

Legislative Assembly

Wednesday, the 10th August, 1977

The SPEAKER (Mr Thompson) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

BILLS (2): INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Child Welfare Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Ridge (Minister for Community Welfare), and read a first time.

2. Mine Workers' Relief Act Amendment Bill.

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Mensaros (Minister for Mines), and read a first time.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: FIFTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 9th August, on the following motion by Mr Hassell—

That the following Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech be agreed to—

May it please Your Excellency: We, the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of the State of Western Australia in Parliament assembled, beg to express loyalty to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to thank Your Excellency for the Speech you have been pleased to address to Parliament.

MR HODGE (Melville) [5.13 p.m.]: I intend to devote my maiden speech to a subject I consider is of paramount importance to the Parliament and people of Western Australia—the need for the reform of the electoral laws governing State Parliaments and local governing authorities. Parliamentary democracy in Western Australia is a farce. Western Australia has never been a genuine parliamentary democracy and I do not think it is likely to become one in the foreseeable future.

We, the members of the Legislative Assembly are all actors playing our part in perpetrating a farce upon the people of Western Australia, a farce that this Parliament is a democratic institution, elected democratically and functioning democratically. What a gigantic fraud and deception the whole situation really is.

In the five months I have been a member of Parliament I have had pressure put on me to learn the system, accept it, play my role, and enjoy the privileges and benefits which come with membership of an exclusive club. We all have a role to play in giving the public an impression that this State is not only officially and technically a democracy but, in fact, that democracy is alive and well. What a fraud we are attempting to perpetrate on the people of Western Australia.

Parliamentary democracy in Western Australia is dead. I do not believe it has ever really been alive. One does not have to be very observant or unduly sensitive to detect the low opinion and the lack of confidence and trust in which many people in the community hold politicians in general. I believe that much of the cynicism about and suspicion of politicians has been brought about by the rigging of electoral laws, the blatant manipulation of the electoral boundaries, the questionable funding of elections, and the obviously weak and undemocratic role Parliament plays in governing the affairs of the State.

Many people in Western Australia have not been taken in by the play-acting that goes on in this place under the guise of parliamentary democracy in action. What chance does the Parliament have of functioning democratically and confidentially, and of inspiring confidence and trust in the people when its very basis—the method of election—is dishonest and is seen to be dishonest by a very large section of the population?

The people must be confident that the Parliament, after an election, truly represents their wishes and is a reflection of the community's current political judgment. Election of members of Parliament in Western Australia must be free and honest and conducted under electoral laws which give every citizen equal voting strength.

Mr Bertram: Hear, hear!

MR HODGE: In my former occupation as Assistant State Secretary of the ALP and, prior to that, as a full-time union official, I travelled extensively in the State and met and talked to hundreds of people each week. They were mainly working-class people, trade unionists, and, in the main, supporters of the ALP. The degree of disillusionment with the present political system which is plainly evident amongst them is very great indeed.

The body blow struck at parliamentary democracy nationally by the conservative forces in this country in 1975 has confirmed the suspicion that many people held about the Australian

system of democracy. For those people who were already disillusioned with it, the actions then deepened their resentment against the system and those who manipulate it. The representatives of conservatism who sit opposite me in this Chamber must surely realise that nearly half the total population of this State votes for the ALP at every election. A large proportion of them currently hold the opinion that the electoral laws are dishonest and rigged against the party for which they vote. Surely the conservative forces which run this Government must realise that they cannot go on frustrating the will of hundreds of thousands of Western Australians year in and year out without risking serious repercussions of one type or another.

Many people today are worried about the polarisation and bitterness in politics. Some conservative politicians and employers complain about increasing industrial unrest and so-called industrial lawlessness. What do they expect? That is just the tip of the iceberg, an indication of the serious decline our parliamentary system is in.

It is time the Court Government realised that it must act at least to reform the most blatant anti-labour laws and practices if it wishes to avoid doing irreparable damage to the system of parliamentary democracy. If this Government wishes to bring about the ultimate destruction of the present system it is going the right way about it.

The lack of regard and respect the Court Government has for Parliament was very clearly demonstrated by the fact that Parliament was not called together until more than five months after the election. In fact, Parliament was adjourned for eight months from the end of November, 1976, to July, 1977. The Executive governed this State for eight months without parliamentary scrutiny or participation.

The Government has gone just too far on this occasion by governing for a period of over eight months without parliamentary scrutiny or participation. Many people in the community are beginning to question the way we are governed and the respective roles that the Parliament and the Executive should play in the process. During the five months I have been a member of Parliament I have been approached by many constituents, requesting me to raise matters of importance in this House; matters affecting the wages-price freeze, record unemployment, and increased inflation. Those people were shocked and could not believe me when I told them that Parliament had not met during a period of five months.

Apparently the time has now arrived when it is convenient for the Executive to reconvene Parlia-

ment, and we all dutifully file into our seats so that the Legislative Assembly can resume.

It is interesting to look around and see just how democratic this Parliament is, and wonder just who has a right to be here. I wonder whether the votes which will be cast in this Chamber during the coming weeks will genuinely reflect the views of the community. I think not.

For the electors of Western Australia, and particularly those in Melville, who believe—or once believed—that we have a genuine parliamentary democracy in this State I will outline how Parliament has been subverted and manipulated into its present sad state. Perhaps even some of the conservatives in this House should listen and decide whether they think the present system is just, equitable, and democratic.

There are 55 members in the Legislative Assembly, representing 663 000 electors. The unequal distribution of those electors over the 55 seats is the first step in the rigging of the Parliament.

The United Nations' declaration of human rights states that the will of the people should be expressed in periodic genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage, and shall be held by secret vote or by an equivalent free voting procedure.

Australia is a signatory to that declaration, yet the people in Western Australia suffer a massive abuse of that principle of equality of voting values. The abuse of equality of voting values in Australia is not restricted to this State, but it is the worst in this State. Some Liberal Party members apparently do believe in the democratic principle of one-vote-one-value. The President of the South Australian Liberal Party, in a submission to the South Australian Electoral Boundaries Commission, strongly supported the proposition of one-vote-one-value. I wonder what that gentleman would think of the present Parliament in Western Australia where we have some members of the Legislative Assembly representing nine times as many electors as other members. The largest Assembly seat in this Parliament has 18 000 electors, and the smallest has 2 000.

If the Western Australian Parliament were elected on the principle of one-vote-one-value, then each Assembly electorate would have just over 12 000 electors. Based on that figure, the largest Assembly seat—Whitford—with 18 889 electors is 56 per cent above the average, and the smallest seat—Murchison-Eyre—with 2 110 electors is 461 per cent below average.

The position in the so-called "House of Review", the Legislative Council, is even worse. The largest Council province contains nearly 15

times as many electors as the smallest province. There are 5 743 electors in the smallest province—Lower North—and 84 943 electors in the largest province—North Metropolitan. If the one-vote-one-value principle applied there would be an average of 41 405 in each province.

At that rate, the Lower North Province is 622 per cent under the average, and the North Metropolitan Province is 105 per cent above the average. That type of abuse of the fundamental principle of democratic elections, as laid down by the United Nations, is the major reason the Western Australian Parliament is the most undemocratic in Australia.

The deliberate denial of the equality of voting values, along with other undemocratic electoral laws, results in a Legislative Assembly that is distorted; distorted to the extent that it is possible for 33½ per cent of the electors to elect the majority of seats in this Legislative Assembly—28 seats. Under these circumstances the will of the other 66½ per cent of the electors is frustrated and denied. So much for the democratic principle that the majority decision rules!

This sort of malpractice and vote weighting was declared undemocratic and illegal by the United States Supreme Court 12 years ago. In Western Australia we still have to suffer it in 1977.

The excuse offered by conservative politicians for this type of distortion of the democratic process is that the vote weighting provides protection for rural people—that rural people have special problems which can be resolved only by the weighting of votes. What rubbish! Rural vote weighting was introduced years ago when there were no telephones, no radios, no television, poor postage services, no aircraft, and poor roads.

The weighting of votes did not achieve its objective when it was introduced, and its only effect now is to give the conservative political parties of this State permanent control and domination of the Parliament.

The weighting of rural votes, along with other measures such as the amendment to the Electoral Districts Act which allows for fluctuations of 15 per cent above or below the quota for electors in each rural electorate, and 10 per cent above or below the quota for electors in metropolitan electorates, results in a situation where the predominantly conservative voting rural electors, who make up one-third of the population, can dominate the other two-thirds of voters who reside in the metropolitan area.

The special problems of city dwellers, such as pollution, violence, crime, traffic, parking restrictions, noise, and housing costs apparently are

insignificant and do not compare with the problems of the rural dwellers, and vote weighting is not required.

Under the present system it is possible for the Australian Labor Party to win every vote in the metropolitan area—all 439 886 of them—the ALP could win every metropolitan area seat, and still not be able to form a Government.

The undemocratic nature of the electoral system at work was shown very clearly in the result of the 1974 election. In the Legislative Assembly the ALP received 48.1 per cent of the primary vote but obtained only 43 per cent of the seats, a total of 22. The Liberal Party received 40.34 per cent of the primary vote and obtained 45 per cent of the seats, a total of 23.

Since the “allegedly” democratic elections were introduced into this State, the ALP has on occasions gained the majority of members in the Legislative Assembly, usually by polling over 50 per cent of the vote. However, we have never won an election for the Legislative Council. Since 1890 we have lost 39 elections out of 39 for the upper House. What sort of democracy do we have in Western Australia in 1977? It appears to be 1890 style of democracy.

Although the Australian Labor Party, from time to time, has been able to form a Government by winning a majority of the seats in the Legislative Assembly, in reality we have never governed the State because we have never controlled the Legislative Council.

When Labor forms a Government based on a majority of members in the lower House—the Legislative Assembly—the conservative parties form a *de facto* Government based on their majority in the Legislative Council. This was most noticeable when the Hawke and Tonkin Labor Governments were in office. It has to be remembered that Labor Governments are only in office, never in power.

Regardless of what policy or what particular programme the Australian Labor Party puts to the people during an election campaign, and whether or not the people endorse that policy, it must meet with the approval of the *de facto* Liberal-National Country Party Government in the upper House. If the policy does not meet with their approval, it is thrown out.

Examples of the upper House *de facto* conservative Government in operation are fully and factually recorded in *Hansard* for all to see. During a three-year period of the Hawke Labor Government the *de facto* Government in the Legislative Council threw out 21 Bills which the

elected Government had introduced into the Legislative Assembly. Those Bills were passed in this House, and then thrown out when they reached the upper House.

During the period of the Brand Government the remarkable "House of Review" had a sudden change of role. It rejected only one Bill during the last three-year term of the Brand Government. When the Tonkin Government was elected the Legislative Council was suddenly galvanised into action, and rejected another 20 Bills which were introduced by the legally elected Government of this State. Those Bills passed through the Legislative Assembly, and were thrown out by the *de facto* Government in the upper House.

When Labor Governments are elected we have in fact two Governments in the State, one based on the Legislative Assembly and one based on the Legislative Council.

Since the election of the Court Government in 1974, the upper House has been in hibernation again. How many Bills has it rejected since 1974? None. It has gone into a state of suspended animation.

I mentioned at the beginning of my speech that parliamentary democracy in Western Australia was a farce. What more conclusive evidence of that do we want than the facts I have just outlined? In Western Australia, although the people have regularly and often expressed their wish through the ballot box that the Australian Labor Party should govern the State, we have never in fact governed it.

The general conservative view of electoral democracy appears to be that lip service is paid to it and some small measure of democratic process is permitted provided the people do not get carried away with it and elect a Labor Government too often or by too large a majority, and provided further that the conservatives always have the upper House, either the Senate or the Legislative Council, to block any Bills with which they do not agree.

If any action by a Labor Government threatens to alter the status quo or the balance of power in the community, the conservatives drop all pretences of a commitment to Parliamentary democracy. They will then take any action necessary to ensure that the threat is overcome.

There have been two vivid examples of that in recent times. In 1975 the conservatives, in collusion with the Governor-General, brought about the dismissal of the legally elected national Labor Government which had a majority in the lower House of the Federal Parliament but

unfortunately its legislative programme did not meet with the approval of the *de facto* Government in the Senate.

On another occasion when the Tonkin Government was in office in Western Australia the Legislative Council threatened to cut off supply and force the Government to an early election because it did not approve of the Government's legislative programme. Fortunately, it did not carry out that threat, but the very fact that it was being considered shows the scant regard the conservatives have for the system of parliamentary democracy.

The Legislative Council in this State has wide-ranging, unchecked powers. It can reject or amend Bills, including money Bills. By rejecting a money Bill it can force a Government based on the Legislative Assembly to an election, but the Legislative Council remains unaffected and cannot be made to answer for its actions or be forced to an early election. The Legislative Council cannot be dissolved or reformed unless it so agrees. If the Legislative Council becomes deadlocked with the Legislative Assembly over legislation, it will always prevail. There is no proper mechanism in operation for resolving deadlocks.

The Western Australian Legislative Council is probably the most powerful upper House in Australia. There is a desperate need for action to be taken to curtail its vast powers, reform its undemocratic nature, and at least give it some resemblance to a democratic institution. I believe there is a strong case for the eventual abolition of the Legislative Council. The role and function of the upper House as designed in the 1890s is no longer relevant or necessary in today's society. We should be committed to planning for a unicameral Parliament. A single-chamber Parliament could be established with the same number of members as the total of the two existing Houses, with all members elected from single-member electorates. This would result in each member representing about 8 000 constituents who would have votes of equal value—a very novel situation for this State.

As an interim step along the way towards the goal of creating a democratically elected, unicameral Parliament, legislation should be passed providing for the upper House to be elected by proportional representation with the whole State being a single electorate.

The power of the Council to reject, defer, or amend money Bills must be removed.

Mr Jamieson: Hear, hear!

Mr HODGE: If the Council refuses to pass legislation which has already been passed by the

Legislative Assembly, such Bills should become law 12 months after the third reading in the Legislative Assembly.

For Assembly members representing country electorates, the following measures should now be adopted, instead of fiddling with the value of the vote—

- (1) Electorate allowances adjusted to be commensurate with the difficulties and disabilities involved in representing their electorates.
- (2) Appropriate additional staff to help with visits, contacts, and the running of a country electorate.
- (3) Free transport for electoral purposes.
- (4) Free telephone, with the right of electors to reverse charges when contacting their member.
- (5) Free postage for up to 100 letters a week and free telegrams.
- (6) Provision for more than one office in the electorate where necessary.
- (7) Subsidised city accommodation where required for parliamentary purposes.

The adoption of these measures should remove the need for the current undemocratic practice of weighting votes to compensate for special problems encountered by country members.

Many other steps should be taken to restore democracy to this Parliament. The one-vote-one-value principal must be used in determining quotas for electorates. The maximum permissible fluctuation must not be more than 10 per cent above or below the quota in all seats, both country and metropolitan.

The Electoral Act should be amended to provide for optional preferential voting and the use of ballot papers showing the party affiliation of the candidates. State and Federal electoral rolls should be amalgamated. The Act should be amended to allow reasonable access, by those wishing to distribute how-to-vote cards, to persons in hospitals, homes for the aged, and similar institutions, subject to reasonable medical requirements. Additional mobile polling booth facilities are also required. The Electoral Department should establish an electoral education section to acquaint electors, particularly Aboriginal and non-English-speaking Australians, with the electoral laws.

Among the further steps which need to be taken, legislation should be passed to ensure that all political parties disclose the source of their funds. A subsidy should be granted to political parties on the basis of the percentage of votes

they obtained at the previous election, provided the vote was over 5 per cent of the total vote. Campaign spending should be limited to a realistic figure. Amendments should be made to the Companies Act to compel disclosure of political contributions in the published accounts of companies.

To ensure Parliament never again falls into the same weak, undemocratic state it is in today, we must establish a constitutional review committee to review the State Constitution on a regular five-yearly basis. The committee should seek submissions from the public and hold public hearings. It should then report to the Parliament on its deliberations.

There can be no democracy in Western Australia until the will of the people is genuinely reflected in Parliament and the Parliament is made to function in a democratic manner as a servant of the people, answerable to the people, and speaking for the people. Parliament should not be merely the tool of the Government or a rubber stamp for the Executive. Parliament should be the master of the Executive arm of government, not just the Government's rubber stamp.

I now wish to turn my attention for a few minutes to the local government scene. If there is an area where elections are conducted in an even more undemocratic manner than the elections for the State Parliament, it is in local government elections.

Western Australia is one of the few places in the world which still tolerate plural voting. There is no plural voting in local government elections in the United Kingdom, the United States, and most other western democracies. The principle of determining how many votes a person has by his wealth and the amount of property he owns is fundamentally corrupt and thoroughly undemocratic.

Many reforms to the laws governing local government elections are needed, but the one-vote-one-value principle must be adopted as fundamental. Provision must be made for optional preferential voting, and it must be made compulsory for all adults resident in a local government area to vote.

The reluctance of the conservative political parties in this State to legislate to reform local government voting procedures is obviously due to the stranglehold which the present system gives them over local government authorities. Councillors with conservative political views and affiliations dominate most local government authorities in this State.

The outraged indignation and phoney screams of alarm and concern by Liberal Party politicians and their associates on councils about the intrusion of party politics into local government is only so much hypocrisy. There has always been party politics in local government—mainly, Liberal Party politics! The scream goes up if any person or persons who are not members of the Liberal Party or sympathetic to the Liberal Party dare to stand or are elected to local government authorities.

The dominance of the Liberal Party over many councils is very plain to see. The local government authority which covers the major portion of my electorate is no exception to that rule. A more conservative council than the Melville City Council would be hard to find. Most of the councillors on the Melville City Council are either conservatives or very sympathetic to conservative political parties. At least one Melville City councillor has stood as an endorsed Liberal Party candidate for the State Parliament and another sought Liberal Party pre-selection, apparently unsuccessfully. A few of the councillors are not conservatives, and in fact, are quite progressive, but of course, they are in the minority.

On several occasions since my election as the member for Melville, the Melville City Council has demonstrated to me where its political sympathies lie. The most serious display of partiality towards the Liberal Party came recently in the form of the council's association with a booklet entitled, "The Melville Directory of Community Services".

Ten thousand copies of this booklet were distributed in the Melville district a few weeks ago. The booklet, published by a private publisher—Axiom Publicity—has a drawing of the Melville council chambers on its front cover, and on the first page appeared a letter, endorsing the booklet and recommending it to the ratepayers of the City of Melville; the letter was signed by the mayor on behalf of the City of Melville.

On page 3 of the booklet, directly beneath the names and details of all the councillors, appeared the heading "Young Liberals" followed by details of where all the various branches of the Young Liberals could be contacted in the Melville district. No other political party was mentioned. Needless to say, the Labor member for Melville was not mentioned either.

Mr Tonkin: No politics in local government!

Mr HODGE: I wrote to the mayor to complain about this—he blamed the publisher. I

contacted the publisher and he blamed the Melville City Council. He told me that the Melville City Council compiled and supplied all the information that appeared in the booklet.

I investigated a little further and I found that this particular company published several other booklets in association with other local government authorities. Perusing these, I found that every political party active in the particular areas was mentioned in the booklets, and all the members of Parliament were mentioned. So it is fairly clear to me who the culprit was in this case.

Since my election the council has attempted to frustrate me in several other petty ways. It refused what most people would consider to be a fair and reasonable request for a copy of the council minutes for the local member. The feeble excuse offered was that the council would be hard pressed to supply all members of Parliament representing the area with copies of the minutes if they all decided on such a request. I am the only member of Parliament who has requested a copy—I was naive enough to think that the council would be only too happy to think I was interested in the proceedings of the Melville City Council, to know I was interested in the area and wanted to learn as much as I could about it.

The town clerk wrote to tell me that I could go to the local library to read the minutes when they became available.

Another practice the council has adopted and which has frustrated many of my constituents is that when someone mistakenly rings the Melville City Council chambers seeking me or seeking my telephone number or address, the Melville City Council informs the inquirer that it has never heard of me, it does not know my telephone number, and it does not know my address. I have notified the council in writing, and I have notified the council verbally of my address and telephone number. The Melville City Council sends letters to my office, but at the same time it tells electors that it does not know that I exist or where my office is! So much for the popular myth about no politics in local government.

Mr Speaker, I have attempted, in this my maiden speech, to draw attention to the need for major reform in laws governing the election of State members of Parliament and the election of councillors to local government authorities.

I hope I have given all members of the House some cause for thought on this subject. I hope that there may be a few democrats sitting on

the Government side of the House, particularly amongst the new members. I hope that I have stirred a few consciences—even if I have stirred one conscience I will be happy as that will have advanced the people of Western Australia one small step along the long tortuous path towards real parliamentary democracy.

Mr Bryce: A breath of fresh air.

MR HERZFELD (Mundaring). [5.46 p.m.]: In speaking to the Address-in-Reply which was so ably moved by my colleague, the member for Cottesloe, I indicate at this stage that my address will be directed to matters which affect my electorate and those which concern my constituents.

Before I turn to talk about those matters, I would like to offer you, Sir, my best wishes on your election to the Chair. I have known you as a constituent—in fact, probably technically I am still a constituent of yours. I acknowledge at first hand your dedication to the tasks required of a parliamentary representative. I am sure this style, applied to your present high office, will bring great credit to it.

I would like also to join with others in recording my thanks to the parliamentary staff and officers for the assistance and guidance so freely and patiently given in helping me to find my way around this place.

I have found my presence in this building to be a most humbling experience. Whatever his background might be, the newcomer cannot help but feel impressed by the wealth of ability, experience, and dedication he finds amongst his fellow members.

Despite some disparaging remarks which I have heard since I have been here about the role of back-benchers on this side of the House, it is my intention to show that a back-bencher does have a place here and can make a useful contribution even though he is on the Government side. Certainly I shall be trying to make a useful contribution.

It was, I think, the member for Balcatta who had occasion to refer to the seats occupied by the member for Subiaco, the member for Bunbury, and me, as the back stalls. The need for this new bench is visible evidence of the people's decision last February, and will no doubt continue to be a source of distraction to the members of the Opposition.

It is an exciting time in this State's history for a new member to be elected to the Parliament. Travelling around the State, as I have done for the last 30 years, I can see the achievements

which have resulted from a century and a half of endeavour—the endeavour of past generations.

The last two decades have been particularly spectacular and indicate just what faith and dedication can achieve. They spell out just how great the potential of this State really is. I look forward to being part of the action which, in the next few years, will unlock this great potential and make it a reality.

I turn now to my electorate. Most members would realise it is associated closely with one of the most significant public works projects ever undertaken in this State. I refer, of course, to the goldfields water supply scheme which has contributed so much to the economic well-being of Western Australia. The fountain head, the starting point for the 370-mile journey for the water is, of course, the Mundaring Weir.

The Mundaring electorate was constituted for the election held in 1974. My predecessor, Mr James Moiler, held the seat for one term. I use this opportunity to recognise the dedication with which he served the electorate; because of this I wish him well for the future and in his new occupation.

The electorate is some 3 000 square kilometres in size and embraces rural areas of the Shires of Swan, Mundaring, and Toodyay. It contains a heterogeneous mixture of lifestyles, in the main semi-rural and rural.

The question of lifestyles is of extreme importance to people in my electorate particularly as it relates to a very attractive environment. Most would indicate they were persuaded to come to live in the area because it offered a peaceful refuge, in unique settings, free from the hurly burly of modern-day life.

They have a united desire to guard this very precious asset. They are very much aware of the changes occurring around them; aware of the pressures for change, socially and economically. Much of what they see they do not like. As are the rest of the people in this State and nation, they are at times bewildered by what they see. The people look at the last four or five years and see a continuous attack directed at the social fabric and economic well-being of this country. They ask, as well they might, "What has happened to Australia?" It was once a nation admired for its strength of national purpose, strength of character, and independence of spirit. It was a land of opportunity, a country where individual effort reaped individual reward; not reward for a few, but reward for all who set out to achieve it.

When I came to Western Australia as a boy 30 years ago, the Australian had the image of a

hard-working, hard-drinking, hard-playing individual. He worked to create a better future for his family, his State and his nation. He toiled under much more difficult conditions than he does today, but I believe he did so gladly because he had a sense of national purpose.

Today, working conditions and the material life of people are infinitely better. Is it any wonder, therefore, as I said earlier that so many of my constituents, and other people in this country, are bewildered by what they see going on around them and the disruptive activities of those supposedly working for a better life for Australians?

I would just like to quote one or two extracts from articles which appeared in the *Daily News* of Wednesday, the 20th July, to make my point. These are just chosen at random. One writer says—

It is becoming increasingly obvious that this country is slowly but surely being dragged down into the gutter by militant trade unions whose only thought is to cause as much strife as possible for the government and people of this country regardless of the consequences.

A further extract reads—

I voted and so did the majority of Australians at the last election for a government to use its power and authority if necessary to protect and uphold the law.

I did not vote for a union to try to cripple our state or nation.

I could read on, Mr Speaker, but many of them are in the same vein. I might add that even the Leader of the Opposition has recognised some of the feelings that are abroad in the community because in the *Daily News* of the 29th July he was quoted as saying—

I think people are getting sick and tired of confrontation.

I make no apology for drawing attention to the actions of the few who, either through ignorance or deliberately, are systematically destroying the economic well-being of this country. We had in this country a system of industrial conciliation and arbitration which was the envy of the rest of the world.

The member for Gosnells the other day used the phrase "politics of fear". I would like to quote a couple of phrases out of a newspaper cutting which perhaps portray the other side of the coin as politics of fear that the honourable member was talking about when he used the term, and I refer to comments which are reported in *The West Australian* on the 11th May this

year. The writer quotes the Federal Secretary of the Builders Labourers' Federation, (Mr Norman Gallagher) as saying:

"We don't intend to take the matter any further in the commission till we have tenderised the builders," he said in Melbourne.

I repeat those words, "tenderised the builders". In the same article his counterpart in Western Australia, Mr Kevin Reynolds, (Secretary of the BLF of Western Australia), said—

... the union would use whatever tactics were necessary for the campaign to succeed.

They could include stopping concrete pours and closing down sites.

No conciliation, Mr Speaker, no arbitration.

Those words smack somewhat of standover tactics and disruption. This type of action results in increased costs and inevitably more unemployment. If members do not believe me I will give a few examples. I believe it was mentioned the other day; there was a strike of refrigerated truck drivers in March of this year which resulted in 120 of their fellow workers being laid off, with the consequent loss of wages. At the same time the dairy industry, which had already been hard pressed by rising costs, lost \$350 000 as a result of overtime bans by the Miscellaneous Workers' Union.

Earlier this year—and this has been referred to on a previous occasion—the State, according to the Minister for Labour and Industry, lost \$1 million of taxpayers' money as a result of a six-week strike at the Perth Medical Centre. This strike resulted from the sacking of a worker; a sacking which was upheld by the industrial court.

Perhaps the most blatant example of industrial lawlessness has been the continuing dispute between the Transport Workers' Union and fuel agents. I have a particular concern with this matter because one of my constituents happens to be a fuel agent and I shall refer to him a little later on.

I would like members to be quite clear in their minds as to what the dispute is all about. This dispute was created by the Transport Workers' Union by placing bans on fuel supplies to agents because the agents would not submit to union demands to take over fuel deliveries to their depots. It was not as if the Transport Workers' Union members were being denied work. After all the agents had been forced a long time ago to use union members to drive their vehicles.

In fact, it can be shown that the union's demand, if acceded to, would not create employment opportunities for its members; it would have quite

the reverse effect. It is a fact that the agents use trucks which carry 2 000 gallons of fuel. The oil companies use tankers which carry 8 000 gallons of fuel. One oil company driver would do the work of four agents' drivers. What would happen to the other three if the union's demands were met?

I would like to refer briefly to the methods that have been used in this particular dispute. The constituent that I referred to earlier, who is involved in this matter, is a Mr John Kennedy, a fuel agent at Mt. Helena. In the *Daily News* of the 21st July, a report of Mr Kennedy's comments had this to say—

Mr Kennedy said he did not like the idea of "giving in" after spending 25 years building up his business.

"Overnight the union has been able to take over. It's not fair, but I can't do anything else except cave in to them," he said.

That gentleman had been going about his legitimate business which he had established over the past 25 years. I would think that a period of 25 years in the business would establish some right for him to carry on his business in the manner he wished to. But suddenly it was decided that he could not conduct his business as he had done during the last 25 years; that he must conduct it in a different way; in a manner which the union apparently felt would produce the results it wanted in the fastest possible time. The news article continues—

For nine weeks his men had been carting drums of fuel from Kewdale and bulk kerosene from Fremantle.

He was able to obtain fuel in drums from Kewdale, but he was not able to obtain bulk fuel. The result of this was that he had to spend at least 60 per cent of his time manhandling drums. He went on to say that he would be lucky to break even.

I was at his depot one day and I observed his men decanting drums into his tanker. It was a slow process. The observation Mr Kennedy made to me was that the truck had been in the process of being loaded for the past three hours, and that had he been able to obtain bulk fuel the truck would have been out, delivered the fuel, and been back again in that time. One can imagine what this is doing to the cost structure of his operation.

The Transport Workers' Union will not gain more jobs for its members if its demands are met. It is effectively creating economic hardship for this constituent of mine who, after all, was

carrying out a job he had been doing for the last 25 years in his own way without harm to either the union or anyone else. The result is that it has become increasingly difficult for him to meet the demands of his customers. In fact, whereas in the past he would top-up fuel tanks before he was asked to do so, now he cannot do that. This was instanced in my household only yesterday when we ran out of heating fuel and had to ring Mr Kennedy and ask him to come down and deliver fuel. As a result of the limitations placed on his operation, he cannot properly serve his customers.

What then does the TWU leadership hope to gain? It must surely be quite obvious that if the union gains control of the last remaining independent link in the fuel distribution chain, it will have the power to bring the State to a standstill.

Let us not be fooled into submission. The Premier has warned on a number of occasions that the left-wing militants who are behind so much of the industrial strife that we are experiencing are part of an international effort to destroy our independence and freedom; and we spoke about this matter yesterday.

We now find the secretary of the most blatantly aggressive and militant union equipped with an international communications system, supposedly used for leisure and pleasure. Mr Cowles is reported to have said the radio equipment was not used for union business. Why then was the equipment set up in a caravan owned by the TWU? Why did the equipment have to be mobile? Perhaps Mr Cowles might like to answer why he needed to hide his hobby 50 miles from Perth in a secluded spot.

If the purpose of the equipment was to talk to truck drivers on the Nullarbor, as Mr Cowles claims it was, why did he hide it away in Wundowie at the back of my electorate? Why was another TWU organiser involved in the use of this equipment, because he too was convicted of using it? Perhaps he was just another amateur travelling from Mt. Hawthorn to Wundowie to enjoy playing with equipment capable of transmitting and receiving around the world, all just does not ring true.

This incident should not be dismissed as a simple indiscretion. Rank and file members of the TWU should question whether they are not being used by people whose loyalties lie outside Australia; whether perhaps their funds are not being used against their best interests or the best interests of the nation—perhaps even to undermine and destroy our way of life, our institutions, and our determination.

Scanning today's society we see a determined effort to destroy the very thing we on this side of the House cherish above all else; namely, man's freedom, his right to go freely about his business in daily life. The methods being used are designed for one end, and one end only, and that is to generate fear and mistrust, unease, and cynicism within the community, to confuse and to destroy hope.

The most subtle attack, and the least recognisable, is the way our highly developed Christian consciences of concern for our fellow man are being manipulated for other ends. Nowhere is this more evident than in the current so-called uranium debate. Nothing being said by the anti-uranium lobby has any relevance to fact. The arguments being put forward are emotive, designed to create fear and despondency.

Anyone who cannot recognise these underlying forces and their aims would do well to read Ayn Rand's book *Atlas Shrugged* to see graphically described just what might happen to the free world if those dedicated to destroy are not exposed and disarmed.

The Government can rest assured the majority of people in my electorate fully support its firm stand for law and order, and for government by the elected. Let us take heart from what the Minister for Labour and Industry had to say yesterday, when he predicted a change for the better in the industrial field; that is the hope and wish of everyone in this country today. I hope we can return to a common-sense approach to industrial relations, and use the facilities for conciliation and arbitration which are still available in this country today.

I wish now to refer to another matter. I said earlier that the people in my electorate had a great concern to see their life style maintained. They recognise the importance of town planning and in this regard are appreciative of the opportunities they have been given to participate under current Government policy.

With the personal encouragement of the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning, the eastern corridor study currently in progress will benefit greatly from extensive contributions made by the public. I believe in this State we are fortunate indeed to have some of the best planners in Australia. I recently travelled to the Eastern States and looked at what was happening in the peripheral areas around the larger cities. I must admit that what I saw made me somewhat concerned for the people living in those areas, both now and in the future.

Certainly, we do not wish to see that type of planning in Western Australia, and I take great

heart from the foresight which is being shown in the field of town planning in this State. Planning, as we know, is what creates the life style of the future, and the life style of the future should be a matter of great concern, so that future generations are not subjected to unsatisfactory living conditions.

I turn now to the subject of education. Education is a matter of importance and concern to my constituents, as I am sure it is to many people throughout Western Australia. With the Minister for Education, and indeed many others, I share a concern over continuing demands for ever-increasing expenditure in education. There is no way this one sector of public expenditure can continue to grow at the unprecedented rate of the last few years without adversely affecting other sectors or, indeed, the total economy. There is a limit to just how much of the tax cake can be directed to this one area. I believe it is high time a determination was made.

At the same time, there is a need to take a much closer look at how some of the education vote is being spent. I instance just one example which came to my notice recently. It concerns an in-service course which was conducted by the Education Department and which was attended by some 45 teachers. The subject for discussion at this course was "School-based curricula". I understand that "school-based curricula" are programmes for education which are tailor-made for individual schools. The course entailed 10 or 11 full days' attendance by the 45 teachers and, during their absence from the various schools those teachers were replaced by relieving teachers. It is my estimate that the cost of mounting the course and of providing relieving teachers would have been of the order of \$40 000, give or take \$5 000 or \$10 000.

Dealing as it did with intelligent people, one wonders whether there might not have been a less costly way of imparting the knowledge to the teachers concerned. In bringing this matter to the attention of the House, I am not being critical of the Minister because I and other members know that much of the funding for education comes from Federal sources, and those Federal sources dictate where it shall be spent.

However, it seems to me that perhaps our Government should be looking a little more critically at the way these funds are being applied in some of these peripheral areas. I would like to think that the money saved in this particular instance could have been better applied to higher priorities. For instance, in my electorate great pressure has been brought to bear on me for the Government to provide year-11 and year-12

classes at the Bullsbrook District High School, because of the distances pupils must travel.

Sitting suspended from 6.15 to 7.30 p.m.

Mr HERZFELD: Before the tea suspension I was referring to expenditure on an in-service course and suggesting that perhaps the money that had been used could be better used for other things, including consideration being given to the extension of years 11 and 12 at the Bullsbrook District High School, which is in my electorate, and to providing changing rooms at the Toodyay High School. I am well aware that the Minister and the Government are conscious of the need to reassess and re-evaluate expenditure on education, and because the matter is in good hands I shall leave the subject at that point.

I wish to deal with one other matter in the time allotted to me; that is, Aboriginal welfare. I was pleased to note that in his Speech the Governor made reference to the fact that the Government intends to upgrade facilities for Aborigines. I wish to make it quite clear that I am not just another soft touch for promoting handouts, but in my electorate and those surrounding it there are major social problems for Aboriginal people including inadequate shelter. I do not believe that not enough is being done. I believe the record of this Government and the Federal Government during the last few years shows them to have been extremely generous with regard to expenditure on Aboriginal welfare. The most recent figures are not available to me but the latest report I have been able to obtain indicates that in the year 1974-75 expenditure on Aboriginal welfare by the Federal Government in this State was nearly \$17 million. This \$17 million was applied for approximately 34 000 Aboriginal and part-Aboriginal people in this State.

I do not get very excited either when I hear discussions about land rights because if one looks at the situation in this State one will see that those 34 000 people have approximately 19 million hectares of land, approximately 50 million acres, held in trust for them. If we work that out *per capita*, every man, woman and child has 1 500 acres. I do not begrudge them that land; it is a fact of life that they have it. But when I hear claims that their land rights are not being satisfactorily looked after, I become concerned.

We have not heard very much of what has been achieved to correct some of the injustices which have existed for a long time with regard to the Aborigines in this country because that sort of thing just does not make news. But there have been tremendous achievements during the

last five or 10 years. I believe one must be fair in these matters and recognise what has been achieved. Judging by some of the agitation that has occurred in some quarters, one would think that nothing has been done. It has been estimated that 200 to 300 people around the Swan Valley are inadequately housed.

The point I wish to make is that perhaps some of our priorities are wrong. I condemn the actions of those Aborigines who continually become involved in demonstrations of various sorts, be they marches, tents on various public places, or anything else. I believe that if they analysed the situation they would realise that this continual agitation does nothing to help them and will only antagonise the rest of the community. Because I have spoken to many of these people in my electorate, the question I should like to ask is what, or more correctly, who motivates these actions because my impression is that the motivation does not come from Aboriginal people themselves.

It appears that there are people who have an interest in providing the motivation, for whatever purpose, to create these hassles and to draw attention continually to the negative aspects of the situation. I recognise that much still needs to be done, particularly for those Aboriginal people in my electorate. I have shown an interest in their welfare and I have spoken to many of them. But not once since I have been a member of this place has a single Aboriginal person approached me with his or her problems even though I have made it quite clear in a number of ways that I am concerned about their welfare.

Those on this side of the House are often accused of having no interest in the welfare of the ordinary person and of showing interest only in big business people. I believe the record shows that when in Government those on this side of the House have achieved more in welfare fields for the people of this State and this nation than has ever been achieved by those opposite; but we never get any credit for it. I for one, as well as many other members on this side of the House, am concerned about the welfare of people and I shall certainly show this while I am in this place.

Confrontation in any area does not achieve anything. I believe discussion does. Because of this I offer myself to chair or to organise any meetings that the Aboriginal people in my electorate and surrounding areas would like me to arrange so that they may use me as a pipeline to the Government and the Premier for any problems they have and so that they may get together with all the interested groups, be they friends of the

fringe dwellers, the council, the Aboriginal people themselves, or any of their associations. I shall gladly call meetings on a continuing basis, if they like, to discuss their problems and to bring those problems to the place where something might be achieved. I have a feeling that this offer will not be taken up. I hope it will be and I repeat I am available for them to use whichever way they think fit.

The SPEAKER: The member has five minutes remaining.

Mr HERZFELD: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I believe there is a reason that the problems these people have are being tackled in the way we have seen over the last six months or more. I believe it stems from a sense of frustration and I offer some remarks in a constructive way, to try to help in some of the areas which are a source of frustration and could be improved. The two areas I see that cause this frustration are the question of administration and the question of priorities of funding.

On the question of housing, I have been able to establish that there are nine Government departments and associated bodies that have a direct influence on housing for Aboriginal people. There may be more that I have not come across. It must become very frustrating at times for the Aboriginal people. Certainly I found it frustrating when attempting to get information and was pushed from one department to another. I guess it all comes about because of a decision taken in 1972 when legislation was introduced to change the system that we had of administering Aboriginal affairs. Up to that date there was one department that looked after Aboriginal affairs. Today there is a whole host of them.

Mr Speaker, the bulk of funding for Aboriginal people comes from the Federal Government. I suggest that a federalism policy, if I might call it that, should be adopted in connection with these funds so that the State would become responsible for the disbursement of funds and to become responsible also for the implementation of priorities that it establishes. Hopefully, it might be possible to review the administrative structure that exists today and to rationalise it so that something more of a cohesive structure is achieved, something akin to the old Native Welfare Department. I believe that if something can be achieved in this area a lot of the frustration that is felt by some of the Aboriginal people will be removed.

The other question is one of priorities. I find it somewhat incredible that there should be people who have no adequate shelter when we consider

some of the projects that are undertaken with funds allocated by the Commonwealth Government for Aboriginal welfare. I instance one project mentioned in a report to the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority for the year ended June, 1975, and I will read from it as follows—

Reserve Improvements

Grant \$95 970—for the Beagle Bay Fencing project and to fence reserve No. 23345 Wyndham (Aboriginal Burial Ground). Both projects are continuing and expenditure has amounted to \$101 724. An application for an additional grant to cover the excess and to complete the projects has been lodged.

I wonder about priorities when \$100 000 is spent on fences. I believe if these priorities could be looked at at a State level instead of a Federal level we would achieve much more.

My time is running out and I would like to leave that matter for now. I started on a note of optimism and I intend to finish in the same way. In the 1960s this State bubbled with a great sense of purpose and direction. Men and women shared the feeling of excitement and achievement. The potential for a return to activity still is here. How quickly it comes and at what rate surely depends on a return to the sort of industrial relations which generate confidence and a climate conducive to investment.

Through my presence in this Chamber I pledge my commitment to the task.

MR WILSON (Dianella) [7.45 p.m.]: I thank members for the encouragement of their applause and their anticipated forbearance on this sole occasion as they stifle their interjections. It is no mean effort on their part because I am the third in a row to deliver a maiden speech. I thank them if only because of my past congregations which have always dutifully denied me the consolation of audible applause and equally dutifully refrained from the temptation to incite me by their knowledgeable interjections.

Mr Speaker, may I offer to you my sincere congratulations on your election to the onerous office you now hold. I wish also to congratulate other new members on their very impressive maiden speeches expressing as they did some of the great concerns of our time in a manner indicating deep appreciation for those they represent.

I am probably the strangest of the fine array of new members in that I am the first of my kind—the first clergyman to become a member of the Western Australian Parliament. The amendment

to the Constitution Acts Amendment Act removed the disqualification for membership for this tiny minority which we shared previously with undischarged bankrupts, debtors, traitors, and felons. Of course, it is not that we were ashamed to be aligned with such people but no doubt it was thought we might better represent them in the Parliament.

It was only a tiny reform but I regard it optimistically as an earnest of much more important constitutional reforms in the not-too-distant future. I am indebted to the learned member for Mt. Hawthorn for the part he played in bringing in the amendment and having it passed, despite the fact that a similar measure had been defeated a few years earlier in another place when the spectre of Ian Paisley was raised.

It may well be thought that the change of role that I have had to undergo has been more traumatic than in other cases. However, I have been very fortunate in the kind consideration and encouragement I have received from the people of Balga among whom I formerly lived and worked for eight years and whom I dearly love.

I am grateful also for the kind consideration I have received from Archbishop Geoffrey Sambell and his fellow bishops. I continue to hold his authorisation to officiate as a priest of the Anglican Church, although I am on leave of absence from any parish assignments. I cherish the links I am able to maintain in this way, links which go back to the very earliest days of my childhood.

There well may be those who see the role of priest and parliamentary representative as conflicting. I personally find no conflict. I have always understood Christianity as being concerned with the whole of life and hence that there is a close relationship between Christianity and politics.

My understanding of politics is that it is concerned with the whole nature of man's existence in society; that it is about the means by which decision-making is achieved in communities composed of individuals, and the resolution of potential conflict. But politics in our kind of society and democracy is party politics and the reason I sit on this side of the House and not on the other is, to some degree, because of accident of birth, but, in the main, because of personal conviction.

The important reference points of the development of my political consciousness are located in childhood experiences, experiences revolving around my father's life as a miner working in shocking conditions underground—always in

danger of falling to his death, being crushed by falling rock, or being eaten up inside by silicosis—while the real rewards of his labour were enjoyed by faceless men thousands of miles away in the City of London; or my mother's life, one long unending life of drudge and grind, just managing with the bare minimum; or the life of the poor placid black men who would call at the back door begging for tea and sugar in exchange for clothes props. All these points continue to refer me to the greatest need of all, the need for a more socially just society.

All these reference points led me, for instance, to question whether the Prime Minister was good beyond challenge, or whether Australia was the best country in the world. These were questions which led to convictions that the political order in which I was growing up and was to undergo for 23 unbroken years was quite definitely an enemy of sorts of my folks, or at least indifferent to their needs—even contemptuous of them.

It was out of this kind of deep personal conviction that I joined the Australian Labor Party because I was convinced then, as I am now, that it was the party which was concerned about winning a greater measure of social justice and following the valued policies of sharing and caring. It is as a member of that party holding dear to those ideals that I am proud to be here now.

However, that pride is balanced by the very humbling thought that I also stand here as the first parliamentary representative of the State electoral district of Dianella. Anyone who believes in parliamentary democracy must view the role of representing people as almost having a sacred significance, one to be handled with the greatest precision, the greatest perseverance, and the greatest compassion. I am very grateful to have the opportunity to serve as the first member of this new electorate, grateful to those who put their trust in me, and to the hundreds of campaigners, and to my wife, my family, and my friends who gave such staunch and unrelenting support in a very successful campaign.

The electorate of Dianella is a microcosm of the metropolitan area. It includes parts of several suburbs—a large portion of Dianella and sections of Morley, Noranda Hills, Nollamara, Balga, Girrawheen, and the whole of the new suburb of Koondoola. It is a growth area within fairly close reach of the city and has enough vacant State Housing Commission land for another 5 000 or so dwelling units.

The development of the \$10 million Mirrabooka town centre, including a large shopping complex and associated civic and recreational facilities,

designed to service the suburbs of the electorate, in the very near future will form a natural focal point and will facilitate the recognition of the electorate as an identifiable unit.

Perhaps I can illustrate something of the nature of the electorate and its people with the following examples: Koondoola in the north of the electorate is the newest section. It is one of the best planned Housing Commission developments in which land has been sold cheaply to those who qualify and homes have been built by private developers rather than by the commission.

There is a great deal of civic pride among the people in this new area. It came to the fore recently when local people heard of SHC plans to build extensive residential accommodation in the area. They made it quite clear that they wanted to have a say about the way their area developed. They are concerned that mistakes made in other older SHC areas should not be repeated in their own district.

In the south, Dianella is a much older and more comfortably established suburb, but unfortunately, not so well planned. Bad planning, or lack of planning, has resulted in people living in houses located too closely to major traffic arteries suffering the constant invasion of their lives by high-volume vehicle noise, in several cases in children having to cross major roads to get to and from schools, and in a number of very dangerous intersections.

The recently completed community recreation centre and playing fields being developed on part of Dianella's regional open space are proving a great boost to local sporting and recreational groups in a supposedly affluent area which, up to recently, has been starved of adequate community facilities.

The Balga portion of the electorate includes the Balga Senior High School which, in view of its relatively short existence, has played a significant part in the life of that community. In fact, the development of the school is a symbol of the development of the Balga community which has been marked by the determination of the people themselves to shrug off the unjustified disreputable name with which they were branded and to establish a high degree of community co-operation and pride.

The school has recently obtained a grant under the disadvantaged schools programme to provide study and recreational facilities, better standards of health and nutrition, the development of school-parent communication, and a remedial programme in literacy and numeracy.

The school is the first established school to be classified as a special school, a change which will operate from the beginning of 1979, and allow for a greater measure of local autonomy. The library of the school is providing an extended hours service on week nights and Saturday mornings to students, evening class students, parents, and other members of the community. The school has a very successful school council, comprising teachers, students, and community representatives operating as an advisory body to the board of the school. The enthusiasm and high commitment level of the staff of the school cannot be praised too highly, and the quality of care provided for the students is, indeed, very heartening.

Apart from the concern for my electorate and the individual needs of my constituents—which I regard as my predominant concern—I bring three other associated concerns with me into Parliament. The first relates to the developing strains in the relationship between the Parliament and the people. Ours is a time that has been marked by the shaking of foundations, and the shaking of institutions. There is no reason that the institution of Parliament should remain unshaken; better that than it be ignored or treated with disdain.

There is no doubt about the fact—and other speakers have referred to it—that Parliament and politicians are not held in high public esteem. There has been such an extreme polarisation of thought, such frequent recourse to vicious personal abuse and point scoring, and such an evasion of realities that people have simply stopped listening. Too often, when people listen in to parliamentary debates—and perhaps these remarks apply more to another Parliament than to our own—it appears that what is at stake is the ego of the politicians rather than the interests of the electorate.

The Parliament is in danger of becoming an island, cut off from the rest of the community. One major impression which has struck me since I have been here is that coming into Parliament is like entering another world.

Coming as I do from a very simple life style, I have been struck in many respects by the opulence of this place. There seems to be some sort of onus placed on new members to consider themselves as members of a kind of exclusive club for gentlemen—somehow apart from the everyday lives of ordinary people.

The concept of Parliament as a forum in which important issues confronting the State are debated by the parliamentary representatives of the people, who represent the interests of the people in terms of passing legislation which will

promote the well-being of the whole community, seems to be in danger of being lost. It is in danger of being lost for a number of reasons.

I believe the first reason is the increasing dominance of the bureaucracy. The bureaucracy is another institution which has its own inward-looking mechanism for self-preservation. We all must have experienced the shock, the indignation, and the frustration of being an ordinary member of the public who has come up against the bureaucracy and been made to feel that one is trespassing on the private preserve of someone else. The associated danger is the way in which we find ourselves swamped in masses of regulations which simply need to be gazetted to be binding on us. Most of the time the majority of us are unaware of them. They are never debated in Parliament or aired publicly. They come into force as the result of a decision by bureaucrats, unknown, unelected, and conditioned to believe that they are not rightly answerable to any person outside their own department.

A dynamic relationship between Parliament and the people is also put at risk by an authoritarian Government. An analysis of the history of the past 50 years will show that in times of economic crisis there have consistently been minority groups calling for strong government, or a messianic leader figure as the only solution.

Unfortunately, strong government is more often than not no more than a euphemism for the autocratic rule by one person, or by an executive elite. It is a style of government which spurns concepts such as participant democracy and consultation on a broad scale as being signs of weakness. It is uncomfortable and impatient with parliamentary democracy, and yearns for more executive control.

Strong government is paternalistic in the extreme, and can bear no criticism that calls it into question because it can survive only at the hands of a silent unquestioning majority.

The relationship is being damaged also by Governments of all colours and politicians of all parties who set up phoney instrumentalities with feigned concern for public participation and consultation in decision making.

Arnstein has drawn up a model of citizen participation as a ladder with the rungs in ascending order designated as manipulation, therapy, informing, consultation, placation, partnership, delegated power, and citizen control. The first five rungs of the ladder extend from manipulation, which is described as "almost a purely public relations exercise on the part of the power holder"

where people are placed on rubber-stamp advisory committees or boards for the purpose of gaining their support, to placation, where "a couple of poor people are placed on a board or decision-making body where they will inevitably be out-voted by the traditional power elite who hold the majority of seats."

Political and other community leaders often complain about public apathy. The main reason for widespread public apathy is that the majority of people have given up believing that anything they can do will make any difference.

The true partnership in decision making between Parliament and the people cannot be limited to the ballot box alone. Participation through the ballot box needs to be supplemented in such a way that participation by the ordinary citizen will be extended to all structures—Government, industry, schools, and so on.

As an example of the lack of opportunity for this kind of participation, I will quote from an article by Professor Tannock, Professor of Education at the Western Australian University. He said—

... One disappointing feature of education in Western Australia is the lack of community involvement in determining school policy, and the lack of genuine decentralisation of the planning and decision making process. It seems quite anomalous to me that non-Government schools, in all areas of the State, can function successfully with school boards, parents and professionals running their own budgets, determining policy and giving their children a satisfactory education, when such freedom and involvement are not available in Government schools. There seems no logical reason why school communities in the public sector should not exercise many of the same powers and responsibilities ...

It is only when participation by the ordinary citizen is extended into all structures that people will be enabled to reach their full potential. Only in this way can the powerlessness that individuals feel to effect any positive change for the better be overcome. Only in this way can the increasing depersonalisation of society be overcome so that all people, without exception, may play an active and responsible part in community programmes.

I also bring with me concern for urgent attention to be given to what has been called "the need to know" of hundreds of thousands of people in Western Australia. I quote from an article by

Tom Jenkins in *The West Australian* of the 30th July, where he says many of our people "feel cut off in suburbia. They don't understand what is going on, or know who to ask. They often do not understand information put before them."

The writer was commenting on the report of a major survey carried out in several local government areas south of the river by the School of Social Inquiry at Murdoch University. The recommendations arising from the report for the provision of opportunities for access to information should be studied by all levels of government. For example, to continue quoting from the article—

Education in "information skills" (how to find out what you need to know) may be as important in the technological jungle as conventional education.

Local, State and national Governments should all pay close attention to "the sense of isolation and loneliness rife in contemporary society."

True freedom of information is wanted. The report says that proposals by a Federal Government inter-departmental committee for freedom-of-information laws "suggest nothing which would substantially alter the present situation."

The places people go to seek information, e.g. council offices, are too cold and formal. They frighten people away.

As well as greater warmth and humanity, information sources need an improvement in quality. They should have longer opening hours or better staff, for example. The WA Community Welfare Department is singled out as doing "virtually nothing beyond its office setting to disseminate information about its services."

Members will know what I mean if they have ever tried to seek assistance for persons or families in crisis situations during weekends or after office hours. More often than not the places that may help with the problem are, to quote again from the article, "either closed, too far away, cost money or are cloaked in formal and bureaucratic fog".

The report offers suggestions about a new model community information system. The model extends from local resource persons through to mobile services, district branches in shopping centres, and finally some kind of central facility. It is suggested that the State Government Information Centre could be remodelled and expanded to

become "more than a front counter for Government departments". This is in spite of the fact that the centre is already receiving a wide range of requests for information.

The report points to the same conclusion which impressed itself on me after eight years in community work in an outer suburban area. It relates to the community's thirst for information and the provision of community information services. The report says, as quoted in the newspaper article to which I have referred—

As a society well aware of its need to plan for its citizens, Australia must consciously plan for its information resources to maximise benefits for ALL its citizens and recognise that a pressing need will exist for the next 20 years.

The third area of concern which I bring with me into Parliament is the yearning people have that some fresh form of moral integrity might take hold of their parliamentary representatives.

The year 1977 is not only the year in which the first preacher was elected to the Parliament of Western Australia; it is also the year in which a preacher was inaugurated as the President of the United States of America. No matter what members may think of Jimmy Carter's policies or his actions so far, it is hard to deny that his succession to the presidency symbolises a clean break with a tainted past and a new hope for a future marked by a closer approximation to justice for all the citizens of his nation.

The tendencies of the technological era are in a definite direction; they tend to aggravate the injustices from which people have perennially suffered and to unite the whole of humanity in a system of economic interdependence. They make us more conscious of the relations of human communities with each other, than of the relations of individuals within their communities. They obsess us with the brutal aspects of the collective behaviour of people. Furthermore, they cumulate the evil consequences of these brutalities so rapidly that we feel under a tremendous urgency to solve our social problem before it is too late. As a generation we are therefore bound to feel harassed as well as disillusioned.

In such a situation all the highest ideals and tenderest emotions which people have felt throughout the ages when they became fully conscious of their heritage and possible destiny as human beings together will seem from our present perspective to be something of a luxury. They will be under a moral disadvantage because they appear as a luxury.

We live in a time when personal moral idealism is easily accused of being hypocrisy and frequently deserves to be. It is a time when honesty—certainly political honesty—is usually possible only when it verges on cynicism. Although this is tragic, we are at least rid of some of our illusions. It is becoming more difficult to buy the satisfactions of the individual life at the expense of social injustice.

It is less easy to build our individual ladders to heaven and to leave the total human enterprise unredeemed of its excesses and its corruptions. But the kind of parliamentary representatives, the kind of Government that we all yearn for, will need to have substituted a new dream for the abandoned ones. This new vision, this new dream, will be based on the conviction that the collective life of mankind can achieve perfect justice, because justice cannot be approximated unless it is motivated by the passionate pursuit of its perfect realisation. Only such a fanaticism for justice will do battle with malignant power and "spiritual wickedness in high places".

Along with all other members who have come into this Parliament inspired by this particular fanaticism, I recognise that ultimately it must be brought under the control of reason and I can hope only that reason will not prevail over our pursuit of the perfect realisation of justice until justice for all has been approximated in this State.

MR TUBBY (Greenough) [8.21 p.m.]: I would like to join with previous speakers in congratulating you, Sir, on your appointment to the position of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. I am sure you will carry out the duties of that very high office in a most dignified manner. I have known you for quite some time, and I would like to mention, as a matter of interest to members in this House, that you, Mr Speaker, were born in my home town, the small country town of Morawa. So you had a very good beginning.

Mr Harman: A lot of good people come from Morawa.

Mr TUBBY: I would like also to congratulate the member for Cottesloe who very ably moved the Address-in-Reply. His speech contained some very interesting matter, and I congratulate him sincerely for the way in which he presented it. I know that he will make a very great contribution during his time in this Parliament.

I wish to refer to one matter mentioned in the Governor's Speech and that is the passing of some members of Parliament over the last 12 months. In particular I would like to mention

a colleague of mine who was also a very great friend—the Hon. Jack Heitman. Jack Heitman was a man of great experience. He came to Morawa as a lad back in 1927. He left Tammin to venture into another area because he had to pay an account of £36 for an operation. His mother was a widow and the family was battling along on the farm it was occupying, so Jack decided to branch out on his own to pay this sum owing. It took him 12 months to do so, and his life after this period was very interesting.

Jack Heitman was one of the most successful farmers in the northern agricultural area. He was a great family man, and he catered very well for his employees. He was always very highly regarded as an employer, and members are aware that farm workers in those days were employed on a different basis from that applying now. I believe if the same attitudes applied today the workers would achieve a great deal more satisfaction and pride in their work.

It was Jack Heitman's practice to reward his employees with very substantial bonuses, and many successful farmers in the northern agricultural areas today owe their success to the marvelous experience and benefits they obtained from working for him.

During his 14 years as the member for Upper West Province, Jack Heitman gained the highest respect of his constituents, from north to south and from east to west. He was held in high regard by people from all walks of life and I know many people who did not support his politics wholeheartedly did support him as a member of Parliament because they realised his wide experience and the fact that he had earned the success he achieved. It was extremely unfortunate that, with his untimely death, he was unable to enjoy the fruits of retirement to which he was looking forward.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity during this debate to draw attention to my electorate. Quite often I heard Sir David Brand, the former member for Greenough, refer to the Greenough electorate and its enormous possibilities for diversification. The area produces sweet oats, barley, wheat, lupins, fat lambs, export wethers, cattle, and pigs. In the field of mining we produce ilmenite, monazite, rutile, and zircon, and of course, there is a talc mine at Three Springs. Also in the electorate there are deposits of gold, lead, copper, and iron. I am sorry the member for Collie is not present in the Chamber, as I would like to inform him that we have substantial reserves of coal; although

perhaps they are not as easily accessible as the coal at Collie, it is very nice to know that the reserves are there to be called on if the Collie coal runs out.

Mr Bryce: It would not be as good as the Collie coal though.

Sir Charles Court: You've got him scared now.

Mr TUBBY: The western section of the electorate is bounded by the Indian Ocean and from the furthest point south—the town of Greenhead—to Kalbarrie in the north we have an abundance of rock lobsters and wet fish.

Mr McIver: Good footballers too.

Mr TUBBY: As members know, the rock lobster industry is a substantial export earner for Western Australia, and because of its rock lobsters, the area to which I referred has become world renowned.

Because of the long coastline, we have tremendous tourist attractions along the coast right up to Kalbarri. Added tourist attractions are the wonderful gorges and the national park at Kalbarri. Unfortunately because of the drought the national park is not at its best this year.

Inland, where usually we have some of the prettiest sights anyone could wish to see with the wonderful everlastings and other wildflowers, unfortunately today we see an area of devastation. The area of the coastal plains is also world renowned and anyone seeing for the first time a collection of our wildflowers would find it hard to believe that they are indeed natural wildflowers of Western Australia.

Around the Greenough flats and through Walkaway we have the additional tourist attraction of historic buildings. Indeed, we even have the Hutt River Province in the electorate.

Mr Skidmore: It is not in your electorate, according to Prince Leonard.

Mr TUBBY: Perhaps I should say that my electorate surrounds the Hutt River Province. In spite of the criticism directed at the Hutt River Province, I must say it is a great draw-card so far as tourists are concerned, even if it is a once-only type of tourist attraction. I have been invited to the Hutt River Province but I have not been there as yet. I presume if I were to go there I might even be knighted.

My electorate also surrounds, as members would know, the fast-growing regional centre of Geraldton. Because of the additional facilities that are being provided at Geraldton, it is going to be looked upon more and more as the centre for the mid-west region. All the

items I have mentioned which are available in this region are going to be exported through Geraldton.

There is also the uranium at Yeelirrie which is causing so much discussion at the present time, and we hope when that is eventually mined it will be exported through Geraldton.

Mr Barnett: You have no chance of doing that.

Mr TUBBY: We have other minerals in the area that I have already mentioned, and we expect those to be exported through Geraldton. It is rather interesting to hear the comments of the member for Geraldton who is trying to promote the growth of Geraldton by creating numbers of houses and population. I believe firstly we should do everything possible to promote industries which are going to use Geraldton as their outlet, and let the population and houses be the natural growth as the result.

Since I have been in this House, every time I have spoken I have mentioned the drought situation. Until the rain we have had this last week, I do not believe we had one decent rain in this area since I was elected as a member of Parliament on the 1st November, 1975. In the worst affected areas, which are the areas east of Wongan Hills and Mullewa—

Mr Barnett: You should change your party and we will fix things up for you.

Mr TUBBY: —the stock numbers are down by at least 85 to 90 per cent. Some people say that the situation looks brighter this year than it did last year, but it is only because the country looks a little greener with fewer stock in the area that they say this.

Mr Blaikie: Is this going to affect the farmers' incomes at all?

Mr TUBBY: I will mention that in a minute.

The worst affected areas naturally are those with heavy soil types which provide the high-quality, high-protein wheat. I would say that the quality and protein content of the wheat exported from Western Australia last year, and this year, will reflect the unavailability of the grain from that high producing protein area.

These droughts are having a drastic effect on farmers and small businesses and many farmers are in a serious financial position. Last year because of the payment situation and the good years prior to 1976, farmers were able to have fairly substantial payments coming in which, to a degree, alleviated the effects of the complete wipe-off last year.

This year the farmers have been hit a second time. I must say the area is not quite as extensive this year because the western fringe of my electorate is going to have a reasonable season, although not a good season by any means. In spite of the good rains we have had this last week, the area east of the line is looking at only a seed-back situation. This is rather serious in view of the rising costs that these farmers have to meet and throughout the area farmers have been consulting in groups, which I believe is a very good thing because they are able to discuss the situation. I hope they will be able to assist in giving the Government an assessment of the situation and the financial needs of the area.

Members have probably noticed the heading "6-figure drought loss claimed" in today's paper. I will read the article which is as follows—

The average farmer in areas of the northern wheatbelt is said to have lost \$150,000 to \$180,000 in potential earnings because of drought last year and again this year.

That would apply only to an average farmer and in anybody's terms that is a considerable loss, and also a considerable loss to the State as a whole. The article continues—

The estimate was made at Tardun, south of Mullewa, where a meeting of farmers this week formed a northern wheatbelt disaster committee.

About half the estimated 1600 farmers in the area have been affected by drought this year.

That would be the second time. It goes on—

Last year about 2400 farmers in 25 shires in the northern and eastern wheatbelts were affected by drought.

Mr J. Burges, of Tardun—

Incidentally, he is a small businessman. To continue—

—said yesterday that a committee would investigate conditions and ask farmers to provide estimates of the financial help they would need to stay on their properties.

I can assure members that it is quite frightening when one looks at the figures showing the amount of assistance that will be required to enable these farmers to carry on. As at the beginning of last year, I would say that all of these farmers would probably have been in a better position than they had been for the last 30 years. The article continues—

Many farmers who had not harvested any grain last year would get little this year.

That is referring to the area I mentioned as being only a seed-back situation. It continues—

Some had heavy financial commitments for property and plant and had borrowed heavily to put in this year's crops.

Therefore I believe the farmers will be looking to a moratorium on debts to allow them some relief and to enable them to carry on. The article continues—

Mr Burges said: "Many of these farmers will not get any income till 1978-79, based on conditions so far.

It is quite a frightening prospect when one considers that the farmers have no stock and no income and it will be December next year before they can expect to see a star on the horizon. Even then their incomes will be mainly from grain, because of the grain payment situation which is quite satisfactory normally. The first payment the farmers receive for their grain is only the recognised cost of production.

However, the attitude of the farmers in the area is tremendous when one considers the problems they face. As members would have heard, a lot of publicity has been given to the efforts to create rain and the groups that have been formed. The main group is called the Northern Rain Seekers which was organised approximately three weeks ago to get together and collect funds. Each member paid a voluntary levy, I think one could call it, of \$50 and the response was absolutely tremendous. Only last night the total figure collected by the group was quoted as \$26 000. An eight-weeks' programme has been worked out. It will cost \$100 per day to have the plane standing by and \$100 per hour while the plane is operating. The budget for eight weeks has been calculated at approximately \$20 000. The group is hoping to be able to have a reserve so that, if necessary, they will be able to begin operating very early next year.

I have attended a number of Farmers' Union meetings and many meetings called to form these groups. Last Monday night I was at a meeting in Northampton. Wherever I have been throughout the drought areas, farmers have been very complimentary indeed about the amount of assistance they are receiving from the Western Australian Government and they cannot speak too highly of the ready experience and advice that has been made available to them by the Government departmental officers, the Minister for Agriculture, and the Premier.

I can assure you, Sir, they are certainly very grateful indeed for that assistance. With the seriousness of the situation, one would think that

farmers would tend to be a little critical, but I have heard no criticism whatsoever and I think that is a credit to the Government.

Mr McIver: They have voted for the Government all their lives; why should they change?

Mr Old: That is a good point.

Mr McIver: It might make it rain.

Mr Old: It might.

Mr Blaikie: I think the performance of the member for Morley last night caused a couple of inches of rain!

Mr McIver: They didn't say that last year; they couldn't have been more critical then.

Mr TUBBY: This effort to help themselves has certainly created a great deal of publicity right throughout Australia, and it is interesting to note that throughout the area which was seeded during two days last week when the cloud formation was suitable for this type of operation, there was an indication of additional rainfall in the area defined by a line running roughly from Coorow directly north to a point half way between Mullewa and Geraldton, and to the eastern fringe of the wheatbelt.

Mr Barnett: Organised by the TWU caravan.

Mr TUBBY: It is also interesting to note the amount of information that has been made available on this matter, and in this respect I would like to quote a report from the Department of Primary Industry on cloud seeding experiments in the Eastern States. The report is dated 1967, and reads as follows—

Last year both Victoria and New South Wales used cloud-seeding aircraft over the dry wheat areas. In the case of New South Wales two aircraft were used. Whether these led to the record 1966-67 wheat crop it is hard to say, but it may be significant that during the two previous years (when little seeding was carried out) crops were well below average.

The Victorian operation, in which CSIRO co-operated with the Victorian Department of Agriculture, was carried out over 10 000 square miles of the Victorian Mallee, from Nhill in the south-west to Swan Hill in the north-east. Rain fell evenly over 98 per cent of the area and the average rainfall rose by 1.1 inch—or about 24 per cent.

The Victorian Department of Agriculture estimated the extra rain was worth more than \$2 million to Mallee wheat farmers. Other sources estimated the extra wheat

harvest as a result of the rain to be worth \$6 million. The cost of the 18-week operation: a mere \$15 000.

The costs of rainmaking can now be assessed quite accurately. Over average terra CSIRO puts the cost at approximately \$50 000 per annum per aircraft. This includes all operational costs, the salaries of air crew, seeding materials, etc. A single aircraft and crew can effectively seed an area of 10 000 square miles. This figure gives an overall cost of less than 1.3 cents an acre per year.

The difficulty arises when one attempts to match these costs against the value of any rain which falls. This is, of course, a highly variable figure, hard to assess, and dependent upon the field of operation.

In a hydro-electric catchment an immediate cash return is obtainable for all additional water put into dams. Under these conditions it has been reliably estimated that a 1 per cent increase in rainfall pays for the whole rainmaking operation. A 10 per cent boost would therefore represent a handsome profit.

In purely agricultural regions the break-even point is far harder to assess. In some circumstances an increase of as much as 5 per cent in rainfall may be needed to show a profit, but in many cases the timing of the rainfall is the critical factor and even a slight increase in precipitation may be worth millions in such a situation. In the case of the Victorian Mallee the break-even point is regarded as about half of one per cent if rain can be produced during the growing season.

CSIRO has thus handed over the practical use of rainmaking techniques to the State. To this end it stages an annual course in cloud seeding for State officers. Victoria and New South Wales are already well on the way towards regular use of rainmaking techniques and Tasmania is well-advanced in the experimental phase.

The results of that rainmaking are exciting and encouraging, especially when we consider the tremendous area of Western Australia that is water deficient. However, when we consider the conditions which are needed for this type of operation, the situation is not so encouraging because it is necessary to have a cloud formation that is almost about to rain before conditions for seeding are right. Probably we will never get the cloud formation we need for this work in much of our area that is so dry.

However, I can see a number of legal complications arising out of the use of cloud seeding. It was left to me to investigate this aspect through our Attorney-General, and his first comment was that farmers or station owners in the normal rainshed area of that particular rainfall belt could take legal action against those involved in cloud seeding for depriving them of rain they would possibly have received by natural means. Also we could have the situation of someone being flooded out, and legal action could be taken in that regard. However, it was indicated that liability would be very difficult to prove in each case.

I did mention the amount of interest that was shown in a gentleman who had been involved in a rainmaking experiment in South Africa. He rang me from Albany to inform me of the success he had had in South Africa. An aircraft was not used in that case; those concerned used a slow-moving rocket which was preset to explode at a predetermined height and a predetermined temperature, so that it would explode in ideal conditions. He indicated that amounts of rain of up to five inches fell over a defined area.

That type of operation sufficed as far as South Africa was concerned because the people there were looking for rain over only a small area because of a drought in a nut plantation.

I believe that in October the SWATS study group report will be tabled, and no doubt a number of recommendations will be made arising out of the report. An aspect of the study to which I would like to see attention given is the method of bulk handling grains and fertilisers in my electorate. No doubt this would apply almost right throughout areas of Western Australia which are served by the 3 ft. 6 in. gauge railway line. Here we have the use of old trucks that were not built to handle bulk materials. They are most unsuitable for the work, and it is amazing that they have been permitted to continue in service for so long.

In order to fit these railway trucks out for the bulk cartage of grain they must have a lining of some sort, so one finds that pieces of paper or hessian are used to plug up the holes. It is not unusual to see these trucks leaking when they are stationary in the sidings, and one can well imagine the tremendous loss to the industry from leakage when the train is actually in motion.

Farmers in my area have shown great interest in the type of equipment used for the transport of ammonium nitrate from Perth to Meekatharra. Containers, each with a capacity, I suppose, of anything from five tonnes to 10 tonnes are mounted on ordinary flat-top trucks; they are

filled with ammonium nitrate and carted to Meekatharra. On arrival at Meekatharra, the containers go under a gantry which lifts them from the flat-top trucks and places them on the waiting road transport for the journey further north.

From the practical farmer's point of view, this seems to be a most economical means of conveying goods, and could have particular application to the cartage of superphosphate and grain. In fact, we have been looking at the possibility of using this method to cart superphosphate. On arrival at the siding, the containers could be removed from the flat-top trucks by means of a large front-end loader and emptied direct into the farmers' trucks.

The present situation is that they are carted in open trucks and manually transferred to the farmers' vehicles. As I mentioned, some sort of lining is required to prevent leakage from the railway trucks. When the trucks reach the particular siding, the farmer himself must unload them. He uses an elevator which he roughly lines up alongside the railway truck and he then bashes the door open, hoping that the nitrogenous fertiliser or whatever finishes up in the hopper used for unloading, and not on the ground.

After the initial unloading is completed, the farmer must then use a Clark shovel to transfer the bulk of the remaining superphosphate or grain. For those who are not familiar with this equipment, a Clark shovel is a manually-operated shovel connected to a long chain. The shovel is dragged into the truck, and when the farmer applies pressure on the chain the shovel grabs the material in the hopper and transfers it to the farmer's truck. Approximately two-thirds of the railway truck may be emptied by this method, and the remainder is shovelled out by hand.

This type of operation goes on during the months of January, February and March and, with temperatures usually in excess of 40 degrees, it is not a very pleasant task. Most of this type of work today is done by the farmers themselves. In heat which makes many workers stop work, the farmers and their sons have no alternative but to keep working to unload the trucks as quickly as they can in order to avoid the demurrage, which would result in a charge for leaving the trucks loaded beyond a prescribed period.

The method of carting ammonium nitrate would appear to be a very cheap means of providing a much better service to the farmers and would lead to a substantial increase in the amount of superphosphate conveyed by rail. Carting superphosphate by road beyond a distance of 50 or

60 miles is not a particularly attractive proposition from the farmer's point of view because, with today's high cost of labour, most farms are down to a one-man operation. The farmers and in some cases the farmers and their sons usually are busily occupied with the running of the farm.

Mr Pearce: What about saying something about the Mullewa-Meekatharra line?

Mr TUBBY: I am not referring to the Mullewa-Meekatharra line; I am referring to the Mullewa-Midland line. I know the condition of the Mullewa-Meekatharra line; the honourable member does not need to point that out to me.

Mr Pearce: What about saying something about it? It is in your electorate.

Mr TUBBY: Mullewa is in my electorate but it is only a small section of line.

Mr Pearce: The people of Mullewa are going to be very badly affected by this decision. I was up there two or three weeks ago, and they are very concerned about the prospect of losing the line.

Mr TUBBY: I appreciate their concern; I am not happy at the thought of any railway line closing in a developing State such as Western Australia.

Mr Pearce: Your Government is going to close it.

Mr TUBBY: The Government has not said that, has it?

Mr Pearce: The Government is not answering questions on the subject, but there is no prize for guessing what will happen.

Mr TUBBY: No doubt the questions will be answered at the right time.

Mr Pearce: We have asked you enough questions about the matter.

Mr TUBBY: I believe the bulk-handling method I have suggested will lead to cheaper handling of the various commodities transported by rail because of the greatly reduced labour required to empty the trucks at their destination. Under the present system a tremendous amount of labour and time are required to make the railway trucks suitable for the cartage of bulk materials, and they must be cleaned after each use, which involves additional labour and cost. Also, there is a very real risk that this method of cartage may result in the spread of noxious weeds.

If we used the type of container presently used to transport ammonium nitrate, the farmers at the other end could hire loaders to receive the bulk product, and perhaps a levy could be

made on the tonnes of, say, fertiliser handled, thereby offsetting the costs of the scheme. I am sure such a proposal would gain the full support of the farmers concerned. I have always been greatly concerned about the apparent unnecessary cost and waste of time in transporting bulk products from Perth or Midland to the rural areas, and the length of time railway trucks must remain at the various sidings. With the co-operation of the farmers, when a number of railway cars arrive at a particular siding, loaders could be waiting to receive the superphosphate. This would result in a much quicker turnaround of the rolling stock and thus a great deal more superphosphate could be transported in a given time, at a lower cost and with a greatly reduced amount of rolling stock than presently is the case.

I refer now to the problems of storing superphosphate and other fertilisers in country areas. I know that for some time, people in Merredin have discussed the possibility of establishing an inland storage area for superphosphate. However, I believe the farmers' storage areas are sufficient for their seasonal requirements, and using the method of transport I have suggested would eliminate the necessity to set up an inland storage area and would avoid double-handling the product, which is inherent in any central storage scheme.

In moving around the 11 shires and 13 towns within my electorate. I have noticed a serious shortage of skilled tradesmen in the smaller towns. It has often occurred to me that the various shires should be given the responsibility of maintaining the various State and Federal Government buildings within their areas, in addition to maintaining the shire buildings. If shires were made responsible for the maintenance of State Housing Commission dwellings, hospitals, police stations, and the like, they would be able to employ skilled tradesmen on a permanent basis. The Minister for Works informed me yesterday that, wherever possible, preference is given to local tradesmen to carry out these maintenance jobs.

I think this is a very good move but in order to give work to local tradesmen, the tradesmen have to be there in the first place and in many of these smaller towns the amount of work is so insufficient that tradesmen and their families are not attracted to them. If tradesmen were employed by the shires, the shires would provide accommodation for them and if there was not sufficient work on the type of maintenance I have just mentioned the tradesmen would be available

to work for private interests. This would be good for decentralisation and would bring more families into the smaller country towns.

I think the Government would also benefit because I have noticed that when I visit schools and other places items of maintenance are mentioned. They are usually only of a minor nature but it appears to be the procedure that tenders are called and contracts are let only when there is enough work to warrant them. I have noticed that when some jobs are first noted they are only of a minor nature but by the time they are finally attended to they are of a major nature and involve more cost.

Another item of concern is the development of coastal towns. I refer to two towns in particular—Leeman, which the member for Moore would know all about, and Kalbarri. Both of these towns are about 130 kilometres away from the central town in the shire. Their distance from the shire centre and shire amenities is a great burden to the shires concerned because it is necessary for everything to be duplicated.

I refer particularly to Kalbarri because it is a tremendous tourist attraction which is known throughout Australia and a wonderful road has been provided to it. At present it is catering for far more tourists than it is capable of handling satisfactorily. I recently visited Surfers Paradise to represent this Parliament in a bowling carnival and after I saw the way the authorities have capitalised on the wonderful natural features in that area it made me wonder whether we may regret the type of development that has been allowed to go on at Kalbarri. I wish a little more planning by the Government to cater for tourists could have been done in the earlier stages.

When I was speaking of the drought situation I omitted to mention the concern with regard to the wheat quota system. In the areas which have twice been recently affected by drought there is great concern over the wheat quota system because in the near future these farmers will be making their arrangements for carry-on finance for the next year. I shall give an example of the iniquitous system which exists at present and the effect it is having on these people. If one starts off with a base quota in June, 1976, of 1 000 tonnes, under the present system one takes 80 per cent of that—800 tonnes—for actual delivery at the end of 1976. If we then take into consideration the immediate past history of 20 per cent we reach a base quota of 800 tonnes in June, 1977, and 80 per cent of that brings us back to 640 tonnes in October, 1977. If one goes on for two years with no production one's quota entitlement will go down just at a time

when one wants to be going the other way if there is to be any hope of retrieving the financial situation. To return to the base quota that was held in 1976 one would need to produce 1 800 tonnes in 1977-78. If 1977-78 is a wipe-out one will be back to 510 tonnes. This is a rather drastic situation. I should like some consideration to be given to this situation because it will be taken into consideration by the financial institutions when farmers arrange their carry-on finance.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank you for your indulgence. I hope the information I have provided to the House is of some interest and I hope it will be considered when developments take place in the area.

MR SKIDMORE (Swan) [9.07 p.m.]: I should like to deal with two matters tonight. One of them was touched on in the maiden speech of the member for Mundaring and the other is causing me a great deal of concern in regard to my electorate. It has not been easy for even my predecessors to right a wrong which has been perpetrated on people living in the electorate of Swan. They have been reasonably successful with regard to the smell from the abattoir and I am able to leave that subject alone.

Mr Old: You fixed that all right.

Mr SKIDMORE: I did not fix it at all. I certainly would not be so egotistical to claim that, but my efforts and the efforts of others at least made the board conscious of its responsibilities in that regard.

The issue about which I want to take the Government to task tonight is the lack of sewerage in an area which is in desperate need of assistance in this regard because of the health hazard existing in the Swan electorate.

As members will realise, the problems are that septic tanks and leach drains on top of virtually impervious subsoil create a disaster area. With the tendency today to construct dwellings on sand pads, when a leach drain is constructed in a bank of sand the sewage leaches out onto the next-door property which has not been built on and rotten stinking sewage lies on the ground between two houses. I have raised this issue with the Swan Shire and the Mundaring Shire and on each occasion I have been told not to get uptight about it because it is really not a health hazard and it will eventually disappear. I have been told that nature will take care of it and the effluent will soak away.

The area of Midvale in the Swan Shire is a disaster area because effluent now has no other place to go than down the street gutter. This is

a repeat of the performance that occurred at Koongamia after the health engineers in the Housing Commission determined on three occasions that the best way to get rid of effluent from overloaded septic systems was deliberately to pipe it into the storm water drains.

The only time attention was drawn to this was when the sewerage department, under Federal funding, when constructing a drain cut three pipes, and wondered where they came from.

It is not possible for the sewage to drain away in Midvale. It lies on the ground. When I spoke to the health surveyor from the Mundaring Shire I received a degree of helpful consideration, but that is all. The shire is apparently not greatly concerned with co-operating with the Swan Shire in order to solve some differences of opinion so that they can make a joint appeal to the Government for assistance. They merely ignore the problem. They do not believe that it is any concern of theirs and they are not interested in taking any action. Therefore I have no recourse but to raise the matter here and appeal to the Government to make every effort to overcome the problem.

We are very fortunate that we have had a dry winter to this stage.

Mr Blaikie: We are unfortunate.

Mr SKIDMORE: Midvale is fortunate. If the member for Vasse wants me to comment on the plight of the country people in this regard, I say that the shortage of rain in country areas is a tragedy. I am conscious of that fact so the member for Vasse should not try to make political capital out of my speech. It ill-becomes him.

Returning to the sewerage problem, if the Minister would like to accompany me on any Friday or Saturday I could take him to a certain establishment which delivers the amber fluid to its customers, and I could show him raw effluent running out of a drain because it has been deliberately piped into the street gutter. I could also point out to him other problems associated with the overflow of effluent from the sand pads to which I have referred and which are supposed to solve the problem. Like all liquids, the effluent finds its own level and it runs between the sand pads and accumulates in an area within the jurisdiction of the Swan and Mundaring Shires. Those shires had a considerable amount of money allocated to them last year to enable them to undertake a drainage scheme in the Blackadder Creek area, but they will not even talk about the matter.

I have approached both shires. The Swan Shire engineer has studied the situation but there

is a line of demarcation and neither shire dares go over it. I went to the Mundaring Shire and the officer said he could not tackle the problem unless we could get the Swan Shire official to agree. Then I approached the Swan Shire and I was told that it would do something if only the Mundaring Shire would agree. All I am asking is that the two shires act responsibly and at least talk about the problem and spend the money which was available under the last Budget to undertake the work concerned.

I have since approached the department and I understand it has taken the initiative on the matter. I am not sure how far it has progressed in its endeavours, but it has stated that the Blackadder Creek project comes under its jurisdiction. I have asked it to do the work in an effort to alleviate the problem.

What concerns me is the failure of the State Government to undertake a more realistic attitude in an endeavour to achieve something concrete.

I would now like to leave the Swan View area and refer to an old established section of my electorate. It has been settled for 50 years. Most of the homes would have been completed for at least 20 or 25 years, but still they do not have the benefit of deep sewerage. It is all very well for the Government to say that developers must bear the cost of providing sewerage systems in new areas, but really they are not required there for many years because a good septic tank system would cater adequately and would not be a drain on the Government's resources. In this way the Government could use the money which it now spends in the new areas to cater for those whose properties have been established for many years.

Bellevue is the old established area to which I am referring. In Bellevue the residents suffer the indignity of having effluent escaping on the ground and creating a health hazard.

I hope some effort will be made by the Government as a result of my overtures so that the houses which have been established for 50 years will be catered for. Certainly the Minister for Health should be considering the health hazard created in the area. I would like him to note that I will be only too happy to accompany any of his officers to the problem areas I have mentioned. Of course there will not be too much evidence of the problem at the moment, because of the shortage of rain, but it would have to rain for only three or four weeks, by which time the problem would be very evident.

I now leave that subject and deal with a matter about which I have spoken before. I have referred one problem to the Minister for Health and

I understand he is also responsible for Aboriginal welfare which is being funded by the Federal Government. I was interested to listen to a speech earlier tonight in which the member for Mundaring mentioned the problems confronting the Aboriginal community. He stated that maybe his offer of assistance would not be accepted. I do not want him to be disappointed if he is kicked by the Aborigines on the way up and also on the way down, because that seems to be the treatment meted out to those who try to help them. They are entitled to kick us because we have done so little for them in the past. However, it does become a little discouraging when we try to help and we are accused of not helping.

I wish to relate to him my experience so that he will not be disappointed if his overtures are rejected. One of the leading lights in the Aboriginal community once told me in my office that I was a racist and that I had no affinity with the Aboriginal people. He said that as far as he was concerned I was of little consequence. I then went to a meeting and told the white community of the results of some deliberations and they told me that I was a racist because I was looking after the Aboriginal people.

I did not mind that so much, but last Sunday at a meeting was the same Aboriginal leader who had called me a racist but who had realised that he had been wrong and that I was going in to bat for him at the meeting. I was on Sunday accused by an Aboriginal employee of a Government instrumentality of being a racist because I was not looking after the white population.

I do not think that anybody should underestimate the tremendous problems associated with the understanding of the Aboriginal. He has been hurt desperately. He has been humiliated, denied, degraded, and has had everything done to him that would lower the dignity of any man and the sum result is that he has the right to say those things about me. I believe if we accept the challenge the Aborigines offer we may be able to do something for them.

I would like to read briefly from reports which have been made available and one report refers to the accommodation needs of Aborigines in Perth. It mentions some of the problems that the member for Mundaring related to us and refers to the number of agencies that Aborigines have to contact before they get any joy from their efforts. I am well aware that the Minister for Community Welfare has assisted the Aboriginal community to a great extent and I say now that praise previously has been given to this Govern-

ment, in this House, for its efforts and I am prepared to praise it again now. Recently, when it was possible for the Government to move, it moved quickly and was able to give the Aborigines tents and shelter that had been denied them. When the position was forced on the Government it offered to the Aborigines the necessary tents and services to enable them to live in some degree of comfort.

However, what about those Aborigines at Lockridge without shelters? The report says—

In relation to the 14 agencies surveyed the indications are that Aborigines are significantly disadvantaged when compared with the general population. Three of the 14 agencies responded that they excluded Aborigines from their services.

I can only assume that these are Government agencies as the report itself was produced by a Government agency. If this is so it is a condemnation of those agencies in that, because of race or colour, Aborigines are excluded. I hope my analysis of this report is wrong, but this is what it says—

However there are indications that, for a number of reasons, the exclusion may be greater. As the "supervisor" of the Aboriginal agency indicated.

"Sad but there is absolutely nowhere to go when you are Aboriginal. We try to put the women into either G or I but they don't like going there. There is absolutely nowhere for the men to go."

I am conscious of the need of the single Aboriginal in the Swan Valley; that poor degraded human being who has been forced to suffer the indignity of being called an alcoholic no-hoper. That is the opinion of many people in my electorate who have no knowledge of and no feeling for such people.

Of course, white people do not become alcoholics, as far as some white people are concerned! But they do, and we all know that. Recently in the Press we were able to read of derelicts who were living in Haig Park. There is a great need for a depth of understanding of people in this situation.

When I had to make an approach recently on behalf of the Aboriginal community I had to make it to four agencies that I thought could help. They were the Department for Community Welfare, the Aboriginal Advancement Council, the Aboriginal Lands Trust and the office of the Federal Minister for Aborigines, Mr Viner. Seeking to short-circuit this procedure and the documentation involved, I sought to get in touch with our local

Minister and send him copies of correspondence applicable to all the other offices. The Minister gave me the courtesy of a reply and took action but when it came to Mr Viner, of whom I have spoken in glowing terms previously, it was a different situation.

I think Aborigines in Western Australia are getting a poor deal with regard to funding. It would appear to me that a great quantity of finance is being poured into projects in the Northern Territory and other States. I do not denigrate or deny the great need of the Aborigines in those areas, but I say it is about time Western Australia received some money and the opportunity to secure premises for our Aborigines.

There was an institution in Guildford about to be closed down and put on the market that had previously accommodated aged white people. It was put on the market for a sum which would have made it a very good purchase to accommodate our homeless Aborigines in the Swan Valley. As well as being a hostel it could have been a stepping stone for employment opportunities but as I understand it, because of the dilly-dallying and inability of the various agencies to come up with a creditable performance, we just could not purchase it. It is now no longer available. It is to the discredit of those agencies that they did not move fast enough in that instance.

One would imagine that if such an opportunity arose for the purchase of such a place there would be a good deal of movement to effect the purchase. The agency officers should have got off their backsides and moved among the people who were in need of accommodation. Somewhere there is a hiatus but I do not know where it occurs. The people with whom we deal are frustrated in their efforts. There should be someone at the top to achieve a logical result and say, "Here is \$2 000 for such and such a purpose."

The member for Mundaring mentioned the disbursement of funds for the fencing of reserves which had exceeded the estimate in a manner which was wrong and improper. I would never make such a statement without knowledge of what the fencing was for. I assume it was to keep stock in and to allow the Aborigines to farm land in a logical and economical way. I do not believe the money was wasted. In fact, in the same report there are many features of Aboriginal effort which are of credit to them.

Many people look at the Aborigines and consider them as being unable to accept responsibility. However, I am sure there are many of us

who do not believe that. At the Mowanjumb settlement there is a new housing area which is working well. In the East Kimberley on the Forrest River there is the Oombulgurri settlement. The report indicates—

... the Oombulgurri project on the Forrest River has been almost three years in the process of resettlement away from the disrupting influence of alcohol and its attendant problems in Wyndham.

That is working very well. Some dignity is returning to the people concerned, although they still have problems. In the Pilbara the Nomads group has acquired Coongan Station as an adjunct to Strelley Station. Houses and a school have been erected in that instance. At Wiluna the Desert Gold citrus and melon farm has been developed but, unfortunately, that venture has become the centre of a storm as a result of the old problem of alcohol. The self-esteem and respect of the people have been destroyed virtually by alcohol. It is a great pity we cannot learn a lesson from the many other nations which have been subjected to the ills of alcohol, and have overcome them.

I now come to the vexatious question of Aboriginal children. I have been taken to task by the Aborigines, and I have been taken to task for assisting the Aborigines. Last Sunday I was out helping to re-erect the tents which had blown down. On many occasions I have assisted in the erection of tents in the Stirling Square area in Guildford. I have even gone to the extent of begging, borrowing, and stealing beds, blankets, and other material at various times in an attempt to assist the Aborigines. However, I do not consider I am a martyr, or that I understand the Aborigines any better.

The Friends of the Fringe Dwellers have been criticised. They are a very dedicated group of people but some members in this Parliament seem to want to make a political expedient of those people by way of destructive comments. That small group of people are interested in humanity, and they are endeavouring to do the best they can for the Aborigines. I might add that all of them are working people and they are not earning countless thousands of dollars each year which they can afford to spend on the Aborigines. They use their vehicles to take the children to various functions and picnics, and they are doing the best they can.

It ill-behoves members opposite to accuse those people of being political; they are nonpolitical. They are merely doing a job on behalf of the Aborigines. Returning to the subject of the

Aboriginal children, I will refer to a report on the Allawah Grove settlement. The report is headed, "The Principle of Assimilation in Practice 1958-1963". It is a detailed documentation of the trials and tribulations of the people who were settled in Allawah Grove. I am sure the report would have a tremendous impact on any person who has any compassion for human beings. The report points out where we went wrong, and what action should be taken to improve the conditions of the Aborigines.

I have been accused of wanting to set up another Allawah Grove in the Lockridge area, but that is not my desire at all. I suggested a type of communal village to fulfil the ideals of the Aboriginal people. They should be allowed to look after the village and run it for themselves, and progress to tents, shelters, and simple homes. They should have the choice to move out in their own time, and in their own manner.

I am pleased to be able to make my comments in the presence of the Deputy Premier who, I feel sure, will well remember correspondence on the question of housing for Aborigines. At the time, the Deputy Premier said there was to be no half-way measures; the standard of State Housing Commission houses was to be the same for black people as it was for white people. That was considered to be the most logical way to help the Aboriginal people, but the jump from tribal habits to living in State Housing Commission homes was too great. Something in between is required. The Aboriginal cannot be situated on one side of a river with no means of crossing to the other side; there has to be a stepping stone. The question is: how do we provide the stepping stone?

I believe we have to return to the concept of a communal village. I do not mean the Allawah Grove type of settlement; that was a disaster, but a lesson from which we should learn. Allawah Grove has a place in the history of our attempt to look after the Aborigines. The report on the Allawah Grove settlement includes the comment—

The residents of Allawah Grove were told that they must perform such activities as would enable them to take a place in white society. But quite often they were not given the means with which to attain the desired end.

For some 20 years I have been interested in the problems confronting Aborigines. The report on Allawah Grove covers the period from 1958 to 1963, and anybody who remembers Allawah Grove will agree there were problems.

On that occasion we told the Aborigines that they could have the well-established ex-Army camp which contained everything necessary to enable them to learn our way of life and then move into our community. However, it was a dismal failure because we did not provide the means for them to understand what was required. The report on Allawah Grove continues—

In April 1961, Mrs. E. M. Gare of the Allawah Grove Friends Centre wrote that "lack of education and unemployment are the causes of most trouble".

The report goes on at length; it is a tremendously challenging document. However, a most tragic and hopeless situation is set out in the following terms—

If the hopes for the Allawah Grove residents lay in their children's education, then in 1963 the prospects were not very bright. Oxer reports that the local school teachers with Aboriginal children in their classes, on the whole saw them as less able to succeed and as having lower school abilities than the rest of their classes. When asked to judge the Aboriginal children's relative to that of white children, nine were estimated to have equal motivation, and 13 were thought to have less than their class fellows. The teachers did not think that the children could succeed, and the parents for whom education had been of little value would "consciously or unconsciously pass on their attitudes of the futility of education to (their) children".

We have not made much progress in 14 years to provide better education for Aboriginal children. We have a self-perpetuating set of circumstances. We have a community that has not accepted the fact that Aboriginal children require something different from that now provided. Aboriginal children need something better in the way of education—not along the lines of racism or apartheid but assistance equal to that given to other children in our community who do not have the ability to understand fully what is going on, such as the slow learners. I use that term with respect. I refer to those people who do not even realise they cannot fully understand what is going on, and I am aware there has been considerable realism in that regard as a result of studies which have been carried out.

The parents of the Aboriginal children know the value of education for their children. If those children do not receive education the situation becomes a self-inflicted affair, and the system fails. I believe that is an area which should be looked at.

I am very disturbed at the attitude of some people towards Aborigines. I agree with the member for Mundaring that at times the problem of Aborigines is used as a political football. I have in my possession a document which was circulated by people who should have known better and should have realised their responsibilities. The document was put out by the Caversham-Eden Hill-Lockridge branch of the Liberal Party of Western Australia. On reading the document one would think we were almost looking at the question of apartheid, and the problem was a case of, "I am so much better than you, because I am white and you are black."

Members do not have to take my word for it. The document proves it and I will be happy to lay it on the Table of the House. It contains 13 points, the first of which is—

Why has Lockridge been chosen as the area to have yet another "Human Rights" issue pushed to its doorstep?

Some 40 defenceless Aborigines went to Lockridge in order to have a roof over their heads. They have never interfered with anybody else. They are placid people. If they fight, they fight among themselves. The second point is—

Why has the petition that gained 1 200 signatures been ignored?

It was not ignored. One might ask: How many of the 1 200 signatories to that document were eligible to demand a meeting of ratepayers of the Swan Shire? I think we could rule out about 1 000 of them. The fourth point is—

As the Alien Group involved in this dispute were living satisfactorily at Guildford, why have they been forced to move?

The alien group! One cannot imagine a more racist term being applied to those people who have been endeavouring to live at Guildford under the worst conditions one could ever see.

The area was totally unsuitable. The tents were being torn because they were of a primitive type. They were flooded out time and time again. They existed there because of the good will of St. Matthews Anglican Church until they said to themselves, "It is not good enough." I went there on many occasions in wet and dry weather and sat down and talked to them. They wanted to be moved to dry land and they asked to be moved to Lockridge. The area was found by the president of the shire, who felt it was satisfactory. The Government of the day and the Minister thought it was satisfactory. Then we received this petition mentioning "the Alien

Group" and asking why they were not left at Guildford. It is the old racist cry: "Put them in anybody's backyard but not in mine."

The sixth point is—

What are the rights of the Ratepayer in the Swan Shire with regard to the Maintenance of Health—Social and Law making processes of that Shire?

Some of the people who complain—that is, members of the Caversham-Eden Hill-Lockridge Branch of the Liberal Party—formed part of the group I addressed at a meeting in the Swan Valley. Some of those people are racist and they said, "We don't want them out there, either. Send them to Guildford." The Guildford people are saying, "Please move them from here on the ground of human ideals." The people at Lockridge have problems—we are well aware of the social disaster that high rise flats have been in many communities.

Point 10 is—

Why is it that a community of people are forced to live under conditions that no one in this hall would live under?

That does not refer to the Aborigines; it refers to the people at Lockridge who have a flat or house with sewerage, shower, toilet, cooking facilities, a roof that does not leak, doors and windows which operate, and everything else. This group of people who profess to be human beings are asking, "Why should they have to live like that", while the Aborigines have a leaky tent, a sheet of iron, an upturned motorcar, or a bridge pylon, and no shelter at all. They get drunk because there is no other way they can sleep and drink is the best sleep inducer they know. Those people say it is shocking to allow white people to live at Lockridge. They are using the Lockridge community as a buffer against their nastiness.

Point 13 is—

If these indigenous people are prepared to work either for their benefit or the community's, the area of contention wouldn't be as great as it is. Are they?

I might say when these Aboriginal people were moved into the valley in the early history of their endeavours they were exploited to the hilt by the vignerons. No effort was made to provide accommodation for them. If Albert Bropho failed to turn up for work, nobody bothered to find out where he was or whether he was sick or injured, because if he did not turn up somebody else would come along and pick his bucket of grapes. A suggestion was made that a place where they could be sheltered be provided at the vineyards but nothing was done about it.

We should give to these Aboriginal derelicts the privileges we give to the white derelicts. About 60 per cent of the problems facing the people in the Swan Valley are caused by alcohol. We have run away from that question because we have not been able to understand the requirements of the Aboriginal alcoholic. We cannot take the Aboriginal from a tribal hut and put him in a white man's house; nor can we treat an Aboriginal alcoholic in the same way as we treat a European alcoholic, for the obvious reason that the Aboriginal cannot understand why one wants to poke tablets down his throat. If he is told, "The tablets contain a drug which will help you to overcome your alcohol problem", he cannot understand; so he becomes frightened and perturbed and he runs away.

I have been speaking with these people for some 20 years and I do not understand them. I do not know many people who can understand them. It is a very vexatious problem. We must provide the facilities and I believe the State Government should move as quickly as possible to put pressure on the Federal Government for the funding which I know our present Minister desires for these people.

The pressure must be put on by all members. Would all members please assist by writing to the Federal Minister concerned saying, "We want a new deal for the Aboriginal community in Western Australia so that we can show a sense of responsibility towards them"? Collectively we may be able to achieve the objectives which have been pursued not only by me but also by the member for Mundaring, who has offered to help, and other members who have made a contribution. For God's sake give them a go! Get pen and paper out and write to the Federal Minister asking him to take action to provide the funds. The establishment is needed. For God's sake do not wait any longer!

MR SIBSON (Bunbury) [9.50 p.m.]: I wish to make some comments during this debate on the Address-in-Reply.

Mr Tonkin: Get your box!

Mr SIBSON: I sincerely hope that the *Hansard* reporters will be able to hear me from here. Some comments have been made about the three members in the back seats.

Mr B. T. Burke: The back stalls.

Mr SIBSON: The only comment I can make is that as I am a little taller than my colleagues in the back seats it will make me the highest person in the Parliament. That is my claim to fame.

I am rather sorry that the Speaker is not in his Chair, but I would like to congratulate you, Mr Deputy Speaker, on your appointment. I would, however, like to record my best wishes to the new Speaker.

Mr Tonkin: I will pass them on to him.

Mr SIBSON: May we all have forbearance with him in his endeavours to assist us to do the work we were elected for. I would like to congratulate all the new members elected to this House. There are quite a number of them, and I congratulate them regardless of their political persuasions. I welcome them here, and I assure them that if they are prepared to co-operate and work, their stay here will be enjoyable. Once again I would like to thank the staff of the House for their assistance in the past and, in advance, for their continued help in the future.

I would like to thank the electors of the Bunbury electorate for the support they showed me at the last election. Without wanting to sound egotistical, I believe the election result in Bunbury created history. From what I can discover, the previous highest majority was 510 votes, and at this election I achieved a majority of 714 votes.

Mr B. T. Burke: Well done!

Mr SIBSON: I appreciate the support that was shown to me, although I realise the majority may be considered small in comparison with others. For some 40 to 50 years now the Bunbury seat has been considered a marginal one and it is very encouraging to have received so much support. Again I thank my electors.

Mr Nanovich: You will never lose that seat while you continue to stand.

Mr B. T. Burke: Talk about the blind leading the blind! Where is your cardboard box?

Mr Watt: Do not start him on that.

Mr SIBSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, if I may interject—

Mr B. T. Burke: You may, but do not ask us to listen.

Mr SIBSON:—before proceeding to talk about my electorate, I would like, in his absence, to thank Sir Charles Court for his support and for that of the other Ministers—

Mr Tonkin: That is so you won't end up even further back.

Mr SIBSON:—during the last three years. I look forward to that continuing support in the next three years.

Mr B. T. Burke: A mutual admiration society.

Mr SIBSON: May I have time on afterwards?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please continue, and address yourself to the Chair.

Mr SIBSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I wish to pay a tribute to one of my electors who passed away recently, and I refer to Mr P. C. (Percy) Payne. This gentleman was a worker and a leader. He was a very colourful character in my electorate and in the south-west generally over many years. While one could not always fully agree with Mr Payne's views, there is ample evidence throughout the whole of the south-west of his contributions over many years of public life. He went about his work doggedly and he proved his worth in the business world, in local government, and in various other areas. I pay him this tribute on my own behalf, on behalf of the people of Bunbury in particular, the people of the south-west, and in fact, the people of Western Australia.

I would like to mention also another person who was presented recently with a jubilee medal—Mrs Stella Spencer Hayward. This lady has been a very hard worker in our community and she is a great supporter of many organisations.

I believe that our State is in a better situation economically than any other State in the Commonwealth. This situation is a credit to the present Government, and particularly to the Treasurer. It has come about because of the way the financial affairs of the State have been managed. Certainly we have an unemployment problem, but we are in the happy situation that our unemployment figures are lower than the national average, despite the fact that we are continually confronted with a fairly large influx of people from the Eastern States. Our unemployment figures are below the national average which is currently around 4.7 per cent of the work force.

The economy of the State generally is healthy and the programmes which the Government is endeavouring to initiate are commendable. These programmes will need a great deal more work on them, as well as more negotiation and additional finance from the various companies which are interested in development within the State. The Government must continually follow up the negotiations to ensure that everything possible is done to see that the projects get off the ground. In the long term the Government's policy will go a long way towards alleviating the unemployment problem.

I would like to comment briefly on the appointment of regional administrators. Seven regional administrators have been appointed in Western Australia, and, in the south-west, Mr Peter Beeson took up office in December, 1976.

He has now held this position for some eight or nine months, and it is worthy of comment that he has accepted the challenge presented to him as officer-in-charge of regional administration in the south-west. He has a very wide and deep understanding and knowledge of the way in which the Public Service and the departmental system works, and this knowledge has been of great assistance to him. He has worked diligently to improve the lot of people living in country areas, and particularly those in the south-west.

The roles of the regional administrator are many and varied. One of the areas being considered at the moment is the development of more employment within the south-west region. At the moment the region has a population of between 80 000 and 100 000, and it has been thought that perhaps some improvement can be made in the area of the Government sector without going beyond the growth rate set down by the Government.

When we consider the services provided by the Government in the form of Westrail, the Main Roads Department, the State Energy Commission, the Forests Department, the Department of Agriculture, and the Education Department we find that the input of people in those areas of the Government sector is running at about 7 or 8 per cent, which is fairly well in line with the rate in the city. However, when we consider the number of people who come within the ambit of the Public Service Board, we find that in the south-west the rate is running at about 2 per cent. So there is room for an improvement of 6 per cent in that sphere. I believe some of the areas I have mentioned could be expanded, bearing in mind the aims of the office of regional administrator.

An important point is that without employing extra personnel, people could be shifted around in the service between city and country areas; and particularly in the south-west because the population there is growing steadily all the time. I refer to an input of personnel in the areas of the planning, valuing, and design functions of the Public Works Department. The Titles Office is another department which could be expanded into the south-west of the State. Statistics is another area in which this could be done. I believe personnel could be stationed permanently in the south-west to compile statistics which are so necessary and vital these days.

The Bureau of Consumer Affairs could also open an office in this area as an adjunct to its head office, in the same way as the State Housing Commission, the Department of Agriculture, and

many other departments have already done. This would not only increase the population in the south-west, but it would also increase job and career opportunities within the service itself. It would also assist the private sector, allowing it to grow and to create more career and job opportunities at the same time.

So it could be said that those two moves, irrespective of how small they might be, would attract some very real benefit to the area and would not be just some sort of pumping up of a temporary nature. So, all in all, I see the role of the office of regional administrator as being a very real step forward. No doubt it will experience problems, and no doubt the office will need to be looked into from time to time and perhaps it may be necessary to lay down closer guidelines. However, that is for the future.

I would like now to make some comments on education. We have heard in recent times some strong debate about the direction we are taking in respect of education, with particular reference to the provision of financial assistance for the various facets of education. There is some doubt as to what the future holds so far as Federal finance is concerned.

I believe the most important factor in respect of education—bearing in mind that it uses the greater part of the moneys that become available to us—is the need to obtain better value for our money. We must look at this in an endeavour to give the people better value for their money, because it is their money that the Government is spending.

We must provide the people with an education system that is sufficient to educate them without wasting money or spending it unnecessarily. I believe one area in which this could be done is by looking at the design of buildings and the way in which they are constructed. It is popularly believed today that to educate and train people properly requires fabulous buildings.

As an example, the Graylands Teachers' Training College produces teachers just as good as—in fact sometimes considerably better than—the other teaching institutions in the metropolitan area. Therefore, it does not necessarily follow that elaborate and expensive buildings produce better educated citizens.

I know the Government has done a considerable amount of work in looking into the manner in which education funds are spent; and hopefully this work will continue with the thought in mind of providing a wider and better education system which is available to everyone and not just a selected few.

So far as Bunbury and the south-west are concerned, over the years there has been agitation for a university and a teachers' training college. Perhaps we are aiming a little high; although by that comment I do not mean that eventually we should not see those facilities in the south-west. However, perhaps what we should be aiming at is the provision of basic primary and secondary education, along with tertiary, technical, and further education facilities which will be available to as many people as possible.

I am told that if we were to build a university it would cater for about 8 or 9 per cent of the population of the south-west. However, perhaps by spending money more wisely, by extending the facilities already available, by extending the academic courses in high schools, and by broadening the aspects of technical and further education facilities which we already have, we will be more able to meet the needs of the people.

Mr McIver: Have you written to the Minister for Education on this matter?

Mr SIBSON: I speak to him every Saturday morning when we have a cup of tea.

Mr McIver: I did not ask that; I asked if you had written to the Minister for Education on this matter.

Mr Bryce: He is no longer the Minister.

Mr SIBSON: Yes, and there has been a lot of discussion and thought, and a great deal has been put on paper in regard to this aspect. We believe the south-west region is the ideal place to expand the educational facilities I am talking about, because the area involves reasonably small distances in comparison with the rest of the State.

Mr McIver: Do you realise Mr MacKinnon is no longer the Minister?

Mr SIBSON: The area has the population, and we believe it has the potential to develop in this way.

Mr McIver: Have you written to the Minister for Education?

Mr SIBSON: I think every member of this House has written to the Minister for Education at some time.

Mr McIver: That doesn't answer the question. Do you know who he is?

Mr Bryce: It is no longer Mr MacKinnon.

Mr SIBSON: I turn now to the subject of development of trade. The new inland harbour at Bunbury is now well established and operating, and it is pleasing to note that tenders were called recently for the building of the No. 2

general purpose berth. This will provide a great deal of employment in the short term, over the next 18 months or two years, and will allow the Bunbury Port Authority and the Government to provide additional services to shipping using the port. It will permit the export and import of goods which currently the port is unable to handle. So, that is very good news for my electorate.

I welcome also the proposed establishment of the alumina plants in the region. I refer, of course, to the Alcoa-Wagerup project and the Alwest project, further south. Of course, before these projects can get off the ground, extensive talks will be conducted between the Government and the companies involved to ensure that development is in the interests of everyone, not only from an industrial and business point of view but also, and more importantly, keeping in mind the environmental aspect.

The Government is committed to make sure that before any such industry is established in Western Australia its possible effect on the environment is carefully considered. It is not just a simple matter of establishing a new industry. This is especially so in my region, where we must set aside catchment areas for our water supplies, where the Forests Department is engaged in the management of forests and where diversified farming is engaged in producing within the region most of the agricultural products grown in Western Australia.

Therefore, new industries will be established only with the forebearance of all who are involved, including the people interested in establishing the project, the Government, local governing bodies, and the various instrumentalities within the region. A great deal of co-operation is needed from all sides and the company providing for the development must be careful to ensure that the right thing is done by the area.

Housing is a real problem throughout Western Australia, and the situation in my electorate and in the surrounding area is no exception. Whilst not growing at boom strength, the area is growing quickly enough to cause a shortage of suitable rental and purchase accommodation. We must bear in mind the financial restrictions under which the State Housing Commission must operate and the difficulties surrounding the home-building industry generally. It is no easy task, but the commission has played its part over the last two years in providing 82 units within my electorate and additional units in the areas on the perimeter.

One of the most important aspects of our housing industry is the commitment by the private sector. New suburbs have been established

within the Bunbury electorate and in the Welling-ton and Vasse electorates, at Australind, Eaton and Gelorup. The coastal areas of Bunbury are growing very fast, and the new suburbs are a reflection of this growth. I refer to the Cross-lands estate, the Sandridge Park estate, and the Kenkella estate which have just been opened up. There are five or six private developers in Bunbury who have undertaken the task of providing housing. They have developed these small subdivisions and built houses which have been very acceptable to the people who wish to buy them and, more importantly, they have been built at a price which can be tolerated by the purchasers.

However, the future of housing, particularly in my electorate and in the nearby areas, is a cause for great concern because it is becoming increasingly difficult, firstly, to finance the construction of additional dwellings and, secondly, to offer them to people at a price which will enable them to afford to pay off their housing loans over a reasonable period.

I should like to comment on the system of transport and communication within my electorate. When one puts down on paper the various services which are supplied in the fields of transport and communication, it is quite extraordinary to see how well catered for is the area of Bunbury and the south-west region generally; it is a most commendable aspect of the development of the area.

The region has excellent road, rail, sea and air transport which would satisfy the requirements of anybody contemplating establishing a residence or business in the area. Bunbury is also very well provided for in the way of communication via radio, Press, and television.

Mr McIver: Are you happy with the system of transport to Bunbury?

Mr SIBSON: It would not matter what type of service were provided; somebody would not be satisfied and would say it should be improved. The honourable member is asking a catch question.

Mr McIver: Tell us about the transport to Bunbury.

Mr SIBSON: Before being rudely interrupted by the member for Avon—

Mr McIver: I did not rudely interrupt you; I gave you three warnings.

Mr SIBSON: —I was referring to the facilities provided by the media. We have two local newspapers, the *South Western Times*, which circulates throughout most of the region, and a small, privately owned newspaper, the *Western Herald*

which has just celebrated its first birthday. Initially, this little newspaper came in for some criticism because it was a throwaway newspaper and, historically, these are not very successful. However, it overcame the early objections and survived to the point where it is now quite successful and appears to have a good future.

We have two radio stations, the Australian Broadcasting Commission station and radio station 6TZ, CI, NA servicing the entire region. We have two television channels, the ABC and the local channels, 3, 9 and 10, which also cover the entire area.

Mr McIver: Tell us more about transport to Bunbury.

Mr SIBSON: We are also very well equipped with power and water. I know the member for Collie would be pleased to recognise that.

Mr T. H. Jones: Yes, you are very fortunate there.

Mr McIver: Tell us about transport to Bunbury.

Mr SIBSON: Having been associated in some small way with the establishment of the Muja open cut, which is the big producer of coal in the region, it is most fitting now that Bunbury and its surrounds have a very adequate power supply.

Mr T. H. Jones: It should have been extended earlier, should it not?

Mr McIver: You are isolating it.

Mr SIBSON: I would like to say a few words about health and welfare. We are reasonably well provided for in this field in the south-west, but there is a need, because of the population numbers, to begin bringing more services into Bunbury and the whole region, rather than trying to find ways to subsidise and assist people to go to the city.

We have attracted quite a number of specialists in various fields—health and medical areas—and they have found that, not only has it been a very successful move to come into the area, but also it is a very pleasant environment in which to live, away from the hassles of the city. I would urge the Government to examine this further. Already moves are being made to bring more health and welfare services into the region, so that they may be operated on a regionalised basis within the area and save the cost incurred by people going to the city for those services.

I believe the time has come in the area of welfare for more encouragement to be given to local authorities to become involved. Local authorities, in conjunction with voluntary groups, could be used to foster and carry out many of

the welfare functions that cannot operate and exist without the help of voluntary organisations. There does seem to be a need for involvement in welfare at the local government level, as there is in health, building, and various other areas.

Whilst some local authorities would shy away from that, and to some extent I do not blame them, I believe the time has come for them to examine this question and do something about it.

Mr McIver: Have you written to the Minister?

Mr SIBSON: I choose to ignore that remark. I do not think it is constructive.

Mr Blaikie: Hear, hear!

Mr SIBSON: If it were necessary to write to the Minister it could be assumed that that would be done.

I would now like to touch briefly on an industry which is very much neglected in this State. The member for Vasse will not agree with me. This industry is very much neglected in the south-west and also in my electorate; it is tourism. If we look at what is happening in the world today we will see that people are spending more money on tourism and travelling further than they have ever travelled before.

Mr Watt: They are going to Albany.

Mr SIBSON: With the sealing of the road across the Nullarbor, more and more people are coming from the Eastern States. We find that people who have lived in the east all their lives, have travelled to Queensland and the other States in close proximity to them, are now looking to travelling west for a change.

I believe there is a need for the whole of Western Australia, and particularly, the south-west, to accept the challenge and provide the services, because tourists will only come to the west when the necessary services are available. There is a need for more caravan parks; more hotel and motel units; more entertainment facilities; more places where people can obtain food and drink; and, in general, there is a need for the promotion of the tourist attractions which are available.

The south-west is noted for its many and varied attractions. I do not believe that we promote them with the enthusiasm that Sir Bruce Small and people like him promote their areas; for example, the Gold Coast—

Mr Watt: Albany does.

Mr SIBSON: Well it is commendable that Albany does, and I do not knock any area that

accepts this challenge. I know the people of Busselton, in the electorate of Vasse, are very tourist conscious.

Mr McIver: The Avon Valley is a wonderful place to visit.

Mr SIBSON: I believe there is a general acceptance of the benefits of tourism on a totally State-wide basis.

Mr McIver: Have you written to the Minister for Tourism?

Mr SIBSON: The Government has already moved in this direction.

Mr McIver: You are joking.

Mr SIBSON: The Government is currently looking at the idea of locating people in regional centres to encourage the development of tourism.

Mr McIver: I repeat again. Have you written to the Minister for Tourism?

Mr Bryce: Do you have cups of tea on Saturday mornings with the Minister for Tourism?

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Bunbury.

Mr SIBSON: No, that is the Minister for Conservation and the Environment.

Mr Bryce: Have you written to the Minister for Tourism?

Mr SIBSON: My time is running out and members opposite are trying to delay me in every way possible. I have been very good tonight. I have not provoked members opposite and I do not believe I have done anything to upset them.

Mr McIver: Who is the Minister for Conservation and the Environment?

Mr Bryce: It is the same Minister with whom you have cups of tea on Saturday mornings—the Minister for Tourism.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Bunbury is endeavouring to deliver a speech and I would ask those interjecting to allow him to do so.

Mr SIBSON: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

To sum up, there are one or two things which are very much needed in my electorate; one is a new courthouse. There is a real need for this. Land has been bought in order to build a courthouse and I would urge the Government to keep this in mind. There is a great need for these facilities because of the rapid development of Bunbury. Before very long the situation could well become intolerable.

One of the inhibitors to the development of one section of our town is the railway line. There is a commitment to remove the railway line from Bunbury to Picton in due course. When it is removed it will allow for the redevelopment of the eastern Bunbury area. It will enable facilities to be provided along the estuary, and generally assist the development of the town in that area.

If the town is to continue growing in the way it has been, there is a need for more shopping areas. In the Crosslands area there is a very extensive new shopping complex containing 22 units under construction. It is being built by local business people and local labour, and it is going up very rapidly. There is another shopping complex envisaged in the Sandridge development. When the construction of these developments is completed, it will to some extent keep pace with the requirements of the area.

In conclusion, I would like to say a few words on the old argument of trade unionism. We have over recent times heard some very strong debates about what is right and what is wrong, and who is right and who is wrong, with regard to the industrial problems presently facing us. I know that members of the Opposition make a lot of noise, but it is my genuine desire to contribute to the rationalisation of the problems that we are experiencing in the industrial field, in respect of trade unionism and employer-employee relationships. Might I just say that in the south-west this problem is not one of any great significance.

It is to the credit of unions and employers in the south-west that the amount of industrial strife which occurs there is minimal in industries such as the mineral sands industry, Laporte Titanium, the Collie coalmining industry and the timber processing industry. I believe it is commendable that the relationships between employers and employees continue in the way they do. This proves to me that there can be understanding and forbearance from both sides which allows less industrial strife and more productive working hours which will be the basis of solving most of our economic ills.

The SPEAKER: The member has four minutes remaining.

Mr SIBSON: It is my firm belief that the answer to our problems lies in the productivity per man hour and the cost of that productivity. Unfortunately in recent times the cost of labour in the nation has become one of the most expensive in the world. This has been brought about by loss of production due to lack of co-operation

between employer and employee. I do not blame the employee for this; management has a responsibility to do its part. I believe we have reached a very unnecessary and undesirable situation of confrontation. I do not think confrontation is the answer to our problem because in the final analysis it tends to create more problems. I should like to quote from an Australian personnel management document. I think these words are significant of the problems and the responsibilities of both sides of the spectrum. The article is headed, "Dispute Resolution" and it states—

What do you do when it falls apart?

The core of industrial relations is not the structure or the laws or the institutions which have been erected over the years since federation. Rather it is the one to one relationship existing between an employee and his immediate supervisor in the work place. It doesn't really matter whether the enterprise is industrial, retail, commercial or charitable. In the end, industrial relations comes back to the degree to which the person in charge and the person receiving orders are prepared to modify their attitudes,—

I think that is the crux of the argument. To continue—

—ambitions and values to accommodate the needs, capacities and concerns of the other.

In other words, there should be a two-way relationship which will allow the animosity to be taken out of this sort of situation. The article continues—

The willingness on both employer and employee sides to accept the qualities of the other determines the degree to which industrial relations will be harmonious or embittered.

There are two basic stages in the industrial relations process: the first is the interaction between employees and management within the environment of the firm; the second is reached when either party feels that it has been badly treated and goes beyond the immediate environment to seek assistance: in the case of the employer, to his association; and in the case of the employee, to the union officials and organisers.

It appears that that is where the breakdown begins when we fail to negotiate with one another at the work level to solve the problems that ensue.

I feel there is a very real responsibility on employers to accept the challenge of ensuring that their staff—the foreman, the supervisors, and the managers—and the directors in the top management, understand and realise the real problems

in the work force today. In the assembly line situation the monotony and repetition does not help to bring about a good working relationship. In the smaller business where a person has to have some involvement—

The SPEAKER: The member's time has expired.

Mr SIBSON: Mr Speaker, thank you very much for reminding me of that. I would have liked to continue a little longer but perhaps we can keep some of it for another time.

MR H. D. EVANS (Warren) [10.36 p.m.]: I should like to avail myself of the opportunity that the Address-in-Reply debate affords to make reference to certain somewhat limited and parochial matters and to some which have a wider impact and application to the State. At the outset I should like very much to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your appointment and elevation. The example and precept shown by your predecessors will give you a fairly high level to maintain, but I am sure you are capable of doing so.

I should also like to congratulate the new members on both sides of the House. I cannot really wish those opposite a long and successful term, which I wish to new members on this side of the House, but I hope that their sojourn here is pleasant. Having campaigned against some members opposite during the last election I would be verging on the hypocritical if I extended to them the same good wishes that I extend to my colleagues on this side of the Chamber.

I am most sincere when I extend to the Minister for Lands and Forests the commiseration and deep sympathy of members on this side of the House for the bereavement which she and her family sustained earlier this year. That sentiment is very well meant and intended.

There are several sidelights to the immigration policies which have been evolved over the past several decades and the problems which have been attendant on these policies. Since World War II Australia has brought to this country many hundreds of thousands of migrants from a great variety of countries. They have certainly given an impetus to the economic development of the community and at the same time have changed considerably our social and cultural habits. Of course, this has been to a greater or lesser degree, depending on the individuals who have been exposed to that change.

Our immigration policies have allowed us to demonstrate good and bad changes, but the changes to the migrants themselves are not quite

as recognisable. Nonetheless these people have undergone changes, although some of them are not altogether to their betterment.

I should like to make reference to the report of the School of Social Inquiry at Murdoch University to which the member for Dianella made reference earlier this evening in his excellent maiden speech. It is a very relevant commentary.

By and large, migrants have been regarded as a source of unskilled labour in this country. The reports of investigations in factories, especially in Sydney and Melbourne, have demonstrated this amply and some of the findings have been devastating to say the least.

I would like to make reference to two migrants whose Christian names are Alf and Sam. They came from Northern Europe over 20 years ago and took jobs at a timber mill where they have been ever since. Several months ago the manager of the mill contacted me and pointed out that both had deteriorating health. They were not naturalised and he sought some assistance because he realised that they would both need the benefits which naturalisation not only enabled them, but also entitled them, to receive. After 23 years they have certainly earned that entitlement.

After making arrangements with the Department of Immigration and the shire council to conduct a special ceremony the result was something of an anti-climax. The ceremony was not held because one of the men had succumbed to the evils of the tavern to which he was prone.

These two men had lived in single quarters in the mill town since they first went to work there. They were recognised as sound employees and, as workmen, had earned the respect of a succession of mill managers. At the end of the day they would sojourn to the local club and stay there until it was time to go home. During the weekend they would depart for their respective huts with a supply of bottled cargo and there they would remain for the weekend. That was their way of life for 23 years.

I guess that the cynic or insensitive person could say that the decision is up to them as to whether or not they get on and whether or not they participate in the social life of the community. It is all very easy for someone to say that, but the situation is not so simple. It is difficult for a person of the same ethnic origin and language to participate in community life, but when a person has a language barrier and so many other problems so that he does not even know how to address a simple letter to a well-known or well-appreciated Government department, it

is even more difficult. Such a person is just not able to cope and as a consequence he becomes something of a recluse and sinks deeper within himself.

After the war migrants were enticed to the country. We established offices and sent officers all over the world in an endeavour to encourage as many migrants as possible to the country and we certainly have a responsibility to them. How to go about discharging that responsibility presents a problem.

These two fellows are still resident in the town. They are on the verge of retirement and it appears as though one will go blind. Only the benefits of retirement and the age pension would be of any assistance to them. They are still existing, and "existing" is the only term we can use for a life of that kind. It is a problem of attitude, but how to get such a person to change is very difficult to ascertain.

It is not only a case of inviting people in for a cup of tea on odd occasions. We must involve them in the community life of a particular area and this is a problem for which I have no solution.

Another case, almost identical, was brought to my attention several weeks ago and involves the same pattern. The number and extent of these instances would be impossible to determine, but it certainly would be quite large.

The disabilities of migrants at school is a twofold problem involving not only the mastery of the subject by obtaining the information in the first place, but also the imparting of it at examination time. It also involves communication with students and the development of proper habits and the back-up necessary at home if a student is to make a success of his academic career.

In many of the homes English is not spoken until a child goes to school and so the situation is difficult. Remedial teaching and specialist classes in different areas are most welcome, useful, and necessary innovations. Many migrant children have made the grade, but many have not. This is part and parcel of the problem we have continued to neglect.

It is worth mentioning that there is not a very distinctive type of literature amongst our ethnic people. The migrants have not developed a literature of their own. I suppose this applied also in the group settlement era and it is an aspect which has historical significance. There was a smattering on the goldfields, but, in the main, we are not very rich in literature which has international appeal.

One development is the publication of various works, one of which is a volume of four short stories entitled *Other Earth* written by Vasso Kalamaras, and published in Athens. The publication received some commendatory observations and I would like to quote four or five lines of one of these. It is as follows—

I read it without taking breath, and I saw (not without surprise) that this delicately nurtured lady instead of giving pictures inspired by the unusual aspects of the country... presents us with stark, large and (sometimes) cruelly realistic excerpts from the life of Greeks in Western Australia. The atmosphere of all Mrs. Kalamaras's narrations can be summed up in one word: "Gloom".

This is one illustration of the reaction of a migrant captured in a literary effort. Literature is one of the most sincere and expressive forms of art and gives an insight into humanity and is something I am sure will be developed in all its aspects.

The one word "gloom" reflects that woman's whole outlook on her life, but it is not a pleasing testimony to our treatment of migrants or to the success of our migration policy.

The absence of records of mental illness and stress among migrants is a deficiency about which we must do something because at the moment we are unable to say for certain just how great a percentage of the migrant population suffers from mental illness or disorders. From my own observations I have developed the feeling that the percentage is considerably higher among migrants than among people born in this country who are probably of English stock.

There is nothing factual or statistical available to help us in this regard so we have to form our own conclusions. I have taken the trouble to list at least 12 people of whom I am aware would fit into this category.

Whether or not it is the hardship of isolation, the rigours associated with the migrant population moving from their homes to a totally different environmental situation; whether this inherent tendency has been the case, it is difficult to say and to what extent it occurs, again, is most difficult to categorise. So, it is with some hindsight that we can have regard for some of these points, but where we can start to do something about them is a problem which confronts each and every one of us. As I see the situation, we have a corporate responsibility.

A somewhat dissociated topic from that of migrants is the question of the referendum for

the marketing of meat. It has been reasonably topical.

Mr Stephens: Speak up, I cannot hear you.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I am rather surprised there have not been some observations from members opposite.

Mr Blaikie: Just wait.

Mr H. D. EVANS: During the election campaign the Government committed itself to holding a referendum into the marketing of beef and mutton. The referendum was to cover the growers, although I am not in full accord with the approach proposed by the Government. The time limit within which the Government promised to initiate and conduct the referendum has been exceeded, but in a matter of this complexity—and it is one that is complex and requires a deal of discussion—it is understandable that a delay should occur and I do not think the Minister or the Government can be criticised on this score. The level of delay which has occurred is reasonable, I think.

The three questions which are to be asked, and the establishment of the voting eligibility of the growers, have raised a number of queries and a number of doubts which are still unanswered. They have led to a certain criticism of the Government. The three questions to be asked of the growers, in the course of the referendum are—

Question 1.

Do you favour the establishment by an Act of Parliament of a cattle and sheep marketing corporation which would compulsorily acquire all such livestock at the point of slaughter?

Question 2.

Do you favour expanding trading in cattle and sheep by a statutory organisation through the Western Australian Meat Commission becoming a major trader in meat and by-products and actively competing for livestock at auction, on farm and through purchase of direct consignments on a weight and grade basis in accordance with a previously published schedule of prices?

Question 3.

Do you favour the continuation of the livestock marketing system with marketing options, such as classification, live weight selling, weight and grade?

To say the least, the conditions of acceptance of the proposals are rather unusual. They depart from the normal practice and the normal principles which have been accepted. If question 1 is to be

accepted, or if the indication is that the growers wish the first provision to be implemented, it must record at least 60 per cent of the producers voting in favour of it. If less than 60 per cent, but more than 50 per cent, vote in favour of the question that is to be interpreted as favouring question 2.

With regard to the third point in the conditions of acceptance, if less than 50 per cent vote for the question it will be taken that the producers seek a change, and question 2 will be instituted. That seems to be a rather unusual way to go about conducting a referendum. I make the point, and I will allude to some of the comments which have appeared in the Press, and some of the feelings which have been voiced with regard to this matter.

Let us face it: this is a matter which involves the State in many millions of dollars. The total value of the beef section of the livestock industry is in the order of \$80 million, and the value of lamb is approximately \$15 million, to which has to be added the value of sheep. So, we are talking in excess of \$100 million. That is a very significant contribution to the economy of the State, and it cannot be treated lightly either way. For that reason, the referendum which may possibly determine the future of the marketing of livestock needs to be examined fairly closely.

One point I want to make is with regard to the definition of cattle and sheep. As I understand the position, the definition of cattle includes all cattle and calves—the total herd. The definition of sheep specifically excludes lambs, although normally they would be part of the management and part of the income of the overall activities of the producer. He would be dependent, to some extent, upon their production. By the exclusion of lamb this seems to throw a weighting in favour of the producers of beef, and that seems to be rather strange.

Mr Old: That was done at the request of the producers because lamb is already covered by a statutory marketing authority.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Will the Lamb Marketing Board be superseded by the new authority?

Mr Old: No, that is not envisaged. That is why lamb was excluded.

Mr H. D. EVANS: There is an undertaking that the Lamb Marketing Board will remain in its present form of operation?

Mr Old: There is no thought of superseding the Lamb Marketing Board.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I thank the Minister for clarifying that point.

The inclusion of the growers in the Kimberley is another point of weighting which seems to give rise to comment and observation. As every member in this Chamber would know, the Kimberley is oriented to the export market of manufacturing beef. It does not involve the local market to any great extent. The replies I have received to my questions indicate the number of cattle sent south in each of the last three years would not exceed the number of carcasses which have been brought in from the Eastern States during the last three weeks. So, that is the extent to which the Kimberley becomes involved in the local market. The local market represents in excess of 60 per cent of the cattle industry in Western Australia. Whether or not it is reasonable, logical, or defensible to include the Kimberley in the terms of the referendum, is a matter for subjective consideration.

Mr Laurance: Does that mean you would exclude the Kimberley?

Mr H. D. EVANS: From my understanding the Kimberley growers are largely opposed to orderly marketing and it could be that they have been included for a specific purpose.

Mr Laurance: You are prejudging the situation.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I did suspect that the lamb producers who favoured the orderly marketing system of the Lamb Marketing Board were being excluded because they were in favour. However, I did the Minister an injustice in that regard. I still have to be proven on the question as to whether I am wrong with regard to the Kimberley.

Mrs Craig: Do you know how many votes accrue to the Kimberley?

Mr H. D. EVANS: I think about 1 900 votes.

Mr Old: No, there are less than 120 producers in the Kimberley.

Mr H. D. EVANS: But how many votes?

Mr Old: The maximum is two votes.

Mr H. D. EVANS: What is the total?

Mrs Craig: A total of 240.

Mr Old: The maximum would be 240 votes.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I thank the Minister for that figure. To answer the Minister, there would be a maximum of 240 votes from the Kimberley. I point out that to some members of this Parliament 200 votes are very important, and even a handful of votes can be extremely significant on certain occasions. We are talking in terms of an industry worth over \$100 million.

Mr Old: Those figures related only to slaughtered cattle. That was all you asked for. The number of cattle out of the Kimberley this year was something like 9 500.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The significant point is the effect the Kimberley has on the local State market, because it is the home consumption market which is significant when setting up an authority of this kind.

Mr Old: But if you are bringing those cattle out of the Kimberley into the southern part of the State they will eventually have an effect on the slaughter market.

Mr H. D. EVANS: They could do. I would like to ensure that the points of view which have been expressed are known in this place. The Farmers' Union has come out strongly in support of acceptance of question (1) by all growers, and at the same time it has indicated it has a certain number of objections to the manner in which the referendum is being conducted. The first objection is—

Insistence that the acquisition proposal win a 60 per cent majority to be effective . . .

The Minister is reported to have told the National Country Party conference in Perth that a level of 60 per cent for a "Yes" vote in livestock marketing had been suggested by the Farmers' Union because of the drastic changes it entails. I understand the proposition of the Farmers' Union was 60 per cent for the three questions, not for the first one only.

Mr Old: No. We had long discussions with the executive of the Farmers' Union and their idea was 60 per cent for total acquisition.

Mr H. D. EVANS: What about questions (2) and (3)?

Mr Old: They did not know at that stage what questions (2) and (3) would be.

Mr H. D. EVANS: They would have accepted 60 per cent had it applied to the three questions but not if it applied only to question (1) because the terminology and the requirement in relation to the other two questions are, again, rather unusual. The next point is—

If producers favoured the acquisition proposal the government would then conduct feasibility studies and discussions.

I should imagine that objection is not quite valid because any Government would need to have a close look at what it was doing once the green light flashed.

Mr Old: There is a lot to be considered.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The third point is—

The multiple voting system was a complete break from accepted principles. So it was, and I am curious about that. The fourth point is—

The loading of the referendum against sheep meat producers by adopting a 15 to 1 sheep to cattle ratio in voting.

That represents more than double the normal acceptance rate. So it seems the Government has taken an attitude in this matter.

In regard to the terminology of the second question, the *Farmers Weekly* of the 4th August quoted the president of the meat section of the Farmers' Union as saying—

Cabinet has decided that if fewer than 60 per cent of producers vote for question one, their votes should go to question two as they would still be in favour of change.

But many producers would rather the system stay as it is than change to the options given in question two, which favours the WA Meat Commission playing a major role.

Obviously the composition of the Meat Commission has something to do with the attitude foreshadowed by the Farmers' Union in that case.

We have reached the stage where one producer organisation—the larger one—has adopted a very positive attitude and made the very clear suggestion that the lesser producer organisation—the Pastoralists and Graziers Association, which is considered to be purely the rural wing of the Liberal Party—had its proposals adopted almost in their entirety.

Mr Old: That is not correct. Very few of that association's proposals have been adopted.

Mr H. D. EVANS: That is the way it appears to be and there is good reason for viewing the situation in that way. It is so close to the actual situation as to be not funny.

Mr Laurance: What was the comment about the lesser organisation?

Mr H. D. EVANS: Having regard to the magnitude of the issue at stake, I am not very sanguine about the overall position.

Mr Old: I would be very surprised if you know what the Pastoralists and Graziers Association asked for.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I think I do know.

Mr Old: I do not think you do.

Mr H. D. EVANS: No matter which Government is in power, it will at least be very interested in the views of the producers and I do not think any responsible Government would go any further along the line without consulting the producers. That is fair enough. The producers must make up their minds, which will be difficult in the light of the interpretations presented to them. One has only to pick up the current rural journals to see articles emanating from various sources—from exporters' associations and producers' organisations—which put forward what appears to be a more weighted interpretation. Vested interests in the industry will be actively seeking to influence opinions. It has been the case in the past and it will be the case in the future that those who have a vested interest in the industry will play a major role in the formulation of opinion. I hope the result reflects the true wishes of the producers and that a move will be made accordingly.

Several approaches have been made to me and I have received one letter regarding State Energy Commission charges for electricity in particular circumstances. The letter expresses concern at the high cost of electric power to rural producers. An approach was made through the Farmers' Union to have a special rate fixed for payment for power on farms. Not only was the concession not granted but the rate was increased. An anomaly exists which I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister now rather than by way of a question or a letter.

The SEC refused the request of the Farmers' Union on the ground that a concession for one group of customers would mean more expense for others. But it is the contention of the farmers that a precedent for discrimination has already been set by limiting table "F" consumers—industrial with domestic—to only 600 units a quarter at the domestic rate, while table "D" consumers—domestic—may purchase an unlimited number of units at the domestic rate. This injustice is more keenly felt when two or three farmhouses on one property are supplied through one meter.

There has been an increase in the installation of refrigerated bulk milk vats in dairy farms, as well as an increase in the number of bulk milk producers. It is probably in this area that the increases are felt more keenly than anywhere else. These bulk vats have accounted for a significant rise in the consumption of power on dairy farms and it appears that 70 per cent of power used on dairy farms is paid for at the highest industrial rate under table "F". This is the way the situation has arisen, and I believe the

Minister would be perfectly justified in having it reviewed.

Some of these dairy farmers have suggested that a lower industrial rate should be charged for rural consumers, and that 1200 units at the domestic rates be allowed on each dwelling and farm. This would be double the number of units chargeable at a domestic rate under normal circumstances.

Mr Mensaros: The situation would still prevail. Whichever way you lower the income of the SEC from that source, you would have to raise from some other source.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I point out to the Minister that the total increase has been 85 per cent during the currency of his Government. The last increase of 11 per cent meant an additional \$150 a year for electricity on an average dairy farm. Of course, this will be reflected in the cost structure of milk and the price paid by the consumer. It is probably one of the most directly inflationary measures that is possible, and I believe the dairy farmers have a case for consideration.

Mr Mensaros: That is on account of the cost, but at the same time you will have to admit it is the first time and it was during the period of this Government that the tariffs in the country are equal to those in the city, which never happened before. It is the first time with this increase that that has been achieved.

Mr H. D. EVANS: The situation is that the table for domestic and industry is applied, and it is applying to the same consumer. For that reason it tends to be something of an anomaly.

The SPEAKER: The member has about eight minutes.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I believe the member for Bunbury rather eulogised the situation in the south-west. In my opinion the problems of this region have become more and more manifest during the last two years or so. Because of the designation of the South Coast National Park, the recommendations of the Conservation Through Reserves Committee report which look like being applied, the policy of the Forests Department in increasing the amount of State forests particularly in highly desirable areas, the extension of private pine planting—and this is applying to some particularly good farming land in the south-west—and the trend towards hobby farms, many of the shires have expressed consternation. These problems have been highlighted in view of long-term planning in regard to food requirements for the metropolitan area from the south-west.

As the metropolitan area expands, pressure will be put upon its water resources. Our city will expand in much the same way as Los Angeles expanded and in due course development will extend from Moore River to Bunbury. This will place additional pressure upon the available areas for production, especially for horticulture, vegetables, fruit, and dairying products. We will need to consider the best possible utilisation of the available suitable arable farming land in the south-west. We must also take into account the water resources, including the location of water, and the quantities available for all particular purposes.

If it is true, as the Minister indicated tonight, that there is no intention to build a new major dam in the next seven years, many problems may be with us a great deal sooner than we anticipated. I will illustrate a point which needs to be made. Specific industries must be located in the most geographically and climatically accepted areas, and from the decision as to location, the economics of the venture will flow. In regard to the dairying industry, the level of production in the Busselton area is—

Mr Blaikie: A very good area, too.

Mr H. D. EVANS: It has shown it is capable of producing market milk.

Mr Blaikie: The best in the south.

Mr H. D. EVANS: Market milk can be produced in this area at 1.08c a litre cheaper than in the irrigated area. In addition, the loss to the Public Works Department is 0.11c per 1 400 litres of water, and it takes 1 400 litres of water to produce a litre of milk. This is the figure for irrigation water and it is the amount required to grow the grass to provide a cow with sufficient sustenance to produce one litre of milk. So even at the cost to the State of 0.11c a litre, the question in the long term of whether irrigation water can be used for purposes such as this is something which cannot be the subject of a sudden major upheaval in any part of the State. It is not suggested that this will be the case in the south-west.

Mr Blaikie: You will also find that when the current milk price survey in the Augusta-Margaret River Shire is completed, it will show an even lower figure.

Mr H. D. EVANS: I thought this would be the trend; as the member who knows the area so well puts it, he anticipates that an even lower figure will be given. We do not have very reliable figures to show what the true position is, but by the end of 1977 sufficient data should be available to see much more clearly the pattern

in regard to dairying. The old fear that dairy farming could not be carried out on the dry land of the south coast is being dispelled. Even in the stress months of the summer, it was evident that the dairy farmers could maintain the solids-not-fat content in the milk, and it appears that future changes in the dairy industry will be brought about in the main through economic factors. With the full effluxion of time, the changes will need to be evolutionary rather than revolutionary.

I realise that it would be futile to start on another topic now as I am running out of time, so on that note I resume my seat.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Coyne.

House adjourned at 11.19 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ART GALLERY

New Building

76. Mr PEARCE, to the Minister for Works:
Will he give the names of firms and individuals who have been given contracts for all or part of the design and construction of the new art gallery?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Design—

Architects in association with the Public Works Department—Summerhayes and Associates.

Electrical services—C. C. Chase and Associates Pty. Ltd.

Mechanical services—Norman Disney and Young Pty. Ltd.

Plumbing services—C. C. Chase and Associates Pty. Ltd.

Quantity surveyors—Davson and Ward.

Kitchen layout and equipment—Nationwide Food Service (West) Pty. Ltd.

Acoustic consultant for mechanical services—Mr John Spillman.

Construction—

Head contract—Jaxon Constructions Pty. Ltd.

Electrical services—Siemen's Industries Ltd.

Mechanical services—Flower Davies Wemco Pty. Ltd.

Lifts—Elevators Pty. Ltd.

Fire Sprinkler Service—Viking Fire Protection Co.

Glazed screens and doors—Brisbane and Wunderlich Ltd.

TRADE UNIONS*Coercion to Join*

122. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Is his department aware of the actions of some trade unions in coercing persons to be union members and quoting preference to unionist and compulsory union clauses as contained in Western Australian legislation, but in fact are charging dues to the Federal body of the union which has no preference clause and therefore no conscientious objection clause?
- (2) (a) Can he advise whether this situation has been investigated by his department; and
(b) if so, with what result?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) Under the State Industrial Arbitration Act a person may apply for exemption from a State registered union and when such exemption is granted the person is required to pay to the registrar the amount of fees prescribed by the registered rules of the union concerned. A number of State registered unions also operate as branches of Federal unions registered with the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. In some cases membership of the State union or alternatively membership of the Federal branch automatically, under the registered rules of either body, confers membership of the one or the other without payment of further dues. The contribution rates prescribed under both sets of rules may be different and consequently a member may pay less by joining the Federal union than by joining the State union.

I would need specific instances of coercion to be referred to me before I could comment.

MILK QUOTAS*Supply*

163. Mr SHALDERS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

Are dairy farmers who have market milk quotas able to supply their entitlement on an averaged basis over a monthly period, or must they supply their quota on a daily basis?

Mr OLD replied:

The quota certificate provides for daily quota, but the Dairy Industry Authority provides for that quota to be averaged over a calendar month.

RAILWAYS*Loans*

164. Mr CRANE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What loans were raised by the Western Australian Government for the building of railways?
- (2) What interest has been paid on each of these loans?
- (3) What is the total annual interest payable on these loans?
- (4) What principal has been paid on each of these loans?
- (5) What amount of money, if any, is still owing on these loans and when will they be finalised?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Information on capital costs of individual railway systems is not readily available. However, the following details on capital funds extracted from the Auditor-General's Report covering the period to 30th June, 1976, are supplied for the member's information.

\$

(i) General Loan Fund			
Advances	308 946 569
(ii) Commonwealth loans			
for rail standardisation	60 466 517
(iii) Debentures issued			
under the Midland			
Railway Co. of W.A.			
Ltd. Acquisition			
Agreement	2 027 055

- (2) Westrail has been unable to meet its interest commitments on funds advanced from the General Loan Fund. Unpaid interest to 30th June, 1976, amounted to \$227 579 905. Interest paid on Commonwealth loans for rail standardisation and Midland Railway Co. debentures amounted to \$26 506 834 and \$1 023 280 respectively.

- (3) Interest payable for the year 1975-76 was—

	\$
(i) General Loan Fund Advances	11 425 175
(ii) Commonwealth loans for rail standardisation	2 717 987
(iii) Midland Railway Co. debentures	18 946

Only the last two of the above were actually paid.

- (4) Principal repayments to 30th June, 1976, are—

	\$
(i) General Loan Fund—amounts written off and principal repayments	117 512 430
(ii) Commonwealth loans for rail standardisation	12 457 058
(iii) Midland Railway Co. debentures	1 510 596

- (5) The principal sums outstanding at 30th June, 1976, are—

	\$
(i) General Loan Fund Advances	191 434 139
(ii) Commonwealth loans for rail standardisation	48 009 459
(iii) Midland Railway Co. debentures	516 459

With respect to General Loan Fund Advances, the railways pay sinking fund contributions calculated to repay each loan over 53 years.

The Commonwealth Government provided 17/20ths, or 85 per cent, of the funds required for the rail standardisation project, 7/17ths by way of grant and 10/17ths as a loan. The funds provided as a loan are to be repaid as to 7/17ths over 20 years and the balance over 50 years.

Midland Railway debentures will be repaid by 1st July, 1983.

HOUSING LAND

Forrestfield

165. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) (a) Has the State Housing Commission acquired; or

(b) does it own, land in the Forrestfield area?

- (2) If "Yes" to (1),

- (a) what is the exact location; and
(b) for what purpose is the commission holding this land?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) (a) Part Lots 158-162 Lewis Road, portion Canning Location, 700 Hartfield Road, Lot 1759 Anderson Road.

- (b) Future residential development.

EDUCATION

School at Kenwick

166. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is a primary school to be constructed in Kenwick?

- (2) If "Yes",

- (a) what is the exact location of the school; and

- (b) when would it be ready for occupation?

- (3) If the answer to (1) and (2) is "No", would he give his reasons for the delay?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) (a) The proposed East Kenwick Primary School of approximately 5.6 hectares is located in the large area of land in Kenwick bounded by Brixton Street, Wanaping Road, Bickley Road, Belmont Road, and Kenwick Road.

- (b) No definite time-table has been set for the construction of the proposed East Kenwick Primary School. Increasing enrolments of primary aged children and housing developments in the area are being closely assessed and the needs of the area will be kept under review.

WA MEAT COMMISSION

Engineer

167. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) (a) Does the West Australian Meat Commission (Robb Jetty) employ a qualified engineer;

- (b) if not, why not?

- (2) Is it the intention to call applications for such a position?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2), will the position be advertised under Public Service requirements?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) to (3) The engineer at Robb Jetty abattoir was recently appointed as acting engineer in charge at both commission works.

The commission's engineering structure is now being reviewed and a decision will be taken concerning the position at Robb Jetty when the review is completed.

PREMIERS' CONFERENCE

Recommendations

168. Mr JAMIESON, to the Premier:

Has there been any response by the Australian Government to the economic initiatives to cut interest rates, provide an additional \$200 million in funds for State works programmes, introduce measures to relieve unemployment and allow the States to borrow money outside the Loan Council, as agreed to in the joint communique released by the Premiers after last Friday's special conference in Melbourne?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The Premier of Victoria, as Chairman of last Friday's meeting of Premiers, was entrusted with communicating the conference decisions to the Prime Minister. It is hardly to be expected that any positive reactions would be known this soon—especially with the Federal Budget due in a few days.

It is planned that State Premiers will discuss with the Prime Minister, at a meeting to be held in Canberra on 21st October, such of their proposals as have not been acted upon or resolved in the meantime.

ELECTRICITY CHARGES

Pensioner Concessions

169. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Is he aware that the quarterly consumption ceiling of 630 units per quarter above which pensioners are not entitled to a rebate, is possibly inadequate for those pensioners who live in homes

which only use electric facilities such as electric stoves and electric hot water systems?

- (2) Is he also aware that the concession of electricity charges is possibly insufficient for pensioners with large families such as deserted wives with children?
- (3) Will he give consideration to raising the ceiling to a higher figure, for example, 920 units per quarter?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) and (2) The rebate is not meant to be a social benefit payment. The low consumption pensioner rebate for electricity was introduced to protect pensioners who, because of the re-structuring of the domestic electricity tariff, would otherwise have been faced with a much higher percentage increase in their account than the community average. Customers using more than 630 kWh/quarter will not be paying more than the community average.
- (3) Because of the explanation to questions (1) and (2) the answer is "No".

SPORTING GROUPS

Federal Financial Assistance

170. Mr JAMIESON, to the Premier:

- (1) Has he received correspondence from the Confederation of Australian Sport, together with a white paper entitled, *Financial Plight of Sport in Australia*, which outlines the many problems facing the majority of national sporting associations in this country?
- (2) If "Yes", does his Government support the confederation's proposals?
- (3) Has he, or any Minister, written to Federal Ministers requesting Federal financial assistance for Australian sporting groups?
- (4) If "No" to (3), why not?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The State Government supports, in general terms, the aims of the Confederation of Australian Sport, as outlined in the White Paper entitled *Financial Plight of Sport in Australia*.

In my acknowledgment of the correspondence from the Confederation I said, amongst other things—

As I pointed out in my previous letter, the Western Australian Government has a prime responsibility to service a community need throughout the State. In addition to this, my Government is actively helping Western Australian sporting bodies at the State level by providing a wide range of assistance, including sports coaching accreditation courses, subsidies for sports development officers, office accommodation for State associations, a subsidised duplicating service, and specialised sporting equipment pools.

The Government also finances library, technical, research and advisory services and provides subsidies for coaching schools, a special residential sports coaching centre, assistance to sporting associations for capital development, and arranges coaching courses in remote areas of the State.

The \$1 million Sporting Facilities Fund referred to in my previous letter will also foster the development of sport and recreation in this State.

Much is being done at the community and the State level to assist in the development of sport. The defects and deficiencies which exist at the national and international level require a Commonwealth Government response, and the Western Australian Minister for Recreation will continue to press the case for Commonwealth Government financial support for Australian sport at the international level.

- (3) Yes, the Minister for Recreation has represented many of the issues raised by correspondence and personal discussion with the Commonwealth Government.
- (4) Not applicable.

PETROL

Distribution and Price

171. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Was he correctly reported in *The West Australian* of 11th June, 1977, as stating that the W.A. Government is seeking a national policy on petrol distribution?
- (2) If so, has he or any member of his Government written to the Federal Government stating his Government's wishes?

- (3) If "Yes to (2)", will he table the correspondence involved?
- (4) Will he give consideration to establishing a body in W.A. to regulate the retailing of petrol along the lines of the agency recommended to the Federal Government by the Royal Commission into Petroleum?
- (5) Is he aware that this body could streamline and rationalise the industry to enable petrol prices to be reduced by 1.3c to 1.5c per litre?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) to (4) The WA Government has undertaken to await the outcome of the Federal Government's own decision in the matter and its scheduled talks with the industry before deciding what we as a Government will do.
- (5) Even if such legislation were introduced it would have to avoid price fixing, otherwise the only result would be an increase in price to the consumer. This is because price fixing merely destroys competition and creates a rubber stamp situation in which distributors only have to justify increased costs to be granted approval to raise prices.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

Militant Unionists

172. Mr JAMIESON, to the Premier:

- (1) In view of his assertion that Western Australia's industrial troubles are the result of the militant left acting within a scenario prepared at the international level to destroy the economies and the way of life of the free world, will he name the members of the militant left to whom he is referring?
- (2) Will he list each action of each of these members which have constituted an attempt to destroy the economy and way of life in Western Australia?
- (3) Will he state when, how, and with whom, these members have co-operated at an international level?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (3) I have no intention, at this stage, of publicly giving the details requested—any more than I would expect the member to do so if he were ever entrusted with the responsibilities of Premier.

But I would be surprised if the Leader of the Opposition is not aware that there is a fringe element in Western Australia who are in the category to which he refers, and the names of whom should be well known to him.

Also, I should be surprised if the Leader of the Opposition is not aware—at least in a general way—of the international strategy of the USSR to progressively undermine the economic stability and security of the free world in a number of ways, as a parallel strategy to its military expansion and preparedness.

Australia's natural resources are an important target in this economic strategy—in addition to the other tactics of communist infiltrators to try to cause disruption and divisiveness in communities such as ours.

The vast majority of Australians—unionists and others—are law abiding decent people who want to get on with the job of doing a fair day's work for a fair day's pay.

It is to them that I have appealed so that they will assert themselves and not be lulled into complacency and a false sense of security thus permitting the disrupters to take over.

PUBLIC SERVANTS

Personal Files

173. Mr JAMIESON, to the Premier.

What precautions are taken to ensure that personal files of State public servants are accessible only to those people who need to see them as a necessary result of their work duties?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Well established controls exist concerning unauthorised access to personal files of State public servants.
- (2) These controls are defined in Public Service Regulation 22, which provides that—

22. (1) (a) The permanent head of a department—

- (i) shall cause to be kept in the department a separate

personal file and record of service for each officer employed in the department and—

- (ii) shall place the file and record in the personal custody of an officer.
- (b) The officer shall keep the file and record under lock and key and not permit them to leave his possession except where directed by the permanent head to do so, or for the purpose of official action being taken in connection therewith, as may be necessary from time to time.
- (2) Except in the course of his duty, no officer is entitled to see his or the personal file and record of another officer without the written permission of the permanent head of the department wherein the file and record is kept and if the permanent head refuses such permission, the officer may apply in writing through the permanent head to the Commissioner who may confirm the refusal of the permission, or grant the permission.
- (3) Personal files and records when forwarded from one office to another shall be placed under sealed cover and the cover shall be marked "Confidential" by the person forwarding thereon.
- (4) An officer shall not, except for official purposes and then only upon the direction of the permanent head of the department wherein a personal file and record of an officer is kept, copy or duplicate any personal file and record of an officer or any portion of a personal file or record.

WATER SUPPLIES

Rate and Cost

174. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) What is the average net annual rental value for a metropolitan residential property?
- (2) What is the water rate per dollar for a residential property of average net annual rental value?
- (3) What is the cost of 455 kilolitres of water on a property of average net annual rental value in Perth, and each of the other capital cities in Australia?
- (4) What is the current sewerage rate per dollar for a residential property of average net annual rental value?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) \$1 024.
- (2) 4.14 cents.
- (3) Perth—\$62.45 (\$61.68 if rates and annual fees are paid by the 30th November).
Adelaide—\$86.49.
Melbourne—\$64.96.
Sydney—\$75.07.
Brisbane—\$74.38.
Hobart—\$76.00.
- (4) 10.20 cents.

I am sure the Leader of the Opposition will be pleased to know that Western Australia still has the lowest rates of any Australian State.

ELECTRICITY AND GAS

Cost

175. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) What is the cost of 1 200 kilowatt hours per quarter to domestic consumers in Perth, including the fixed charge, and in the other capital cities of Australia?
- (2) What is the cost of 3 000 megajoules of gas per quarter to domestic consumers in Perth?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Perth—\$57.00.
Adelaide—\$36.27.
Melbourne—\$47.46.
Sydney—\$38.34.
Brisbane—\$41.57.
- (2) \$17.04.

WATER SUPPLIES

Lower Chittering Dam

176. Mr McIVER, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is it the Government's intention to make funds available in the 1977-78 financial year to dam the water of the Lower Chittering valley?
- (2) If "Yes"—
 - (a) when is it anticipated that work will commence;
 - (b) what is the anticipated cost of the project?
- (3) Will any residents of Lower Chittering who may be strongly opposed to any dam being constructed, be given ample opportunity to appeal if a determination on the dam project has been determined?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

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

RAILWAYS

Electrification of Perth System

177. Mr McIVER, to the Premier:

- (1) Further to his answer to my question 13 of 2nd August last, is he aware that the former Minister for Transport, Mr. O'Connor, is reported in *The West Australian* of 3rd September, 1975, as having asked the former Federal Minister for Transport, Mr Jones, to go ahead with environmental impact and financial studies into the electrification of the Perth rail system as quickly as possible so that Western Australia could make financial provision for the proposals in the following year, which was 1976?
- (2) Will he explain why his Government was anxious to make financial provision for the proposals then, but now finds it impossible to fund its share of the expenditure?
- (3) Will he also explain why the former Minister for Transport is reported in *The West Australian* of 4th September, 1976, as having said that the Government had sought Federal funds for the electrification of the metropolitan rail service?
- (4) Did the Western Australian Government make financial provision for electrification in 1976?

- (5) If "No" to (4), why not?
- (6) Is it correct that the Bureau of Transport Economics made a financial study into the costs of electrifying metropolitan rail passenger services?
- (7) When the former Minister for Transport put Western Australia's case for Federal aid for electrification to the then Federal Minister for Transport, Mr Charles Jones, at the end of August, 1976, how much did the State Government expect to spend as its one-third share of the \$170 million capital cost?
- (8) Was an environmental study into the project held?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Because we thought in 1975 there was some chance that we could fund our one-third share.
The financial climate is very different now. I made this very clear to the member in my reply on Tuesday, 2nd August.
- (3) See answer to Question (179).
- (4) and (5) No—because we had become aware that there would be no funds available for new projects in the Commonwealth Urban Public Transport Improvement programme in 1976-77.
- (6) The Commonwealth Minister asked the Bureau of Transport Economics to simply produce a short review of the recommendations of the central city railway feasibility study.
- (7) There is some confusion as to the information required. I have asked that this be clarified quickly so that I can give an answer.
- (8) No, but we were discussing the requirements with the Commonwealth.

RAILWAYS

Electrification of Perth System

178. Mr McIVER, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

Further to the former Minister for Transport's answer to question 24 of Tuesday, 6th April, 1976, will the Minister advise whether a decision was given by the Federal Minister for Transport as to whether he would pay two-thirds of the capital costs of electrifying metropolitan rail services?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

No Federal Minister for Transport has given any undertaking that the Commonwealth will pay two-thirds of the capital cost of electrifying metropolitan rail services.

RAILWAYS

Electrification of Perth System

179. Mr McIVER, to the Premier:

- (1) Will he advise why the former Minister for Transport, in reply to question 24 of Tuesday, 6th April, 1976, stated that no decision had been given on a request by him to the Federal Minister for Transport to the Commonwealth to pay two-thirds of the capital cost of electrifying metropolitan rail passenger services when his reply to my question 13 of 2nd August, 1977, indicates that no formal application for financial assistance has been made?
- (2) Will he explain why the former Minister for Transport expected a firm decision on Commonwealth funding for electrification when no formal application for financial assistance was ever made for the reason that it would be impossible for the State to fund its share of the expenditure?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) We were seeking guidance from the new Transport Minister as to what his attitude would be to a formal proposal before embarking on the elaborate and costly exercise which would be necessary if we were to prepare a formal proposal for 1976-77.

The member will be aware that the Labor Government had made no money available for new urban public transport projects in 1975-76.

We wished to try to find out what the Liberal-Country Party Government proposed for 1976-77.

EMPLOYMENT

Creation in Industry

180. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Referring to his reply to my question 72 of Wednesday, 3rd August, if his statement at the Carine High School last February that 100 000 new jobs would be created within the following 18

months was qualified, as he claims, by the statement "if projects currently being negotiated or planned got off the ground", would he now please advise:

- (a) which projects did he have in mind which were then being negotiated or planned that would provide the extra jobs within 18 months;
 - (b) which of them are now off the ground or likely to get off the ground by next August;
 - (c) how many jobs they will create;
 - (d) what industries the jobs will be created in;
 - (e) where the jobs will be created;
 - (f) which of those projects are not likely to get off the ground and why?
- (2) By how many jobs will the target figure of 100 000 be reduced by the failure of the projects referred to in (f) to get off the ground?
- (3) Will he further advise how he is able—six months after the event—to place in direct quotations the "complementary qualifying statements" to which he refers in the answer to my question 72 when his promise of 100 000 new jobs in 18 months was made off-the-cuff?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) (a) to (f) I direct the member to the answer given to question 156, asked by the Member for Swan on 3rd August listing the projects—costs, employment and commencement date schedule—likely to get off the ground by next August.
- (2) It is expected that all the above-mentioned projects will get off the ground.
- (3) The figure of 100 000 new jobs is policy of the Government and is contained in the printed policy, so the figure of 100 000 new jobs was not made "off-the-cuff" and it was qualified by statements made at the time such as "if projects currently being negotiated or planned got off the ground" that target could be achieved earlier. If the member will refer to my reply to question (72) he will see that I used the words "such as"—indicating that these were not necessarily the precise words but more the spirit of what I have said on various occasions when the issue has arisen.

DOG ACT

Breaches

181. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Is he aware that breaches of the Dog Act are being dismissed in the Perth court of petty sessions under section 669 of the Criminal Code?
- (2) Is he also aware that the court costs incurred by the Canning Town Council over five cases of breaches of the Dog Act, which were dismissed under section 669 of the Criminal Code, are approximately \$80?
- (3) Will the State Government adopt a policy that, if local authorities are to have surveillance over the provisions of the Dog Act and incur expenditure in doing so, offences against the Act should be recognised by the courts in the terms of the legislation?
- (4) What steps will he take to ensure that it does not become a costly exercise for local authorities to proceed with court actions in respect of breaches of the Dog Act?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes. A copy of a letter from the Town of Canning to the Local Government Association on the subject has today been sighted by me.
- (3) and (4) Inquiries are being made and any action taken will be dependant on the result of these inquiries.

MEAT

Beef Aid Scheme

182. Mr LAURANCE, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What assistance is available to pastoralists under the Beef Aid Scheme?
- (2) What are the eligibility requirements for pastoralists applying for assistance from the Beef Aid Scheme?
- (3) (a) What is the record of assistance of pastoralists from this scheme since its inception some two years ago;
- (b) how many loans have been approved for what total value;
- (c) how many applications have been rejected?
- (4) (a) What other forms of financial assistance are available to pastoralists;

- (b) what has been the record of assistance from each of these during the 1976-77 financial year?
- (5) Can he advise the details of an officer that pastoralists can contact personally if difficulty is being experienced with applications?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) A maximum loan of \$15 000 for essential carry-on assistance in the first year. Where circumstances warrant further assistance in the second year, a loan of an additional \$15 000 may be approved. Interest rate, initially at 4 per cent per annum but subject to review annually. Repayments may be over a period of seven years.
- (2) The pastoralist must be unable to obtain essential carry on from normal sources of credit (i.e. Bank or pastoral house) and have sound prospects of long term viability.
- (3) (a) Number of loans approved—17.
(b) Total advanced—\$198 925.
(c) Number rejected—8.
- (4) Normal debt reconstruction, farm build-up and farm improvement assistance.
Debt reconstruction—\$60 000.
Farm build-up—\$52 000.
This assistance has been extended to two pastoralists.
- (5) Administrator of the Rural Adjustment Authority, officers of the Economic Division of the Department of Agriculture or any District Officer thereof.

FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES

Funds to State Government

183. Mr HASSELL, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Does the Commonwealth and its departments and instrumentalities pay to the State—
 - (a) licence fees as payable by members of the public;
 - (b) a service fee or other payment in lieu of licence fees,
 in respect of motor vehicles operated by the Commonwealth, its departments and instrumentalities in Western Australia?
- (2) If not, why not?

- (3) If "No" to (1), has the Government investigated whether as a matter of law it can make some charge against the Commonwealth for the use of Western Australian roads by Commonwealth vehicles?
- (4) If "No" to (3), will he undertake with the Minister for Federal Affairs an examination of the legalities and practicalities of making some charge?
- (5) Does he know of any service (such as telephone and postal) made available to the State and its instrumentalities by the Commonwealth without charge to the State?
- (6) Does the Australian Postal Commission pay a licence fee or a fee in lieu of a licence fee for the vehicles which it operates as part of the Australia Post courier?
- (7) If "No" to (6), will it follow that the overhead expenses of Western Australian courier businesses are higher than those of the Australia Post courier?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) (a) and (b) No.
- (2) The Commonwealth is exempted from paying State taxes under section 114 of the Constitution. Equally the States and their instrumentalities are not required to pay Commonwealth taxes.
- (3) and (4), Yes, but clearly as the Constitution now stands there is no legal way of requiring the Commonwealth to pay vehicle licence fees.
- (5) The Commonwealth Government makes numerous payments to the State for services undertaken on its behalf. It is not possible to individually identify these, although they range over the whole field of Government services such as education, welfare, etc.

However, one specific example of concessions which can be identified relates to the operations of the WA Fire Brigades Board.

Until 31st August, 1975, the Australian Telecommunications Commission provided concessions to the WA Fire Brigades Board on charges for telephone exchange line services and connection fees.

The concessions were removed from 1st September, 1975, and in lieu of these the Commonwealth Government now pays an annual grant to the board

(through the State Government) which in real terms is equal to the value of the concessions.

The commission is continuing to provide a concession in respect to charges for fire alarm lines.

- (6) No.
- (7) Yes, to the extent of the difference in vehicle licence fees payable.

WELLINGTON DAM

Catchment Area

184. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is it a fact that the department has authorised experiments by a private person, to be conducted on the Wellington catchment area?
- (2) Are the experiments designed to alleviate the salinity problem in the area?
- (3) Would he please advise—
 - (a) precisely what is to be done;
 - (b) how long will it take;
 - (c) how much will it cost?
- (4) Are there any plans to include the Wellington catchment area into the metropolitan supply system?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (4) No.

SALT WATER CROCODILES

Survival

185. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Is he aware of the apparently serious decline in numbers of salt water crocodiles?
- (2) What positive action does he propose to ensure the survival of the species?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No operational action, but it is pleasing to note that two of the rivers which appear to have the best populations are in the Prince Regent Nature Reserve.

SCHOOL DENTAL THERAPY CLINIC

Rockingham

186. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will the department be establishing a dental therapy clinic in a Rockingham primary school during the financial year 1977-1978?

- (2) If "Yes" at what school, and when?

- (3) If "No", why not?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) to (3) Planning for the building of dental therapy clinics during the financial year 1977-78 will not be completed until State and Commonwealth Budgets are presented.

WATER SUPPLIES

Northern Suburbs

187. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Adverting to my question 106 of 4th August, is there any evidence to show that pumping at present levels is having an adverse effect on the flora surrounding the pumping areas?
- (2) If "Yes", what effect is shown and over what area?
- (3) If "Yes" to (1),
 - (a) will it not accelerate the flora growth problem if the Government proceeds with its plans to triple the water outtake; and
 - (b) will the department have another look at its proposals, in view of the possibly harmful effect to the environment, before increasing the present outtake?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) Following two successive drought years, some older trees in pumped areas appear to be affected, although regrowth is quite healthy. Quite similar effects are evident in other areas not being pumped.
- (3) (a) No, since additional areas will be developed.
- (b) The extraction of underground water is continuously monitored by the Metropolitan Water Board in consultation with the Department of Conservation and Environment, and the Forests Department.

WATER BORES

Golden Bay-Peelhurst Area

188. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Adverting to the information given to the House on 4th August last relating to bores in the Singleton-Peelhurst area, will he please advise—
 - (a) will the bores be used to supplement the metropolitan water supply;

- (b) if "Yes" when?
- (2) (a) If "Yes" to (1) (a), what arrangements will be made by the Government for those constituents of mine who find they need to sink deeper bores because of a possible reduction in the water table level;
- (b) what guarantees will the Government provide that their drawing on these water supplies will not cause an increase in the salinity level as it presently exists?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) (a) No, these are exploratory bores only and are not suitable for production.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (2) Not applicable.

COCKBURN SOUND

Oil Tankers

189. Mr BARNETT, to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier correctly reported in *The West Australian* of 30th August, 1976 in the section headed "controls"?
- (2) Does he still maintain that the Australian Labor Party policy of limiting the size of oil tankers in Cockburn Sound to 70 000 tonnes is something of a joke, because that is the size the port is already physically limited to by the depth of water?
- (3) Would the Premier care to comment on the Press report, *The West Australian* of 21st July, 1977, which advised that the 86 000 tonne *Morgedal* was undamaged after running aground at Fairway buoy and later berthed at Kwinana?
- (4) Will he please implement the section of the Australian Labor Party platform which allows for a limitation on the size of oil tankers entering Cockburn Sound to 70 000 tonnes before a possible disaster occurs?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. The safe draught of vessels navigating the channel from Parmelia and Success Bank is 12.65 metres. Depending

on their design, fully laden vessels drawing this depth of water would be up to 70 000 tonnes DWT.

- (3) The *Morgedal* did not run ashore at speed. She took the bottom so gently that the Master was not aware she was ashore until the pilot boarded her. Her gentle grounding on a sandy bottom is consistent with the fact that she was subsequently reported to be undamaged after a thorough examination.
- (4) No. Such a limitation would serve no useful purpose as limitations do not obviate the results of incorrect procedures or errors of judgment.

(Note: I am advised *Morgedal* was loaded within the permitted draught and was not carrying its full capacity.)

PERMANENT AMBULANCE DRIVERS

Rockingham-Medina

190. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact that the permanent ambulance drivers currently operating out of Rockingham are to be transferred to the new station at the Medina bus terminal?
- (2) If "Yes"—
 - (a) who will man the Rockingham station;
 - (b) with how many ambulances?
- (3) How will this be an improvement on the existing facility?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) The Rockingham station will be manned by volunteers.
- (b) There will be two ambulances at Rockingham and one at the new station at the Medina bus terminal.
- (3) The new station at Medina bus terminal will be manned by paid staff 24 hours a day seven days a week. At present paid staff are available at Rockingham on weekdays only from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The St. John Ambulance Association considers that the new arrangements will give an improved service to Medina and Rockingham townships in addition to servicing the industrial complex at Kwinana.

SCHOOL CHILDREN

Police Interviews

191. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware that children at Rockingham High School are being interviewed by police at the school, without possibly sufficient attempts being made by the school to contact the parents?
- (2) What is his department's attitude to this sort of action?
- (3) Is it a fact that on at least one occasion last week, the parent was at home and if contacted, could have obviated the need for the interviews that took place over three periods, thus possibly disrupting the child's schooling?
- (4) If "Yes" to (3), would he take steps to ensure parental participation in any such interviews in the future?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) No. The policy is that attempts are made to contact a parent and when this is not possible a senior staff member will be present at the interview.
- (3) It is regretted that a parent was not contacted but a senior staff member was present. The interview lasted less than twenty minutes.
- (4) The procedure is covered by departmental administrative instructions.

DEMONSTRATION AT MURDOCH UNIVERSITY

Statement by Commissioner of Police

192. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Did he see the report published in the *Daily News* of 11th July about statements allegedly made by the Commissioner of Police concerning the demonstration at Murdoch University on 9th July?
- (2) Will he ascertain and tell the House whether the Commissioner was correctly reported as saying "a lot of communists were involved" and that wrong ideas about demonstrations "are bred by stupid political leaders who say stupid things for stupid people to follow"?
- (3) Will he ascertain and tell the House what evidence the Commissioner has that "a lot of communists were involved"?

(4) Will he ask the Commissioner to name the communists?

(5) Will he ask the Commissioner and tell the House how the Commissioner knows they are communists?

(6) If the Commissioner cannot name them, will he ask the Commissioner and tell the House what number of communists the Commissioner considers to be a lot of communists?

(7) Will he ascertain and tell the House to whom the Commissioner was referring when he spoke of "stupid political leaders"?

(8) Will he ascertain and tell the House what statements by these leaders the Commissioner considers stupid and why?

(9) Will he ascertain and tell the House who the Commissioner considers were the "stupid" people who followed the statements and how they followed them?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) to (9) I do not intend to interrogate the Commissioner of Police on statements he is alleged to have made to a newspaper reporter.

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS

Transfer to Education Department

193. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Can he confirm that pre-school teachers with three years training and several years' experience will be required to go on probation for 12 months when the Education Department takes over the staffing and supervision of pre-school centres from the Pre-School Board?
- (2) Could this requirement be viewed with possibly some justification, as a downgrading of established high standards and specialised educational expertise?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) The Early Childhood Branch of the Education Department is not taking over all existing Pre-School Board Centres as suggested in the question. Whether a centre transfers is a decision for the local parent committee to make. Teachers in pre-school centres which remain as community based centres will continue under the same conditions as at present. The question of one year's

temporary status preparatory to permanency is outlined in my letter to the WA Pre-School Teachers' Union, a copy of which I have handed to the member.

- (2) Not applicable.

PRE-PRIMARY CENTRES

Establishment

194. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it Government policy to build pre-primary centres in association with each new primary school?
- (2) If "Yes", can he say what guidelines are followed in establishing pre-primary centres in association with existing primary schools?
- (3) If the answer to (1) is "No" can he say what guidelines are followed in establishing new pre-primary centres, generally?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) As funds permit, and in accordance with the need to service the particular region.
- (3) Not applicable.

SCHOOLS

Community Use

195. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many times has the committee for community use of schools met since it was set up?
- (2) When did the committee last meet?
- (3) When does he expect the committee to submit its final report?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Full committee—3 meetings.
Sub-committee—3 meetings.
- (2) Full committee—29th June, 1976.
- (3) The work of this committee is considered to be on-going. The committee will be called together if and when further deliberations relating to the community use of schools are deemed necessary.

EDUCATION

Texts: Printing

196. Mr GREWAR, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) In answer to question 112 of 4th August, the figures presented refer only to actual printing costs; could he provide the costs of—
 - (a) paper, including covers;
 - (b) all—
 - (i) distribution;
 - (ii) handling;
 - (iii) marketing costs, for all titles?
- (2) In the event of accurately kept cost breakdown figures not being available, could calculated estimates be given?
- (3) (a) Did the department supply printing blocks;
 - (b) if "Yes", what would the total commercial cost of these be to prepare, from art work stage to final setting?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

The information sought by the member is very extensive and I will reply personally to his question by letter.

DAMS

Construction

197. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is it proposed to construct any additional major water catchment dams in the south-west in the next seven years?
- (2) If "Yes"—
 - (a) where precisely will such dams be located;
 - (b) what is the expected cost of construction expected to be;
 - (c) what will be the capacity of any such dam;
 - (d) to what purpose will the water of any such catchment be put?
- (3) If "No" to (1), will the water storage capacity for Western Australia be adequate for all purposes without the construction of a further major dam within the next seven years?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (3) There is no proposal for the construction of a major dam at present. A number of sites are under investigation to varying degrees, so that construction could take place if the need arises.

STATE FORESTS

Pine Plantations

198. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Forests:

- (1) Have applications or tenders been called for the milling or processing of pine trees grown in Forest Department plantations?
- (2) If "Yes"—
- (a) how many tenders or applications have been received;
 - (b) from whom or what firms were tenders or applications received;
 - (c) (i) which tenders or applications were accepted; and
 - (ii) for what quantity of timber in each case?
- (3) If "No", to (1), is it proposed to call for applications or tenders, and when?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Applications have been called on a number of occasions. It is assumed, however, that the member's question relates to the announcement in January this year of the Government's intention to invite tenders for the milling of pine. If this assumption is correct, the answer is no.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Yes. In the near future when resource data and conditions of tender have been finalised.

CATTLE

Slaughter for Local Market

199. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) How many cattle for slaughter or fattening for slaughter for the local market have been brought from the Kimberley region to the southern portion of Western Australia in each of the past three years?
- (2) How many cattle have been slaughtered for the local market in each of the past three years?

Mr OLD replied:

- (1) 1st July, 1974-30th June, 1975—3 779
1st July, 1975-30th June, 1976—280
1st July, 1976-30th June, 1977—1 843
- (2) The actual numbers of cattle slaughtered for the local market is not known to my department.

FORESTS DEPARTMENT

Pine Timber

200. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Forests:

- (1) What persons or firms are able to purchase sawn pine timber from the Forests Department?
- (2) What is the current price per cubic metre the Forests Department charges for sawn pines?
- (3) What is the price per cubic metre which retail outlets charge per cubic metre for sawn pine?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Registered timber merchants and Government departments.
A few small sales are made ex country mills to local individuals and small manufacturers.
- (2) There is a wide range of prices for various sawn products. A copy of the Forests Department's current, trade list price will be provided to the member.
- (3) There is no set retail price per cubic metre and prices vary considerably. The mark-up is generally not less than 40 per cent to cover costs of stockholding, selling and distribution.

TRADE UNIONS

British Officials

201. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Were any officials who currently hold office with any trade union in Western Australia born in England?
- (2) If "Yes"—
- (a) will he name the officials concerned;
 - (b) the trade union with which each is associated; and
 - (c) the position each holds?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) and (2) I am not in possession of information to answer this question.

WELLINGTON DAM

Catchment Area

202. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Would he kindly advise, as a result of Mr H. W. Whittington's visit to the Wellington Weir catchment area, has the Government decided to permit Mr Whittington to carry out experiments in the area?
- (2) If experiments are to be carried out, will interested farmers be assisted financially?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Discussions are currently in progress with Mr Whittington on this matter. No proposal for a trial has been formulated so far.
- (2) This question relates to something which may never happen and I suggest the member raises it again if and when Mr Whittington is granted approval to experiment in the catchment area.

HOSPITAL

Donnybrook

203. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Health:

Will he kindly advise what stage the re-planning for the construction of the Donnybrook Hospital has reached?

Mr RIDGE replied:

As I advised the member on 7th July, 1977, officers of both the Public Works Department and the Medical Department are continuing to explore possible solutions to what is a very difficult problem.

ROAD

Donnybrook-Mumballup

204. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will the Minister kindly advise if the section of road between Mr Fowler's property and Mr Jackson's property on the Donnybrook/Mumballup Road is to be upgraded in line with the general improvements now being carried out?
- (2) If the answer is "No" will he kindly advise why the narrow bridge is to be left on this section of road?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes. subject to the completion of formal resumption action for additional land requirements

BUILDING BLOCKS

Collie

205. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Housing:

Will he please advise to what extent negotiations have proceeded for the sale of additional State Housing Commission blocks at Collie?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

There are still 9 lots available from the release in 1976. Sales since then have been very slow.

No further land releases are contemplated for the time being, in view of the apparently limited demand.

PERTH CITY COUNCIL

New Town Plan

206. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

When is it likely the Perth City Council's new town plan will be available for public inspection?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

I am advised that Perth City Council will be considering its city planning scheme at its next meeting. Dependent on its deliberations the scheme could be available for public inspection within the next month.

DENTAL THERAPISTS

Amending Legislation

207. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Health: Will amendments be made to the Dental Act during the present session of Parliament relating to dental therapists?

Mr RIDGE replied:

No amendments are envisaged during this session of Parliament.

DETACHED CLASSROOMS

Use

208. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Education:

With respect to the old detached classrooms formerly used for "special" classes:

- (1) Is the building presently being utilised by any youth groups?

- (2) Is the Education Department or the Public Works Department the present owner of the building?
- (3) Is the building situated on the school site or on a site separate but adjacent to the school site?
- (4) Is it possible to excise a portion of a school site and so make it available for recreation purposes?
- (5) Is it possible to lease a portion of a school site and make it available for recreational purposes?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

I should like to indicate that the honourable member's question did not identify a particular primary school. I have ascertained from the honourable member that it refers to the Medina Primary School and the answer in that context is as follows—

- (1) Yes—on an intermittent basis.
- (2) Public Works Department.
- (3) School site.
- (4) and (5). It is recommended that the building remains under the jurisdiction of the school principal and that its use be at his discretion.

SCHOOL

South Parmelia

209. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Education:

With respect to the proposed South Parmelia School:

- (1) When is it considered that construction might begin?
- (2) What is the general location?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) No definite time-table has been set for the construction of the proposed Chisham Primary School in Parmelia. Increasing enrolments and housing developments are being closely monitored by officers of the Education Department.
- (2) The proposed Chisham Primary School site is bounded by Chisham Avenue, Parsons Avenue, Moysey Court and Joiner Place, Parmelia.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Electorate Offices

210. Mr STEPHENS, to the Premier:

With regard to electorate offices—

- (a) what is the total capital cost of all renovating and furnishings on all offices to 30th June, 1977;
- (b) for the year ended 30th June, 1977, what was the total cost of—
 - (i) rent;
 - (ii) electricity;
 - (iii) wages?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (a) \$175 128
- (b) (i) \$60 822
- (ii) \$4 327
- (iii) \$389 127.

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS

Number and Offices

211. Mr STEPHENS, to the Premier:

- (1) (a) To 30th June, 1977, how many regional administrators have been appointed; and
- (b) for what regions?
- (2) What has been the total capital cost of renovations and furnishing of these offices?
- (3) For the year ended 30th June, 1977, what was the total cost of—
 - (i) rent;
 - (ii) electricity;
 - (iii) wages and/or salary?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) (a) 7
- (b) Gascoyne
Goldfields
Great Southern
Greenough
Kimberley
Pilbara
South West
- (2) \$64 348
- (3) (i) \$33 699.86
- (ii) \$5 738.12
- (iii) \$192 892

SERVICE PENSIONERS

Concessions

212. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Treasurer:

Further to my question without notice to the Premier regarding eligibility of pensioners to receive either a subsidy or deferment of rates, will he advise me what pensions are covered under the term "Service Pension"?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

A service pension is a pension payable under the Repatriation Act, to veterans who:—

- (a) suffer from pulmonary tuberculosis; or
- (b) served in a theatre of war and have attained the age of 60 years in the case of a male, or 55 years in the case of a female, or are permanently unemployable.

The spouse of a service pensioner may also be paid a service pension if not already receiving a pension, or allowance, from the Department of Social Security.

The service pension is broadly equivalent to the Department of Social Security age pension and is subject to the provisions of a similar income test for persons under 70 years of age.

HOUSING

East Victoria Park

213. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Housing:

What style of housing will the commission be looking to for construction on the land in Beatty Avenue, between the Primary School and Miller Street, East Victoria Park?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

Until the Housing Commission has had some discussion with the local authority concerning rezoning of this land, and ascertained the residential classification, which will apply in the event of rezoning being granted, no firm indication can be given as to the type of housing the Housing Commission will be aiming to construct.

214. *This question was postponed.*

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

URANIUM

Experimental Work

1. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Has any experimental work on uranium ever been carried out by Western Mining Corporation at its Kwinana plant?
- (2) What work and in what facility?
- (3) Is it still happening?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question, the answer to which is as follows—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Small scale work designed to test ore treatment methods.
- (3) No.

AUSTRALIAN UNION OF STUDENTS TRAVEL SERVICE

Collapse

2. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Has the Minister been advised of the reported collapse of the Australian Union of Students Travel Service?
- (2) Is he able to advise the number of Western Australian students either stranded or who have travel arrangements pending with the service?
- (3) Has the Minister's department made any assessment of the need for increased security for patrons of travel organisations, and if so can he advise what these are?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question, the answer to which is as follows—

- (1) Yes.
- (2) and (3) The matter is being investigated by the Consumer Affairs Department.

TOURISM

Report

3. Mr HARMAN, to the Premier:

As a preamble to my question without notice I refer to an article in the *Daily News* today indicating a report was

released by the Western Australian Minister for Tourism on matters concerning tourism in Western Australia, which report cost in excess of \$100 000 most of which was paid mainly by the Australian Government. My question is that I am not aware that this report was tabled in Parliament and I ask the Premier whether he will arrange for his departmental officers to ensure that at least one copy of the report is made available to Parliament House at least by next Monday, either to be tabled or for supply to the library.

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I will have the member's request investigated.

PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

Parental Representation

4. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Did the Minister tell a recent meeting of parent representatives that he was in favour of elected parent representation at a policy making level in the new early childhood section of the Education Department?
- (2) If the answer to (1) is "No", did the Minister make any comment at all on the need for elected parent representatives at the meeting? If he did, what was the nature of his comments?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) I have a copy of the transcript in front of me now. In fact, I did indicate that the co-ordinating committee, which comprises three members of the Pre-School Board and three members of the Education Department and which is now regularly meeting to carry out the integration procedures which are under way, has in fact discussed this. We do consider that there ought to be some group of people including elected parent representatives, and in that context I did mention it. I have a copy of the transcript which will be sent to pre-school centres in the next few days.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Contra-Pak Systems

5. Mr CLARKO, to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the activities of a Sydney-based firm which has been advertising in the local Press inviting people to become involved in contract packing of goods in the home?
- (2) Has the Bureau of Consumer Affairs received complaints from people who have sent money to the firm and received nothing in return?
- (3) If so, what action is being taken?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question, the answer to which is as follows—

- (1) Yes. The firm is known as Contra-Pak Systems of 8th floor, 121 Walker Street, North Sydney.
- (2) Four complaints have been received by the bureau in the last two weeks and numerous inquiries.
- (3) Attempts made to contact the firm have been fruitless. The bureau in Sydney was contacted by the WA bureau and they advised that they also have received a number of similar complaints and had referred the matter to the Trade Practices Commission. The commission at a recent hearing in Sydney obtained an interim injunction restraining the firm from further advertising. This provided the basis for the NSW police to obtain warrants for the arrest of the firm's principals.

DAMS

Construction

6. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

I would like to ask a supplementary question arising from an answer given to part (3) of question 197 on today's notice paper. Will the water storage capacity in Western Australia be adequate for all purposes without the construction of further major dams in the next seven years? The Minister did answer to the effect that this might be so if the need arose, but I am sure

he inadvertently overlooked the specific answer and I know the House will be interested.

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

This depends to a degree on the amount of rain and the consumption of water. I think the member knows there are two dams under construction at the moment, one at Wungong Brook and the other at North Dandalup, which will increase the capacity of the metropolitan area. We presume that under normal circumstances we would have adequate supplies.

URANIUM

Yeelirrie Deposits

7. Mr BARNETT, to the Premier:

Adverting to the proposals by Western Mining Corporation to establish a uranium mine at Yeelirrie—

- (1) Would the Premier outline to the House what is meant by a "pilot plant"?
- (2) What type of mining—for example open cut—is proposed?
- (3) What testing of radon gas levels has taken place to date, and what are the results?
- (4) Subject to the go-ahead being given to Western Mining Corporation to establish a \$200 million reactor at Yeelirrie, what sort of reactor is proposed to be established?
- (5) Is it proposed to have separate plants for—
 - (a) conversion to UF₆;

(b) enriching;

(c) conversion to fuel?

- (6) Where is it proposed to store the waste fuel from Yeelirrie?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) A pilot plant would simulate, on a reduced scale, the ore treatment processes to be used in producing yellow cake in a full-scale treatment plant. It would have a capacity of 1.5 tonnes per hour and about 8 000 tonnes of Yeelirrie ore would be used in the various tests.
- (2) Open-cut mining is proposed for Yeelirrie.
- (3) Western Mining Corporation is carrying out environmental studies that include measurement of existing radon levels and calculating levels for the future open-cut mine. The company understands that all relevant State and Federal regulations regarding radon levels must be observed.

The reasons prompting the parts (4) to (6) are not understood, but the answers are—

- (4) No reactor is contemplated. It would be a bargain price reactor at \$200 million. The \$200 million investment will enable ore to be mined and yellow cake—U₃O₈—to be produced.
- (5) No. The Yeelirrie plant is only proposed to produce yellow cake.
- (6) No waste fuel is generated at Yeelirrie so no storage is required.