. We have the seaside crowd, the boaties and the rest of them. How effective has the America's Cup been with the accommodation we have provided in the Fremantle area? What is the percentage of tourists coming into this State supposedly to watch our America's Cup?

We are at the stage where we have an influx of visitors we have to cater for. Far be it for me to suggest that we are not able to cater for them under the present regulations. What we are saying is that because of the influx of these visitors from overseas, interstate, or surrounding country towns, we have to provide a facility in order to help our State during the America's Cup period. It has worked pretty effectively in the past. I cannot see the rich tourists from America wanting to shop on Saturday afternoons when the Cup trials or the actual races are on. They will be sending their maids or chauffeurs to get them their needs. They will not worry about the Mum and Dad shop. They

will go to the big supermarket. It is easy to stand up in this Chamber and say we will lift the regulations from 1.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. and that it is realistic and will not have an effect on small business. Members should go to their small business people and ask them whether it will affect them. They will have to open their doors to get a slice of the dollar. I do not care where the dollar is coming from. This is their busiest possible period—the summer trade—and if a person is able to go to Coles New World, Myers or Boans where everything is sold in air-conditioned comfort, he will do so and the person who bought his small business for \$50 000 or \$60 000 will be adversely affected.

Hon. D. K. DAns: There has been a great deal of nonsense spoken and I am very sad to have to say that to Hon. Tom McNeil. I live in the suburb of Attadale, which is a reasonable suburb. A small shopping centre is nearby. On one side of Canning Highway there is the Booragoon shopping centre which is probably one of the most luxurious shopping centres in the whole of Australia. Just up to the right of me is the Melville shopping centre, another very big shopping area, and across the road is Stammers, which is almost an institution in Fremantle. One can spit from the Attadale shopping centre to the Melville shopping centre because within that very small area—I will get in the car and take the member there—there is a small supermarket that opens from 7.00 a.m. until 7.00 p.m. seven days a week.

Hon. Tom McNeil: Are they voting for this?

Hon. D. K. DAns: I am not saying they are voting for it but I am saying that despite all the surrounding supermarkets, they make a living. If one goes to that small shopping centre on a Saturday morning one will find it is very well patronised. There are two butcher shops, as Hon. Mark Nevill has just reminded me, and a haberdashery shop which closes at one o'clock.

Hon. Tom McNeil: And they will be happy to open until 5.00 p.m.?

Hon. D. K. DAns: If they want to. The local chamber of commerce supports it in Fremantle. We have had a little experiment. There will be many areas that will simply not open. I wish to goodness people would start thinking a little about the consumers. If members wish to find the answer they should go to New South Wales. It is a matter of record that the penalty rate was set down at time-and-a-half. Members would be aware that shops in Sydney opened on Thursday and Friday evenings, and all day on Saturdays at time-and-a-

half and that the Industrial Commission at a later stage decided on its own motion to reduce the penalty rate to time-and-a-quarter. Do members know what happened? The Government, because of pressure from the traders, both large and small, legislated to return the penalty rate to time-and-a-half. Friday night shopping is no good in New South Wales. They should chop it out of the Statute books. Thursday evening and all-day Saturday shopping is a good thing.

People will go home because the trade is not there. For goodness sake, I suggest members have a look at what is happening around them today. One simply is not applying the law because it is impossible to apply. People are demanding service and they are getting it.

After three months, and whatever number of Saturdays are involved, we will have had a very good testing period. I suggest it does no good to suggest that the sunset legislation will not operate. It will operate for people to evaluate the trial. It may be a real dead duck—

Hon. Tom McNeil: Not for big business, it won't.

Hon. D. K. DAns: I do not know about that. I suggest members look at the law in relation to chemist shops—that one person can own only two shops. It started off that there were only a couple of all-night chemists; I think now more are open at night than are open during the day, but other chemist shops survive.

Hon. G. E. Masters: Many of them are closing up now because of hold-ups.

Hon. D. K. DAns: But they have been open. If big business is so disastrous to small business, I could use the example of how one cannot get a place to lease in one of the bigger shopping centres—despite all the arguments about leasing arrangements and all the other arguments. People like to open businesses in shopping centres because of the large number of potential customers they attract. Small shopping areas survive because a large proportion of the population still likes to go to a quiet area to shop. This is called—as I have been reminded by Hon. Gordon Masters 20 million times—freedom of choice.

There is a great variety. Do members want to see markets continuing to sell shoddy items at double the price of a legitimate trader while the bloke around the corner is not able to open? There is the example of the trader in Hon. Tom McNeil's own town. I suggest one has to be very sure that the chamber of commerce did not want it to open. I forget how many big

stores there are in Geraldton, but the local population—if I could divide the population from the number of letters I received—were devastated that I closed the shops. They are the consumers, they are the people who go to the shops and spend the money. Members will notice that those protests did not come from Geraldton alone. While I take Hon. Tom McNeil's point about all the small areas around the place, the reality of the situation—and people from the country in this Chamber know it—is that the small towns are going over like ninepins. That is very sad.

People will get into their cars and go to the major regional centres. Years ago most people did not have a motor car. They had a day out when they would go into town and buy their stores. As people such as Hon. Mick Gayfer would know, country people can be the worst supporters of their local stores. Members should realise that those old days are gone. We just cannot cling to the past. Only a few years ago the waterfront in Fremantle had 2 500 wharries. Today there is 10 times more cargo going through the port and yet it is being handled by 500 men.

Hon. E. J. Charlton: How many work?

Hon. D. K. DAns: All of them. They work 10 times harder now and yet members opposite thought that containerisation was going to be their saviour, yet now they are paying much more and are pinned down to a single choice.

The point is that these changes have been rapid. I suggest members opposite do not kid themselves that these changes are only in the country. I suggest that they give this a go and see how it works and what the public's reaction is. After all, the public are the people who set the economic barometers that we live by and if they put the thumbs down on it, that is the stone end of it. Members should know that the shops in the UK are now open for Sunday trading. A great supporter of the Thatcher Government—and someone who is probably known by Hon. Gordon Masters—said to me that the Conservatives lost a seat in London for the first time in 30 years—because they opened the shops on Sunday.

Hon. G. E. Masters: I reckon I could believe him.

Hon. D. K. DAns: Of course Hon. Gordon Masters could believe him, but the point is that this is nonsense. The people of London are going crazy about Sunday trading.

Hon. E. J. Charlton: The people would like shops to open seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Hon. D. K. DAns: If people want shops open all day, seven days a week, then we should open them for the people. The people running the shops should open them, because they will be making about five times more money, but they will not open them if people will not go into them. That is the choice of the shopkeeper and the choice of the consumer.

I ask members to take a fairly liberal view of this legislation and give it a go.

Hon. TOM McNEIL: I missed this point the last time I jumped to my feet, but I wanted to bring it up. In short, I am not saying the Act cannot be improved. I go back to the days when one could not sell phenyl or metholated spirits from behind the counter, but to suggest that the Act cannot be improved, or at least policed, is a weakness on the part of this Chamber.

Hon. D. K. DAns: At what cost?

Hon. TOM McNEIL: We have already said that if one was in the small businessman's shoes—and Hon. D. K. DAns mentioned the delicatessen owner who opened his shop seven days a week from 7.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.; and he is one person who would not approve of what is being done—having bought a business and operated with all the restrictions which surround business nowadays, and then suddenly finding those conditions lifted to allow another delicatessen to trade against him, one would not be happy. It is not commonsense to proceed that way. The Minister is suggesting that survival is the name of the game. I would have thought that it was the opposite, if one considers that people go into business to make a profit. To make just a little beyond a survival level, he might as well join a queue and say, "Well, I've given up, I can survive on the dole. That will do me." A businessman wants something more out of life than survival. If a businessman buys a business under set conditions, why should members of this Chamber change those conditions to provide him with more competition than he had before—particularly from the Big Brother stores?

The Minister is talking about the consumers. Far be it from me to criticise them—damn it, I have constituents out there who are consumers, so I am not going to try to knock their point of view. But I will put the other point of view: People are human and they would like to be able to have a situation where they can take advantage of trading seven days a week. They

can take advantage of shopping seven days a week, but I would like to be provided with one piece of statistical evidence in relation to New South Wales, for example, where the goods provided are cheaper because the shops are open all day every day. If the Minister can do this, I will sit down and say no more about the matter.

All the evidence shown about seven-day-a-week trading in the Eastern States has resulted in the big conglomerates grabbing the trade, to the detriment of the small businesses and to the cost of the consumers because of the increased price of the goods over the counter. I defy anyone to stand up and produce evidence contrary to that.

The last thing I want to say about this matter—provided the Minister does not say anything too contentious—is that I could go back to Geraldton tomorrow and ask people what they wanted, and they would tell me, "Great, we'll have seven-day-a-week trading." That is human nature; they do not realise that they will be paying more for the goods and, although it may suit their lifestyle—not having to shop after work on Friday or early on Saturday morning—it will not provide a service other than the fact that they have longer to shop.

Hon. D. K. DAns interjected.

Hon. TOM McNEIL: The Minister can have a chance, provided he does not become too contentious. Let me put it this way: The people who work in the shops have just as much entitlement to their choice of whether or not to work Saturday afternoon and Sunday. If that is not the case, and the Minister is saying that the consumers want it, one could go to Geraldton or any other country town and one would find that while many people will accept the extended trading hours, the majority of them will be people who will not be affected by this decision. Public servants, for example, would bowl out legislation which sought to extend their working hours. If members here suggested that Government employees in post offices, the State Energy Commission, and other Government offices stayed open on Saturday and Sunday to take care of the constituents, they would be told to go bowl a hoop. The public servants would say, "I don't care what you are going to pay, I want my weekends free."

On that basis I oppose the title.

Hon. D. K. DAns: It used to hurt me to have to go to sea on Saturday nights, Saturday mornings, or Saturday lunchtimes, and be at sea all weekend. I am sure that the police feel

the same way, as would a range of others in the community.

We are not asking for wholesale deregulation. In the main, we are asking for an additional four hours, discounting the Sunday, from 1 November to 15 February. I will not recite the costs chapter and verse, but in New South Wales now I could buy clothing and a number of other items much more cheaply than I could in Western Australia. If I bought an article in Coles here, it would cost me exactly the same as it would in Sydney.

Hon. Tom McNeil: My comment was that you pay more for it now because of the demise of smaller or medium-type businesses.

Hon. D. K. DAns: If the honourable member could prove that to me, I would believe him. He is getting onto a philosophical argument involving monopoly capitalism versus classic capitalism or the small businessman. If we continue down the road of monopoly capitalism, we will end up exactly the same as a totalitarian State. In totalitarian countries the State is the employer. We are not yet at that stage in Australia. In fact, we are far away from it, but it will come to that one day.

With the amalgamations or takeovers of certain companies, the retail trade has been shaved down to the point of there being only one major operator. That operator is a very powerful competitor in the marketplace. However, we are not asking for wholesale deregulation. The market is deregulating itself irrespective of what we in this place do.

Every day people are breaking the law. Mr McNeil would remember the episode with Mr Schultz, who opened the store down the road. I was assailed in both Houses of Parliament, and all sorts of rash promises came out of some people's mouths about deregulating if they became the Government. It was a good political catchery at the time. Mr Schultz was making a lot of money simply because he was the only shop open. The trade will regulate itself; and from the experience of the Eastern States it can be seen that not every small business goes out of existence.

In many parts of the world where there has been deregulation, articles are much cheaper. I take the point of the honourable member on some things and hope that I have not said anything controversial. I come back to the point that it is not a Kathleen Mavourneen job forever and a day. By 15 February the population at large will tell members what they think. I will bet that a host of places in Western Australia

will not open and that north of the twenty-sixth parallel they will not want to go back to the kind of restrictions that we have here. There are no restrictions north of the twenty-sixth parallel, and small businesses there operate alongside the big store which has the monopoly. That happens in some of the country towns. Small businesses have sprung up in those areas and manage to make a good living.

Hon. MAX EVANS: There has been constant reference to what happens in other States. Speakers choose a State that suits their argument and forget all about the other States. If we make comparisons we should make them with all the States so that we get a fair summary of them all.

The Minister has eulogised the wonderful New South Wales Government with respect to what it has done with deregulated trading hours. The Minister worried me because he said that an application was made to the Industrial Relations Commission to pay employees who work those hours a penalty rate of time-and-a-quarter.

Hon. D. K. DAns: No, the commission itself made the application.

Hon. MAX EVANS: The commission awarded a rate of time-and-a-quarter and the Government put it back to time-and-a-half.

Hon. D. K. DAns: Because the traders asked the Government to do that.

Hon. MAX EVANS: An application will be put to the Industrial Relations Commission by business organisations tomorrow that the penalty rate to apply will be time-and-a-quarter. Will this Government be put under pressure by Hon. Tom Butler and the unions to maintain the rate, time-and-a-half or double time and, if so, will it go to water, or will it abide by the decision of the commission? Can we have a black and white answer on that?

Hon. D. K. DAns: I cannot answer speculative questions, but I can assure the honourable member that if there were an application for time-and-a-quarter, I would not support it and I do not think that the Government would. I said that in New South Wales the commission had a rush of blood to its head and reduced the rate to time-and-a-quarter. It did so after Mr Justice Macken conducted the inquiry into shopping hours and recommended a penalty rate of time-and-a-half based on a 35-hour week. For some unknown reason, the rate was then reduced to time-and-a-quarter. The retail traders were quick enough off the mark and went to the Government asking it for legis-

lation to provide for the original agreement of time-and-a-half. That is all that happened.

Hon. MAX EVANS: Surely the Government should support the application of the business organisations to the commission, as it is the businessmen who will be working longer hours in the event of deregulation. After all, the Minister has said that this legislation is being introduced because many businesses have indicated that this is what they want.

Hon. D. K. DANS: When I come to that hurdle, I will jump it. This legislation is only temporary. The kinds of speculative questions raised by Mr Evans could be answered only if we introduced deregulation as in New South Wales. That would be the time to determine future direction.

Hon. Max Evans: It is not speculation; it is a fact.

Hon. D. K. DANS: I reminded the member of it. I do not think that he knew of it until I told him, but I was being very honest about it.

In New South Wales, the whole apparatus has not fallen apart. If the member thinks that I am dwelling on New South Wales, I point also to Victoria which gives retailers the right to trade until 9 o'clock every night. However, the retailers do not take advantage of that right because the trade is not there. However, they can remain open if they want to.

The situation in Adelaide is different again with certain shops exempted. It allows some trade on Sundays; and the City of Adelaide on weekends is a rather colourful place and not the dead old joint that I used to know. It attracts many people. Because of the geographical position of Adelaide, extra trading hours are fairly easy to implement. I believe there are two shopping zones: One opens on Thursday nights in the suburbs, one opens on Friday nights, and both open on Saturday mornings.

The member's question must remain to be answered at some time in the future.

Hon. MAX EVANS: An application is going to the commission tomorrow. This is not speculation; it is fact. I just make that point.

Hon. G. E. MASTERS: I was not going to talk on this Bill because I have had some dealings with it before and have had my fingers very seriously burnt. However, this Bill of only two pages is a minefield. I was interested to listen to the Minister because when he is dealing with these sorts of things he is probably at his best. He damn nearly spoiled a good argument when he started to extol the virtues of the

waterfront. Things looked a bit glum, but they picked up again later.

We are considering a form of deregulation. The Opposition is a little more consistent on deregulation than is the Government. This legislation without doubt represents the thin end of the wedge. There is no question about that. The legislation will apply State-wide, and the Government will have a job to convince people in Meekatharra, Mukinbudin, or anywhere else that the America's Cup was affecting them. The Government is putting its toe in the water to see whether it can get away with a further deregulation of the retail area.

It would be foolish—everyone knows that. That is what we are talking about throughout this State. Perhaps I was foolish when I agreed to give half a day extra shopping 10 days before Christmas.

Hon. D. K. Dans: And the shops were full.

Hon. G. E. MASTERS: It cost us one hell of a lot of votes. Two or three hundred thousand people were shopping in Perth. In fact the place was absolutely packed. Nevertheless the response from the shopkeepers and shopowners was frightening. The phone started ringing from 5.00 or 6.00 a.m. and carried on day after day. The feeling was very strong that people in the wheatbelt area and the consumers will take advantage of it if they can, but they will accept whatever comes along.

After February, when the America's Cup is over, for some weeks or some months the Minister will have great difficulty in saying to a number of people, "That is the end of it; you will not open on Saturday afternoons any longer, or Sunday, whatever it is."

It will be exactly the same in the liquor area. The extra licensing times will be difficult to close down. It will be a fact of life. I do not know how the Government will deal with it. It may be that the extra hours, after a trial period, will be accepted, not only by the consumer—I am sure they will be by the consumer—but they may be acceptable to the retailers and the shopowners. I do not know.

This Bill is a very big move. Hon. Tom McNeil is right when he says it goes far beyond four hours on a Saturday afternoon.

Perhaps we should be talking about this under clause 4, but as it has been canvassed, if I mention it now I will not need to mention it on clause 4. The fact is that it opens the gates quite dramatically. When we talk about a shop employing, say two people, and then a shop employing four people, that does not mean to

say the shop is twice as big. It might be five or 10 times bigger, simply because of the modern techniques of marketing. It is a massive change.

I think the Minister will say that the Act reflects the type of goods sold. I draw attention to section 88(2)(b) of the Act, where it lists goods which can be sold in small shops. It says, "All such other goods as the Minister, on the recommendations of the committee, approves."

That means there is a great deal of flexibility. I know, and the Leader of the House knows, because he has been in the same position as I was, that day after day, week after week, one gets people coming in asking why they may not sell babies clothes, bicycles, this or that. It is difficult to argue when they make reference to somebody else in the market selling the same sort of goods.

I accept times must and will change, whether we like it or not. The markets have been established. They are going great guns. If some shopkeepers in these markets are restricted, they will suffer accordingly.

This is a minefield for the Government. Rather than me! I am interested to see what the end result will be and how the Government will cope with it at the end of February after the America's Cup.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 2 and 3 put and passed.

Clause 4: Saturday afternoon shopping—

Hon. MAX EVANS: I move an amendment—

Page 2, line 11— To insert after "station" the following:

or the premises of a motor vehicle dealer, registered under the "Motor Vehicle Dealers Act 1973".

I have already spoken at some length on this matter and I do not intend to speak any further.

Hon. H. W. GAYFER: I find this Bill rather contradictory. I have listened to the argument about giving it a trial period all night, the fact that it is a service for the people, the people want it, it provides competition and so on. I have heard all sorts of arguments. I took down a page of notes on what the Minister said. They were all good arguments about why everything should stay open.

Here we are now trying to exempt somebody who may want to stay open. The Minister is agreeing with me. However, the few words before this amendment, surprisingly enough, give an exemption to certain shops which are used as filling stations.

If one is catering for people who are coming from, say, Morawa to Geraldton, as some people do, what will they feel if they cannot find any petrol?

Hon. D. K. Dans: You know that is not right. Your tongue will drop out on the floor soon and you will stand on it.

Hon. H. W. GAYFER: A shop other than a shop that is a filling station! The Minister is already making exemptions.

Hon. T. G. Butler: They are on roster there.

Hon. H. W. GAYFER: Two wrongs do not make a right. The Minister is making an exemption in his own Bill before he starts. It is stupid. Now the Liberal Party is making another exemption. All Tom McNeil was trying to do was to exempt the whole lot.

Hon. D. K. Dans: Would you like me to open all the petrol stations at Corrigin every day of the week on your say so?

Hon. H. W. GAYFER: If they want to; on the Minister's argument.

Hon. D. K. Dans: No, on your argument.

Hon. H. W. GAYFER: On the Minister's argument, if they want to. To use the Minister's argument, shops may open in a town on a Saturday. Provided they all agree, that will be acceptable. Why does the Minister not bring in legislation like that?

Hon. T. G. Butler: What about the consumers?

Hon. H. W. GAYFER: What about the consumers at petrol stations?

Hon. Mark Nevill: You can get petrol anywhere.

Hon. D. K. Dans: You move an amendment that we break the roster system with the petrol stations and I will consider it. It will stand in your name and that will save you all that debate.

Hon. H. W. GAYFER: Mr Dans—

Hon. D. K. Dans: You are gasping for air.

Hon. H. W. GAYFER: I am not. For a start, the amendment is that moved by Hon. Max Evans. I am saying the Minister is not consistent, and I am right. He is not consistent in what he has in this Bill.

Hon. D. K. Dans: I am asking you to make me consistent.

Hon. H. W. GAYFER: Is the Minister going to accept Mr Evans' amendment?

Hon. D. K. Dans: No.

Hon. H. W. GAYFER: Is the Minister intending to leave the filling stations in there?

Hon. D. K. Dans: Yes.

Hon. H. W. GAYFER: So we will exempt filling stations but we will not exempt second-hand car firms or Tom's deli? That is not consistent.

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: I support the amendment moved by Hon. Max Evans for the reasons I outlined when I spoke at the second reading stage. The answer to the question raised by Hon. Mick Gayfer in the meantime has already been canvassed several times before the Chamber; that is, as to why this industry is seeking an exemption. The answer is in the title of the Bill, which is "An Act to facilitate shopping during that period of the America's Cup yacht race and associated yacht races and activities".

A simple but compelling point has been made that of all the goods people may want to buy when they visit Perth during the period of the America's Cup, it is very unlikely that one of the goods will be a used car or a new car. One can imagine visitors to Perth or local residents during that period wanting to buy all sorts of other consumer goods that have been mentioned by the Leader of the Opposition.

As I understand it, the import of the amendment moved by Hon. Max Evans is that there is not the slightest possibility that a visitor to Perth during the America's Cup yacht races, between now and 14 February, will want to buy a used or new car. Therefore I support the amendment.

Hon. TOM McNEIL: I support my colleague Hon. Mick Gayfer's comments that this clause is discriminatory. Instead of accepting an amendment that petrol stations should fall under the same guidelines as the others, we should pass legislation to open banks, post offices, and other Government offices, and perhaps to get trains and buses to run on Sundays when we want them. But this is discriminatory legislation because it provides that one sector of the business community which provides services to the public will be exempt from this legislation, while it is automatically accepted that banks, post offices, and other Government offices do not have to open.

Hon. P. G. PENDAL: I would like to add a comment to that made by Hon. Tom McNeil because the absurdity he raises is quite correct. I refer members to a matter I raised earlier today during the Budget debate. A proposition put by the Opposition to the Government is that among those Government offices which ought to be open seven days a week, at least for the duration of the America's Cup, are those conducted by the Tourism Commission. It might be of interest to members to know that the Government has decided that this will not be the case with all of those offices. For example, the Norseman tourist office I mentioned in my Budget speech earlier tonight will operate on a five-day-a-week basis. That underlines the point made by Hon. Tom McNeil about the absurdity of all this. Nonetheless, there is nothing at all consistent in the Bill and in the thinking of many people, and, I even admit, in my own thinking on this.

I support the amendment.

Hon. E. J. CHARLTON: A number of people involved in the motor industry have corresponded with me about our stance in opposing this legislation and, more particularly, the Kelly report. I have made it clear to those people that we are opposed to the extension of trading hours overall and that we do not believe there should be any individuals exempted from it. I make this point so that the people to whom I have yet to respond understand the reasons for our opposition to this. It is not that we want to deny them the opportunity to trade under the present hours; we are opposed to the long-term effect, and we want to be consistent now and in the future.

Hon. H. W. GAYFER: I support the comments made by my colleague, Hon. Eric Charlton. The simple axiom we are following is, "All in, or all out". We believe that if we start exempting people along the way now, there will not be enough people who will realise how stupid the whole process will be. When the day comes to vote in February, some people will not even know what it is like to have these conditions foisted on them. By having their fingers burnt and by experiencing all the problems voiced by Hon. Tom McNeil, they will know what they are voting on come 14 February and, like daylight saving, they will chuck it out.

Amendment put and negatived.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 5 and 6 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Hon. D. K. Dans (Minister with special responsibility for the America's Cup), and passed.

**ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE:
SPECIAL**

HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [8.25 p.m.]: I move—

That the House at its rising adjourn until 3.30 p.m. Tuesday, 28 October.

Question put and passed.

**ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE:
ORDINARY**

HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [8.26 p.m.]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Legislative Assembly: Censure Motion

HON. G. E. MASTERS (West—Leader of the Opposition) [8.27 p.m.]: Can the Leader of the House tell us whether tomorrow we can expect, while this House is not in session, another censure motion against the Legislative Council?

HON. D. K. DANS (South Metropolitan—Leader of the House) [8.28 p.m.]: I do not understand the Leader of the Opposition's question.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 8.29 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

PORTS AND HARBOURS

Fremantle: Berthing Fee

474. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it correct that all persons, including the personnel and trainees associated with the sail training ship, *Leeuwin*, have to pay a \$2 fee every time they enter the Fremantle wharf area, including multiple entries on the same day?
- (2) If so, what is the reason for the charge?
- (3) Will the Minister review the situation so that free or reduced cost entry passes are provided to all ships' personnel, the *Leeuwin* trainees, and other regular wharf users?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

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

ROAD

Albany Highway: Footpath Rails

475. Hon. P. G. PENDAL, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Have footpath rails been erected on a section of Albany Highway, Victoria Park, as a safeguard for pedestrians from motor vehicles?
- (2) If so, why cannot a similar railing be placed around the corner of McMillan and Berwick Streets, Victoria Park, to safeguard the property of Mrs M. R. Brookes, at No. 86 McMillan Street, which has been subjected to damage resulting from numerous motor vehicle accidents?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) No. The footpath rails were erected to guide rather than to protect pedestrians. Therefore they would be unsuitable for the purpose as suggested.
- (2) The erection of a more substantial rail would be necessary to safeguard the property mentioned. This would be a matter for the consideration of the Perth City Council, which has control of both of these streets.

HOUSING

Marine Terrace, Fremantle: Fees

482. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Housing:

With reference to question 420 of 14 October 1986 regarding costs of the Marine Terrace, Fremantle, project—

- (1) What was the architectural fee?
- (2) What were the consultants' fees?
- (3) What are the costs of landscaping the project?

Hon. KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) \$148 364.
- (2) Survey, electrical, plumbing, structural, and mechanical consultants' fees, \$36 535.
- (3) The cost of landscaping is included in the contract price, by way of a provisional sum of \$24 000.

HOUSING

Burford Place, North Fremantle: Fees

483. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Housing:

With reference to the Homeswest project in Burford Place, North Fremantle—

- (1) What were the architectural fees?
- (2) What were the consultants' fees?
- (3) What is the total landscaping cost?

Hon. KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) \$31 141.
- (2) \$1 600.
- (3) Drawing up of the landscape plan will be carried out when the project nears completion and an estimate of the cost will be done at that time.

HOUSING

Thompson Road, North Fremantle: Fees

484. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Housing:

With reference to the Homeswest project in Thompson Road—ex fire station—North Fremantle—

- (1) What were the architectural fees?
- (2) What were the consultants' fees?
- (3) What is the total landscaping cost?

Hon. KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) This project was designed and documented by the Homeswest architectural division. Based on the recommended scale of fees of the Institute of Architects, the architectural fees for this project would be in the order of \$53 000 if a private architect was employed.
- (2) Structural, plumbing, and electrical consultants' fees paid amount to \$6 340.
- (3) The landscape plan will be drawn up when the project nears completion, and an estimate of cost will be done at that time.

HOUSING

Harvest Road, North Fremantle: Fees

485. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Housing:

With reference to the Homeswest project in Harvest Road—ex ice works—North Fremantle—

- (1) What were the architectural fees?
- (2) What were the consultants' fees?
- (3) What is the total landscaping cost?

Hon. KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) This project was designed and documented by the Homeswest architectural division. Based on the recommended scale of fees by the Institute of Architects, the architectural fees for this project would be in the order of \$56 000 if a private architect was employed.
- (2) Consultants' fees paid to engineering, plumbing, and electrical consultants are \$10 461.39.
- (3) Drawing up of the landscape plan will be carried out when the project nears completion, and an estimate of the cost will be done at that time.

HOUSING

Stevens Street, Fremantle: Fees

487. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Housing:

With reference to the Homeswest project in Stevens Street, Fremantle—

- (1) What were the architectural fees?
- (2) What were the consultants' fees?
- (3) What is the total landscaping cost?

Hon. KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) The project was designed and documented by the Homeswest architectural division. Based on the recommended scale of fees of the Institute of Architects, the architectural fees for this project would be in the order of \$140 000 if a private architect was employed.
- (2) Structural, electrical, plumbing, and drainage consultants' fees paid amount to \$15 182.
- (3) The cost of landscaping and providing reticulation to the Homeswest units has been assessed at \$24 287, being \$467 per unit.

AGRICULTURE: FERTILISER

Superphosphate: Rail Transport

492. Hon. JOHN CALDWELL, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What changes to rail transport of superphosphate are envisaged for the 1986-87 season?
- (2) Will some rail sidings be closed with respect to the unloading of bulk super?
- (3) If so, which sidings will they be?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

- (1) To enhance the existing bulk block fertiliser scheme and increase operating efficiencies, it is intended to introduce all-bogie wagon trains to long-haul areas, with four-wheeled wagons being limited to specific haul areas. The areas are—

Bogie wagon areas—

East of Wagin to Hyden and Newdegate

Beyond Goomalling to Kalannie and Bonnie Rock

Beyond Goomalling to Mukinbudin

Beyond Coorow to Geraldton—ex Kwinana

Mullewa to Wubin ex Kwinana—all traffic to travel via Geraldton.

Four wheel wagon areas—

Avon to Dalwallinu

West Toodyay to Miling

York to Bruce Rock

Midland to Coorow

Albany to Wagin, Nyabing, and Gnowangerup

Avon to all main line points on the Albany line except depot fertiliser

Pictou to Boyup Brook and Northcliffe.

(2) Yes.

(3) Benjinup, Bridgetown, Yornup, Jardee, Diamond Tree, Eastbrook, Boyerine, Ballaying, Boundain, Malyalling, Toolibin, York, Avon yard, Yarding, Bilbarin, Mogumber, Balkuling, Gabalong, Cowcowing; also the sidings between Collie and Narrogin with the exception of Darkan and Williams.

STATE FINANCE: GENERAL LOAN AND CAPITAL WORKS FUND

Allocation: Housing

504. Hon. TOM STEPHENS, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many homes will be built by Homeswest from the \$204.9 million capital works programme?
- (2) What other projects will be undertaken as part of this capital works programme?
- (3) What percentage of the programme will be undertaken in the Kimberley and Pilbara?
- (4) What number and type of Homeswest houses will be built in each of the towns of the Pilbara and Kimberley regions?

Hon. KAY HALLAHAN replied:

As the question requires the provision of some detail, I will reply to the member by letter.

EMPLOYMENT

School Leavers

506. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

I refer the Minister to the election commitment made by the Government prior to the last election, to provide a place in employment, training, or education for all of last year's 23 000 school leavers, and ask how many of last year's school leavers have been placed in—

- (a) employment;
- (b) training;
- (c) education?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

An offer was made to all 1985 school leavers, and of those who indicated a need for assistance only 98 have yet to be placed in employment, training, or further education.

MINISTER FOR HOUSING

Office Accommodation

511. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What provision was made for the periods 1984-85 and 1985-86 by Homeswest for maintaining the office of the Minister?
- (2) For the same periods, what expenditure was incurred by Homeswest for maintaining the office of the Minister?

Hon. KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The information the member seeks will take some time to collate. The member will be advised in writing when the information is to hand.

MINISTER FOR WORKS AND SERVICES

Office Accommodation

512. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Works and Services:

- (1) What provision was made for the periods 1984-85 and 1985-86 by the Building Management Authority for maintaining the office of the Minister?
- (2) For the same periods, what expenditure was incurred by the B M A for maintaining the office of the Minister?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

In order to provide an answer to this question, it is necessary for the member to clarify what is meant by "maintaining the office of the Minister"—i.e., what expenditure does he wish his reference to encompass?

MINERALS

Quarry: Darling Range Scarp

516. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Environment:

Is the development of any quarry along the Darling Range escarpment a contradiction of the Swan Valley Policy launched by the Premier?

Hon. KAY HALLAHAN replied:

This question has been incorrectly addressed to the Minister for Environment. It has been referred to the Minister for Planning, and he will answer the question in writing.

MINERALS

Quarry: Millendon

517. Hon. G. E. MASTERS, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Environment:

What is the present position regarding the quarry proposed by Bell Resources in Padbury Avenue, Millendon?

Hon. KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The company is currently preparing a detailed notice of intent document for submission to and consideration by the Environmental Protection Authority.

STATE FINANCE: BUDGET

Allocation: Urban Subdivisions

519. Hon. TOM STEPHENS, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) What percentage of the \$18.4 million allocated to urban lands subdivisions in 1986-87 will be spent in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions.
- (2) What is the cost of the work associated with subdivisions in Karratha, Newman, Tom Price,

Broome, and any other Pilbara or Kimberley town?

- (3) Can he please provide details about these specific subdivisions, especially details of what blocks will be made available and anticipated commencement and completion dates for each project?

Hon. KAY HALLAHAN replied:

This question has been incorrectly addressed to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management. It has been referred to the Minister for Lands, and he will answer the question in writing.

WILDLIFE

Seals: Atlantis Marine Park

521. Hon. V. J. FERRY, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) Referring to answer to question 452 of 15 October 1986, is a press report contained in the *Daily News* of 20 October 1986 accurate to the extent that the Atlantis Marine Park, Yanchep, is being allowed by Cabinet decision to restock with seals from the wild?
- (2) If this is the case, will the Government, through another Cabinet decision, permit the Big Swamp Bird Park, Bunbury, to stock its penguin section with birds obtained from the wild?
- (3) If not, why not?

Hon. KAY HALLAHAN replied:

- (1) Yes, except that the animals in question are Australian sea-lions.
- (2) and (3) I refer the member to my answer to question 452 (3).

PASTORAL LEASES

Aboriginal Groups: Occupation

524. Hon. N. F. MOORE, to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Conservation and Land Management:

- (1) Are Aboriginal groups allowed to set up a permanent camp on a pastoral lease without the approval of the pastoral leaseholder?

- (2) If so, are there any restrictions or conditions attached to such settlements?
- (3) If not, is the pastoral leaseholder entitled to seek assistance from the police to have such groups removed?

Hon. KAY HALLAHAN replied:

This question has been incorrectly addressed to the Minister for Conservation and Land Management. It has been referred to the Minister for Lands, and he will answer the question in writing.

ROAD: GREAT EASTERN HIGHWAY

Widening: Delay

529. Hon. NEIL OLIVER, to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Transport:

Is it the intention of the Main Roads Department not to purchase any more properties fronting the Great Eastern Highway on Greenmount Hill until at least completion of the present eastern corridor major roads study?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

Yes. However, the department would be prepared to discuss the possible purchase of a property with an owner if he was seriously disadvantaged.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION

Staff Cuts

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

- (1) Is the State School Teacher's Union correct in its estimate that 300 TAFE employees will lose their jobs as a result of the Government's Budget decisions?
- (2) If not, what is the correct figure?

Hon. KAY HALLAHAN, replied:

I thank the honourable member for making his question available to the office of the Minister for Education. The answer is—

- (1) No.
- (2) An accurate figure cannot be given as it is too early to identify how many will leave through natural wastage and

will not need to be replaced. It is also too early to determine how much of the work previously undertaken by persons employed full-time in industry working in TAFE colleges part-time in the evening will be taken up by permanent TAFE lecturers under the new conditions.

SPORT AND RECREATION

Yacht Race: Fremantle-Geraldton

163. Hon. TOM McNEIL, to the Minister with special responsibility for the America's Cup:

Would the Minister advise what provisions or alterations the Government has made, or will make, for the return leg of the Geraldton to Fremantle yacht race which will take place this weekend, bearing in mind the America's Cup defenders will be sailed on the stretch of water that is needed at that time?

Hon. D. K. DANS replied:

I thank the member for the notice of the question, but I might add that it is a matter that is best addressed to the yacht clubs. In view of the fact that the America's Cup office has built its high reputation on service to the public, I am prepared to answer the question on behalf of the yacht clubs.

Yachts in the Geraldton-Fremantle yacht race should begin finishing progressively at Fremantle at some time on Saturday, 25 October, dependent on the prevailing weather.

The America's Cup defender selection trials will continue over the weekend, with racing on one course only each afternoon. Both race organisers are aware of each other's activity and it is not envisaged that there will be any interference to either event. In any close quarters situation, the rules of the road at sea and normal yacht racing rules would apply.

No alterations have been made to the America's Cup defender selection trials to cater for competing yachts finishing the Geraldton-Fremantle yacht race. The Geraldton-Fremantle race control will be advised each morning of the defender selection trials race days which course will be

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used that day. This information will be passed on to the competing yachts. At the pre-race briefing at Geraldton, competing yachts will be advised of the America's Cup defender selection trial courses.

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