

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 13th April, 1978

The SPEAKER (Mr Thompson) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Mr Carr, and read a first time.

POLICE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR O'NEIL (East Melville—Minister for Police and Traffic) [2.17 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill makes provision for the Commissioner of Police to enforce discipline upon commissioned officers of the Police Force. At present the only way in which a commissioned officer may be dealt with is before a board appointed by the Governor.

The Commissioner of Police at present may deal with constables and non-commissioned officers and may fine, reduce in rank, or dismiss any of these members. If any of these persons are aggrieved by the decision of the commissioner they may appeal to the Police Appeal Board.

This Bill allows for commissioned officers to use the same machinery. Any dismissal or reduction in rank of a commissioned officer will, however, need the confirmation of the Governor.

The Bill also allows for police cadets to be brought within the scope of the disciplinary provisions. At this stage the only disciplinary action the commissioner can impose is dismissal, however trivial the offence.

The Bill makes provision, for purposes of administration, for the Commissioner of Police to divide the State, or any part of the State, into regions, divisions, subdivisions, sections, branches or sub-branches, wherein portions of the Police Force may be stationed or carry out duties. At present the Governor may by notice in the *Government Gazette* proclaim police districts. However, this has been found unnecessarily cumbersome and under these provisions uniformity with the State Statistical Co-ordination Committee, which is endeavouring to obtain a standard area system for Western Australia, will be easier to achieve.

Provision is also made in this Bill for a new offence to be created in that a person shall not compel another to abstain from carrying on or

prevent or obstruct any activity which pursuant to the law of the State or the Commonwealth that person is permitted to carry on by virtue of being the holder of a licence, permit or other authority. This is a general offence which will have the object of preventing coercive interference with activities which are being carried out under a State or Commonwealth licence. It is felt that the Government has a duty to protect a licence issued by it, and that the person acting under its authority is free to go about his authorised business.

This Bill also makes provision for an officer or constable who has reasonable cause to believe that any ship, boat or vessel is likely to be used for a voyage, the purpose of which is to do or attempt to do an act which if done within the State would constitute an offence, may without warrant enter into and take charge of or secure any ship, boat or vessel in order to prevent that voyage.

This provision is necessary in view of the offences which are taking place in our offshore areas, such as drug trafficking and fisheries matters, which are a cause of concern to the Government, especially the area of drug trafficking.

Provision is included for an appeal to a magistrate who will be empowered to order the release of the vessel unconditionally or on terms and conditions, or order that it be detained and make other appropriate orders.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr T. H. Jones.

THE FREMANTLE GAS AND COKE COMPANY'S ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR MENSAROS (Floreat—Minister for Fuel and Energy) [2.24 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The sole purpose of the Bill is to enable a revision of the limits of the area south of the Swan River within which the Fremantle Gas and Coke Company may lawfully exercise the rights conferred upon it by the principal Act to take place.

The Act when first enacted in 1886 set those limits at all places within a circle of five miles radius of the Town Hall of Fremantle. The practical difficulties of giving effect to a boundary which is merely a curved line on a map having no necessary relevance to any development by way of building lots or streets was first revealed by subdivisional development north of the Swan River in the Cottesloe-Peppermint Grove and Claremont municipalities through which the boundary curve passed.

To overcome the difficulties in that case an amending Act, No. 15 of 1938, provided that the Governor could by proclamation vary the boundary line from place to place within an area north of the Swan River and specified in the schedule to the Act. By recourse to that provision the limits of the company supply area were accordingly redefined by a proclamation made on the 12th May, 1939.

It has become evident by reason of similar development now taking place in areas south of the Swan River that provision for readjustment of the company's supply area has again become a matter of practical necessity for the very same reasons which in 1938 prompted the amendment Act of that year and are now additionally necessary to allow a practical line of separation between gas service systems of the company and the State Energy Commission.

The means proposed in this Bill to effect such rationalisation are, as before, to empower the Governor by proclamation to vary the boundary limits from place to place within a half kilometre either side of the radius boundary south of the Swan River as set down in the Act. Any such variation would be instituted upon the recommendation of the Minister administering the Act after consultation with both the company and the State Energy Commission.

The matter was, of course, discussed with the Fremantle Gas and Coke Company itself which was in complete agreement.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr T. H. Jones.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: ELEVENTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from the 12th April, on the following motion by Mr MacKinnon—

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 BLAIKIE (Vasse). [2.27 p.m.]: I take the opportunity to join other members in the debate and to commend the member for Murdoch who, quite aptly and in a very responsible manner, proposed the motion we are discussing. I also

join in congratulating the Leader of the Opposition in his new-found role, and one hopes that his term in that role will not be short-lived, but that will depend on politics.

Cyclone "Alby" has caused the State of Western Australia and many people in it considerable distress. When we take into consideration the consequences of that storm and the effect it had from one end of Western Australia to the other, it would be fair comment to say that there has not been a disaster as big as "Alby" in the history of Western Australia. It has created havoc, and as each day goes by yet another tragedy is revealed. It is quite incredible to learn of the destruction it created and the hardships it has inflicted on people. This is the real tragedy we all face.

It is great to know that all people, irrespective of their political beliefs, and from all walks of life, come together on such occasions in an endeavour to help others in need. This is important. It is necessary to ensure that those people suffering hardships will not be political pawns and that everyone will work towards a common goal to ensure that the hardships are overcome as best, as efficiently, and as quickly as possible.

Mr Tonkin: Hear, hear!

Mr BLAIKIE: One can say that to this stage we know that at least 1 000 kilometres of fencing has been destroyed, but I believe that this figure will be found to be much higher as a full assessment of the situation is made.

My remarks will be confined to telling the story of what happened in my own electorate.

Mr Davies: We will all miss the wharf at Busselton.

Mr BLAIKIE: That is another story and I will be speaking about that. One of the serious effects is the damage to the fishing industry, small as it might be. I assess that damage as being in the order of \$200 000; it might even be higher.

The SPEAKER: I draw the attention of the member for Vasse to the fact that, probably because he has a cold, it is difficult to hear him up here, and I believe *Hansard* is having difficulty hearing him. Would he kindly face this way and speak up a little more.

Mr BLAIKIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was speaking about the fishing industry. An untold amount of fishing equipment in the way of nets, and so on, has been lost. It is important to understand that that type of equipment is not insurable. In addition, to my knowledge three fishing boats were lost as a result of the storm. Because of debris coming from the damage to Busselton

jetty, another fishing boat was very badly holed and will have to be slipped. That was subsequent damage. As each day goes by, yet another damage factor occurs.

Mr Davies: Did the fishing fleet use the jetty very much?

Mr BLAIKIE: No, it did not, firstly because its locality was a problem. It was used by the fishing fleet on occasion but not to any extent. It is not very difficult to understand that the people who have lost their fishing boats have now effectively lost their means of income, which in turn has affected one of the fish processing factories in the area, because the boats which were catching for the factory have been damaged and are out of commission. Possibly the factory will have to close down. The subsequent loss will be quite extensive. I do not know how much it will be and I do not think the proprietors know, but I am certainly aware that there is real concern.

In relation to crops, one could talk about the potato crop. This has also suffered an amount of damage which becomes more and more evident each day. The damage was caused by two factors, one being destruction through the sand cutting the plants, and the other being the effect of the salt-laden air on the plants. It will be some time before the full extent of the damage can be assessed. One grower has already lost over seven acres of potatoes. One of the estuaries was flooded and it looks as though crops to the value of about \$100,000 will be lost because growers are not able to use the salt water on these crops. These people have been continuously trying to pump the salt out of the rivers, and even in the event of their being successful there will be residual damage and it is impossible to measure what the loss will be in total.

In another area the Wonnerup Estuary was severely breached and the sea has flooded into the estuary. Several hundreds of acres of farmland are under up to three feet of sea water. Again, the residual damage cannot be estimated. Perhaps the member for Mt. Marshall, with his experience of salt-affected land, would be able to make a calculated guess.

These are some of the effects which have not been recorded and of which people are probably unaware. Certainly Government authorities are aware of them and I appreciate the assistance they have given.

One could talk about the tomato crops which were wiped out because of salt and wind damage. A mushroom grower has lost an entire shed and his crop. There is also a valiant group of apple growers whose orchards last year suffered very

badly from hail damage. This year it appears about 90 per cent of their crop has been shattered by wind from cyclone "Alby". There is real doubt that the remaining fruit left on the trees will be of any value.

Added to all this is the damage occasioned to private property from flooding by the sea as a result of the highest ever recorded level of tides in Busselton. There were also serious fires in the Capel district which devastated a large area of land with, of course, the consequent loss of fencing materials, fences, and hay sheds. From the stories I have been told by farming people who are experienced in fighting fires, the combustibility of the area at the height of the fires was incredible.

Mr Tonkin: It was frightening.

Mr BLAIKIE: "Frightening" was also a word used in describing it to me. The front of a fire might have been 300 or 400 yards away, and hay sheds exploded on fire. Undoubtedly we can probably learn much from the holocaust caused by cyclone "Alby", but I doubt that we can learn very much about how to combat such a disaster in the future.

Mr McIver: Was anyone hurt in the Busselton area?

Mr BLAIKIE: I am not aware of any injury to any person. That is quite incredible. I was told about a group of people who, with their vehicles, were fighting a fire. The windscreens of two of the vehicles were completely shattered by falling tree limbs. A tree fell across the tow bar of a machine which was being towed by another vehicle. It is incredible that people were not injured, but for that we are extremely thankful.

I would like to express to the Parliament my appreciation of the speedy manner in which the Government reacted by sending officers and Ministers to the scene and putting emergency relief procedures into effect so quickly to ensure that people were assisted. This has been most commendable, and I do not believe the relief could have been provided any faster than it was. On behalf of the people in those areas I express to the Government our heartfelt thanks for the assistance given in a time of need.

On the Friday following the storm, finance for personal relief of up to \$1 000 was made available, and earlier this week further assistance was made available in respect of fence posts. The Minister for Forests has also advised that timber royalties will be waived on fencing materials used in the

fire area. These actions are all significant, especially when one is down and out. In those circumstances every little bit done really counts, and one never forgets about it.

A matter that has been paramount in my mind is also something about which I never cease to be amazed in my travels from farm to farm throughout my electorate. I have seen farms damaged by fire, others damaged by flood, and others damaged by wind; and one feels genuine concern for the people affected. However, without exception the people to whom one speaks say, "We have suffered some damage; our property might be burnt out and our home is a bit damaged, but go down the road and see so-and-so because I think he might be worse off than we are."

That is a tremendous spirit and one I am sure we all hope is typical of the spirit of Australians. I commend those people for their attitude. Theirs is not an attitude of selfishness, but one of continually thinking of others who may be worse off. As far as I can ascertain, that attitude has also been found by other members in their electorates.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the officers of the various Government departments who were responsible for the repairing of the vital services on which the State depends so much. Local authorities, forestry officers, Public Works Department officers, and others all did a mighty job, and I thank them for their efforts.

However, one group warrants special commendation. I refer to the officers and men of the State Energy Commission who were out working day and night in storm conditions carrying out what I regard as a very hazardous job. I am personally aware of officers and men who worked from six o'clock in the morning until 11 or 12 at night doing everything they could to restore power supplies.

One thing we have certainly learnt from cyclone "Alby" is how dependent we are on the State Energy Commission; and all people connected to the SEC grid system, no matter in what part of the State they live, now realise this.

In respect of the damage that has been done and the personal hardship that has been suffered by people, a full assessment is still being made and shortly the Government will have a reasonable idea of the extent of loss and damage.

I would like to touch on another matter which is dear to the hearts of people and, in particular, Busselton people. I refer to the damage occasioned to the Busselton jetty. The main promenade section of the jetty has been damaged. Some 270 metres of the section at the commencement of the

jetty has been completely destroyed. It would appear that the entire main promenade section may have to be pulled down because it is in a dangerous condition. Already some \$50 000 has been allocated to this work, and some assessment has been made of alternative proposals.

One such alternative proposal is to reconstruct the promenade section, and this has been estimated to cost something like \$700 000. Another is to modify the railway jetty which was not damaged to such a great extent, and that proposal would cost over \$300 000. Whichever way one considers the matter, an awful lot of money is involved simply to enable people to walk on a jetty. I certainly recognise that is a factor.

However, that jetty has become as much a part of Busselton as the Barracks Arch area has become a part of Perth.

Mr B. T. Burke: I think it would be a shame if it were not restored.

Mr BLAIKIE: I thank the member for Balcatta for his sentiment. I venture to say probably many thousands of people in Busselton are equally concerned.

Mr Coyne interjected.

Mr BLAIKIE: Its main function was for the enjoyment of people, and I venture to suggest that probably 500 000 people enjoyed the jetty each year.

The history of such jetties in the Vasse electorate is rather a sorry one, because what remains of the existing jetty happens to be jetty No. 5. Many years ago the first jetty for the export of timber from Western Australia was constructed at Wonnerup, and hardly any remains of that jetty can be seen today. Later, after timber cutting moved to areas further south, a timber jetty was built at Quindalup, and it was used for the export of timber for some time.

Then in the early 1900s a jetty was constructed in the Hamelin Bay area, the remains of which can still be seen today. This jetty was built to cater for the prospering empire of the late M. C. Davies of Karridale. It is rather interesting to note that in the era of the early mining boom, the late M. C. Davies had his own currency, his own hospital, his own police station, his own railway line, and his own jetty. He had a town of about 3 500 people. However, that was an era which has now gone.

The fourth jetty was the one built at Augusta. Therefore, in a span of 100 years we have had five jetties in my area, and the last remaining one is now partly ruined. The Busselton jetty has

sentimental value not only for the people of Busselton and other Western Australians, but also for people from other parts of Australia who have enjoyed walking along it.

While the jetty offers no monetary reward, what is such a reward compared with the enjoyment people obtain from it? That is an argument which I certainly will be expounding in respect of this jetty.

I also advise the House that at a meeting last night the Shire of Busselton viewed the matter with such concern that it has decided to lodge an Australia-wide appeal for assistance to fund the reconstruction of the jetty. In addition, one of the biggest busy-bees that I have seen occurred last Saturday when more than 1 000 people turned up to assist with the cleaning up of storm damage material.

I have received some letters from school children in my electorate and I should like to read out a few to the House because they capture in simple terms the sentiment and emotion felt by their parents and by residents of the district generally. The first one says—

Dear Mr Blaikie,

Last night Cyclone Alby came and blew the jetty down. Please could you give us money to build the jetty because we want to dive off the diving board. Thank you, Mr Blaikie.

From Shane Kinninmont.

That was from a seven-year-old. Another letter says—

I am a student of the Busselton Primary School. This morning our class went and had a look at the damage cyclone Alby had done to the jetty. I myself think it is very sad and hope the jetty can be restored. I am willing to help in any way and I am sure the rest of Busselton feel the same. Busselton would not be Busselton without the jetty. Please help save our jetty.

That is signed by Sandra Driver.

I wish to read only one other letter. This came from young Paul Cuthbert. He said—

I am a member of Busselton Primary School. Could you try to fix the jetty? I know it will cost a lot of money. But can't you raise money somehow? I know the jetty has split in three sections. But can't you do it bit by bit even if it takes three years? I still want the jetty and I know a lot of other people around here want it. Could you try to fix it and if you do it might make a lot of people in Busselton a lot happier.

Therein lies the story because although the cost would be great it is fair to say that that jetty is probably a sacred object in the minds of the people of the district. People are feeling very sad because of what has happened.

In this regard I have written to the Prime Minister and to the Premier asking them, if this has been declared a disaster area, whether approaches could be made to obtain funding to provide some form of reconstruction. Firstly, I wish to see the personal hardship of people taken care of. If we can then find any money I shall endeavour strongly to promote the point of view that the jetty be reconstructed.

Cyclone "Alby" created history in a number of ways in Western Australia. Neither I nor you, Mr Speaker, realised at the time I dismissed the House because of an emergency within the State, that it was the first occasion on which it had happened. I certainly hope it does not happen again. That will be a story that I shall be able to tell my grandchildren.

Cyclone "Alby" has also created history in other areas. I refer to the loading of live sheep for export from Western Australian ports and the breaking of the deadlock situation which occurred. This has been a completely crazy situation in which people have been negotiating and talks have been taking place, but it has all been to no avail.

One of the most devastating situations with which we have been faced is that even after the cyclone the unions unfortunately were not prepared to co-operate. Any farmer who has stock of any sort knows that this time of the year, the tail-end of summer and the start of autumn, when the rains have not commenced, is the most difficult time to keep his stock. The cost of maintaining animals in good condition is far greater than any returns on the stock. The meatworkers' union could not have picked a better time to blackmail producers because it is a time when they are least able to cope. The union's attitude in not allowing sheep to be loaded was completely despicable.

What has happened is now history. All the ships have gone; at least they have left Western Australia. I hope that is one exercise we never see again. Abattoir workers must realise that they cannot hold people to ransom; and they certainly cannot hold farmers to ransom.

Mr Skidmore: Those two ships will have a loading problem in Australia again.

Mr BLAIKIE: I certainly hope that attitude does not prevail. I hope that the people who might make the decisions which will prevent those ships being loaded again—and I hope that

does not happen—will try to understand some of the things I spoke of earlier in relation to the devastation that people have faced.

I have spoken only of cyclone "Alby" but some of the other real tragedies faced by farmers have been the two years of drought coupled with floods in large areas of Western Australia. If that was not enough, on top of it we had cyclone "Alby". Then on top of that there is the ridiculous situation of sheep not being allowed to be exported from the rest of Australia.

Mr Skidmore: Farmers would not save stock to go to abattoirs.

Mr BLAIKIE: That happens to be the last straw. I say in all sincerity to the member for Swan that one thing which needs to be appreciated and understood—and I am talking in the most simplistic terms—is that if a farmer can get \$10 per head for sheep and cattle, will he send stock to an abattoir when he can get \$20 a head for live sheep or cattle? One does not need to be over-brilliant to understand that if a farmer is faced with the demands of his bank manager and other creditors and has also suffered a couple of years of drought he must take the best possible market he can find. I shall not go into the reasons for this occurring, but it has occurred.

Mr Carr: And the middleman sells it for \$80. What are you going to do about that?

Mr BLAIKIE: First of all, I question that remark made by the member for Geraldton. I suggest to him also that a middleman is involved, whoever he might be, when sheep are sold for \$10 a head. I do not believe anybody in this House would be prepared to deny farmers the right to obtain the optimum price available in the market place for their stock. At present farmers can obtain more than double the price if the animal is live.

Mr Bertram: Should not the ordinary worker get whatever he can rip off as well?

Mr BLAIKIE: Surely people who are involved must look at their own situation to see just what they are charging. If the charges are too high then they have to do something about them.

Mr Bertram: What about price fixing for other people's labour so they all get dealt with in the same way?

Mr BLAIKIE: They are some of the consequences arising from cyclone "Alby" which will go down as part of the record of an historic period in Western Australia.

I was absolutely disgusted this morning to read certain comments made by Mr J. Marks. The article was headed, "A blunt warning", and I quote from it as follows—

At a unionists' rally in Fremantle yesterday the assistant secretary of the Amalgamated Metal Workers and Shipwrights' Union, Mr J. Marks, appealed to police present not to let themselves be used again in industrial situations on the wharves.

He said that unions did not believe in violence but if it came "the blood would not all be shed by the workers."

One can draw the conclusion that he is indicating the police would be incited and blood would be shed; that is what he is inciting the workers to do.

Mr Clarko: Is he a trade union secretary?

Mr BLAIKIE: He is the assistant secretary of the Amalgamated Metal Workers and Shipwrights' Union.

Mr Clarko: Is he not a committed communist?

Mr B. T. Burke: Yes, and he owns up to it.

Mr Clarko: That is the difference. He will probably visit the Caucus room next.

Mr BLAIKIE: I do not believe Mr Marks will visit the Caucus room as I think he will be black banned for a day or two but will perhaps be there next week.

Mr Clarko: Red banned.

Mr BLAIKIE: The quote continues—

He said: "The cockies will want to put a 24-hour patrol round their boundaries, because there's a very high bushfire risk now. I believe that to be one of the most despicable statements ever made in Western Australia.

Mr Carr interjected.

Mr BLAIKIE: If the member for Geraldton wishes to take issue with me on this point—

Mr Carr: Do not take it seriously.

Mr BLAIKIE: I do take this matter seriously, especially when we have people such as Chester who are willing to run around and bomb terminals in this State because of things they believe in. The statement by Mr Marks serves only to spur other people to take actions of a similar nature. There should be some form of legislation so that these people could be taken to task.

Mr B. T. Burke: Taken to task for what?

Mr BLAIKIE: There should be legislation to take people to task for inciting others into contemplating arson.

Dr Troy: What about the fellow who fire-bombed two unionists' houses two years ago?

Mr BLAIKIE: I remind members that we have had a situation where people have suffered one of the worst fires in the State's history. Yet here we have an assistant union secretary addressing a rally and using intimidatory language. He seemed to expect his remarks to be carried in the Press to the people of Western Australia and indeed Australia as a whole. He said that in the event of the "cockies" taking this action again they will have to place a 24-hour watch on their boundary fences. If that is not incitement to arson, I do not know what is.

Mr Grayden: We had 311 fires during the recent cyclone and obviously he wants a few more.

Mr BLAIKIE: Let us consider why this chap Marks made this comment. He did so because farmers had the audacity to load their sheep onto ships so as to get them out of the State and be paid for running their business. The quote concludes—

"If this crowd here today had been there yesterday not one of the bloody trucks would have got on to the wharves."

I assure Mr Marks that if the crowd had been there and the trucks had arrived, despite his remarks the crowd would have been restrained and the farmers would have still been able to get onto the wharf.

It ill-becomes a person such as an assistant union secretary to take the law into his own hands.

Mr Bateman: What about the police who travelled at 150 kilometres an hour along the wharf?

Mr BLAIKIE: I hope the Government will consider ways and means of ensuring that people who are in responsible positions—and I believe the assistant secretary of the Amalgamated Metal Workers and Shipwrights' Union has a responsible position—are faced with appropriate Government action for utterances such as Mr Marks made.

Mr Grayden: He would have to be a megalomaniac.

Mr Carr: The Minister would know all about that.

Mr BLAIKIE: Following on the Minister's comment I would say these were the words of a power-hungry megalomaniac and I do not believe they would be made by a responsible person. If any member of the Opposition believes Mr Marks is responsible he should let me know.

Mr Grayden: Does the TLC support these utterances?

Mr BLAIKIE: Perhaps the Minister could inquire whether the TLC does support the utterances of one of its members.

Mr Pearce: Why not sit down and let the Minister finish your speech?

Mr Nanovich: The member for Gosnells thinks this is a joke.

Mr BLAIKIE: I take it by the Opposition's silence that its members do not condone the comments made by Mr Marks.

I believe the Dairy Industry Authority needs to look at extending its area of supply of licensed market-milk to the Exmouth and Pilbara areas where there are a large number of people. Currently these people are supplied with processed and reconstituted milk. In respect of manufactured milk going into these areas, I have some concern but not as much concern as with the supply of reconstituted milk. The reconstituted milk supplied to these areas is not a local product; it is imported from the Eastern States. The rectification of this could be of real benefit to our producers. If the authority extends its operations it will need more quotas which will mean existing quota holders will receive a larger allocation or provision could be made for new quota holders to join the industry.

I believe the rectification of this matter is important and would help the restructuring that has gone on in the industry over the last 18 months or two years and has set the industry onto a solid and sound footing. They would give the industry some future prospects.

Be that as it may, I wish to refer to another matter; that is, farmers' sons who I believe should have some industry entitlement. Perhaps a farmer's son could be allocated a 10-gallon quota and he could milk in the same dairy as his father. I do not know whether that would be possible, but I believe the suggestion has a great deal of merit. It would retain the family farm unit. It would retain the farmer and his son and give the son an interest and an income.

What is happening in the dairy industry is that farmers are leaving, and this will occur increasingly in the next few years. At the moment the men and women in the industry are getting old and as they move out there is no-one to take their places. This is one of the reasons we are losing such a large number of dairy farmers from the industry. The other, of course, is the economic situation. I believe that there is real merit in the suggestion.

I have pleasure in supporting the motion.

MR T. H. JONES (Collie) [3.11 p.m.]: The Address-in-Reply debate affords members the opportunity to raise any issue which they feel

should be raised in the Parliament and it is my intention this afternoon to refer to several matters which have been exercising not only my mind, but also the minds of other individuals in my electorate.

Firstly, I join with the member who has just resumed his seat concerning the damage experienced as a result of the cyclone. Members generally would not have any idea of the devastation unless they visited the areas concerned. I was very alarmed when I inspected the fruit-growing areas. I found that orchards, some distance from the fire itself, were scorched. The apples were ruined. The assessment in Donnybrook is that less than 5 per cent of the crop which has remained on the trees will be available for export this year and this is a sad state of affairs.

The most alarming aspect concerns the future of these fruit growers in Donnybrook. I have learnt from experienced growers that it is their view that unless there are heavy rains there will be very little fruit next year and that it could be two or three seasons before they are back in production. I therefore join with the honourable member in expressing concern about the position.

Some criticisms have been made about the situation. I know that it is the easiest thing in the world to criticise, but I have been asked by the President of the Donnybrook Shire to make some suggestions and criticisms which both he and the shire clerk (Mr Jones) consider should be brought to the attention of the Government.

Firstly, I wish to state that I have had some experience of disasters because I was Chairman of the Flood Relief Committee in 1964 and so I have a limited experience of a tragedy such as that which we experienced last week.

When the Collie flood struck in 1964 Mr Jack Gabbedy was made available by the Brand Government to go to Collie to take over the operations, and he did a wonderful job. He was on the spot and I could confer with him at any time on behalf of the committee. I did not have to phone anyone. He had the full approval of the Government to make decisions on the spot.

This authority was lacking during last week's tragedy and the Donnybrook Shire found that on-the-spot decisions needed to be made, but they could not be made because phone calls had to be made to Bunbury or other areas for approval. This is not good enough. For a large portion of the time the phone was not in use. I suggest that the whole question of emergency services should be overhauled and it is my belief that when tragedy strikes, men with authority should be sent to the affected area, perhaps on a shire basis.

Mrs Craig: The two situations you use do not equate. You are talking about a localised area on the one hand while on the other hand you are talking about a tragedy which covered a great part of the State.

Mr T. H. JONES: It would not be difficult when a fire occurred at, say, Bunbury, to send someone to that centre straightaway.

Mrs Craig: But 35 shires were hit by fires.

Mr T. H. JONES: That is a big number on this occasion.

Mrs Craig: We are talking about this occasion.

Mr T. H. JONES: This is my view which is probably not shared by the Minister, for obvious reasons.

Mr O'Neil: There was an officer in charge of the emergency services in Donnybrook during the whole of the operation and he knew the authority he had.

Mr T. H. JONES: There was not, because I was in Donnybrook on Thursday—

Mr O'Neil: So was I.

Mr T. H. JONES: —and the phone was not on for hours. Mr Tuia, the shire president—

Mr O'Neil: Mr Tuia has expressed his disgust at the accusations you made about him.

Mr T. H. JONES: The Minister can make his speech when he likes. This criticism is made by a member of his party (Mr Tuia).

Mr O'Neil: He has expressed his disgust at your accusations.

Mr T. H. JONES: Mr Tuia asked me to raise this matter in Parliament, and I do not need any assistance from the Deputy Premier.

Mr O'Neil: You will when you see Mr Tuia.

Mr T. H. JONES: I made the point earlier that it is easy to criticise.

Mr O'Neil: That is what you are doing.

Mr T. H. JONES: However, they could not get permission to shoot approximately 200 cattle.

Mr O'Neil: Rubbish!

Mr T. H. JONES: The Deputy Premier can call me a liar if he wishes.

Mr O'Neil: Who told you that?

Mr T. H. JONES: I am not telling lies, and Mr Tuia—

Mr O'Neil: Who told you that?

Mr T. H. JONES: Mr Tuia and Mr Jones because I was on the spot.

Mr O'Neil: So was I, and the cattle had been shot when I arrived.

Mr T. H. JONES: This happened on the Thursday morning.

Mr O'Neil: I was there then, too.

Mr T. H. JONES: On Tuesday night approximately two hundred head of cattle were burnt and no approval could be obtained to shoot them until Thursday morning.

Mr O'Neil: Absolute rubbish!

Mr T. H. JONES: Mr Tuia was on the spot as was the sergeant of police some hours before the approval could be obtained. I am saying again that the Government must re-examine what has occurred.

Mr O'Neil: Who said a farmer has to get permission to shoot his stock?

Mr T. H. JONES: I said that criticism is very easy to make. I am not making it except on behalf of the Donnybrook Shire which asked me to raise this matter in the House.

Mr O'Neil: Who has to give a farmer approval to shoot his stock?

Mr T. H. JONES: Getting onto another matter—the Deputy Premier will find out that what I have said is correct.

Mr O'Neil: It is not. I was with Mr Tuia, the sergeant of police, and the local controller of the State Emergency Service.

Mr T. H. JONES: For how long?

Mr O'Neil: Longer than the honourable member.

An Opposition member: Ten to 15 minutes.

Mr O'Neil: It does not make any difference. A farmer does not need approval to shoot his stock, and the stock had been shot when I was there.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr T. H. JONES: I would remind the Deputy Premier that I am capable of making my own speech.

Mr O'Neil: You are making a mess and we will certainly let Mr Tuia know what you have said.

Mr T. H. JONES: Since I have started speaking the Deputy Premier has returned to his seat. Why does he not go back to finish the cigarette he was enjoying previously?

Mr O'Neil: Because I realised the sort of accusation you would make—the criticisms and carping by a member who does not know what he is talking about.

Mr T. H. JONES: This is the factual situation. I appeal to the Government on the matter.

One of the farmers who was completely burnt out—he lost all his stock and fencing—a week before the fire paid \$15 000 provisional tax. He could ill-afford to do this. There are other farmers in a similar situation, but the farmer to whom I am referring is Mr Vinci, known to the Minister. He paid \$15 000, and other farmers who were affected, had paid similar amounts. I ask that the Government take this matter up immediately with its counterpart in the Federal sphere to bring about some relief.

Mr O'Neil: Mr Vinci was given \$1 000 on the spot and he was extremely grateful for the assistance he received in the emergency.

Mr T. H. JONES: The next point I raise concerns the shires to which more assistance should be given. They are in a difficult situation because they have had to carry out cleaning-up operations despite their limited finances. I do hope that Donnybrook, Collie, and shires generally will get favourable consideration.

Mr O'Neil: They have been told what help they will get.

Mr T. H. JONES: What worries me is the employment situation in the area. The other day I asked the Premier a question on this matter and initially he attempted to show me up. I was asking the Premier about the situation in the district concerning future employment.

I will indicate to the House one particular case concerning a Mr Jones—no relation of mine—of Charlie's Creek. He rang me on Monday morning. He and his three sons are dependent upon an income from an orchard operation, but that income has completely disappeared. There are no job opportunities in the Donnybrook district, and this is only one case of many.

Sir Charles Court: What have you done about it? Have you given me his name as I asked?

Mr O'Neil: All he has done is grizzle.

Sir Charles Court: The Donnybrook Shire rang me and dissociated itself from any complaints about the Government. They have taken the trouble to ring me. The shire president wanted to dissociate himself from your remarks.

Mr T. H. JONES: I was rubbished by the Premier before I was able to ask any questions and receive any answers. What will the Government do about the unemployment situation?

Sir Charles Court: Dozens of people are receiving relief. You are making a fool of yourself.

Mr O'Neil: The member for Collie will be ashamed to show his face in Donnybrook.

Mr T. H. JONES: I am raising these issues because Mr Jones from Charlie's Creek rang me on Monday morning and asked me to find out what the Government intended to do.

Mr O'Neil: And what have you done? You have done nothing until you had an opportunity to get up here and grizzle.

Mr T. H. JONES: I see I have hurt the feelings of the Deputy Premier; he does not like what I am saying.

Mr O'Neil: You would not dare to put your face in Donnybrook after this.

Mr T. H. JONES: I am being vocal, as I have been during the Address-in-Reply debate for some years. I do not intend to pursue the matter any further.

Sir Charles Court: The Donnybrook Shire has dissociated itself from your criticism of the Government.

Mr T. H. JONES: I am prepared to go outside this place when I have completed my speech and make the same statements.

Mr O'Neil: Go down to Donnybrook.

Mr T. H. JONES: I am not in the habit of telling lies. I am prepared to go outside and repeat what I have said in this Parliament, after I have finished my speech. As I said, I am not telling lies. The suspicious mind of the Premier is at work all the time.

Mr O'Neil: Call a public meeting and see what happens.

Mr T. H. JONES: The Premier will not believe me, and that is his downfall. I am prepared to go outside this Chamber and repeat what I have said.

Mr O'Neil: The member for Collie has not done anything about the situation except to grizzle. What has he done?

Mr T. H. JONES: I do not intend to tell the Deputy Premier what I have done.

Mr O'Neil: Of course not; you are grizzling your head off.

Mr T. H. JONES: However, I do know what the Government has not done. I have made my submission on behalf of the Donnybrook Shire.

Mr O'Neil: On behalf of the Donnybrook Shire? We will remember that, too.

Mr T. H. JONES: If the Minister wants to challenge me, I will restate what I have already said.

Mr O'Neil: You are saying the Donnybrook Shire asked you to make this submission.

Sir Charles Court: The member for Collie is trying to cash in on the miseries of suffering people.

Mr O'Neil: He is doing nothing but grizzle.

Mr T. H. JONES: The Premier has a warped mind. He should get out of the gutter; that is where he is. That is how the Premier operates.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Collie will resume his seat. I believe the latter comments of the member add nothing to the dignity of this place. I ask him to refrain from using such language.

Mr T. H. JONES: I will withdraw the remarks, Mr Speaker, if that is your wish. What irks me is that one is not free to state one's mind.

The SPEAKER: Yes, you are.

Mr T. H. JONES: That is the position.

The SPEAKER: Order! I take it the member for Collie is now criticising my suggestion.

Mr T. H. JONES: No, Mr Speaker, not in any way. My remarks were not intended in that way. I am saying the Donnybrook Shire in all honesty asked me to raise this question. I will not say anything further on the subject but will move onto another matter.

I now want to refer to the plight of the coal-mining industry in Western Australia.

Mr O'Neil: A subject you know something about.

Several members interjected.

Mr T. H. JONES: Members can laugh if they want to, but they cannot deny that the policies of successive Liberal Governments have made a mess of the coalmining industry. Millions of dollars have been wasted. A sum of \$50 million will be spent on converting the Kwinana power station to burn coal. There has been a curtailment of operations at Muja. Members opposite are now silent! I have to say, on behalf of the Collie Coal Miners' Union that feelings are running high in the coalfields. The union has had a wonderful record since 1961 but, unfortunately, industrial unrest is again evident.

The unrest has been brought about by the fact that the unions have believed what they have been told in the past. The present secretary of the union (Mr Jack Watson) is concerned about the 15-year contract for the supply of coal to the State Energy Commission of Western Australia presently being negotiated. The unions have co-operated all along the line. It will be recalled that during the oil crisis, when it was necessary to find more coal, the miners worked night shifts

to get the State out of its difficulties. At that time they understood that when the new 15-year contracts were written more deep-mine coal would be used. This matter was discussed with the Premier on the 10th March, 1975, and the report of the delegates indicates Mr Watkins said that as a result of the discussions with Sir Charles Court more deep-mine coal would be produced. Unfortunately, from information obtained from the Minister since, it is doubtful whether any new deep mine will be opened up. The deep-mine coal is to come from the existing mine.

The union is worried because there are some 400 men employed in the deep mine. If a flood occurred, where would jobs be found for those 400 men? There is no guarantee of jobs, and that worries the union. It will be recalled that in 1964 the Hebe mine was flooded and some 150 men were put out of work.

I appeal to the Minister to consider the opening of another deep mine so that the industry is not dependent upon one mine only. I consider that to be very necessary.

We have limited reserves of open-cut coal, and deep-mine coal. At the moment the present reserves of open-cut coal have been estimated to be 168 million tonnes, and the estimate for deep-mine coal is 118 million tonnes. To indicate the situation, last year a total of 1 819 978 tonnes of open-cut coal was mined, compared with 538 028 tonnes of deep-mine coal. We consider there should be a better balance because we will not have these coalfields available *ad infinitum*.

As the Minister is aware, there is an open-cut mine at Muja. The signs are that open-cut costs will rise sharply, so I hope the Minister will take some heed of the concern of the unions. It is imperative that we have long-term planning and that more deep mines are put down. A proper policy should be adopted by the State Energy Commission of Western Australia. Time will not allow me to pursue that matter further.

I will now refer to my worry about the Donnybrook Hospital. I raised this matter last year and on the 20th October, of the same year, after I had made my submission, the Minister said that in connection with my concern over the Donnybrook Hospital, he felt for me. The Minister was concerned, and he agreed with me in what I said. I had drawn the attention of his department to the very low standard of conditions at the Donnybrook Hospital.

A report appeared in the *South Western Times* of the 23rd February of this year stating that the Government had given approval for a new hospital. Could the Minister indicate, by

way of interjection, when we could expect some positive action with regard to the erection of the new hospital at Donnybrook?

Mr Ridge: No, I cannot indicate when the funds will become available. The planning is under way, but I cannot tell the member when finance will be available for the project.

Mr T. H. JONES: It will depend on funds? The Minister is aware of the bad conditions?

Mr Ridge: Yes, of course.

Mr T. H. JONES: My next subject deals with the question of forests. Many farmers in my area are concerned with the devastation caused by pigs, emus, and kangaroos which has been the result of the policy adopted by the Forests Department in relation to quarantine requirements.

The Minister for Forests is aware that I have raised this matter on behalf of Mr Drake-Brockman of Lowden. Pigs are entering his property and causing havoc. I have inspected his feed crops which have been completely devastated by kangaroos.

The Minister, in his reply to me dated the 27th February, said it was suggested that Mr Drake-Brockman might consider approaching licensed shooters about the problem. I have a letter here from Mr Drake-Brockman, and although I will not quote the letter, he draws attention to the fact that it is just impossible to apply this policy to pigs.

I know there are difficulties, but this gentleman pointed out that when rabbits were a problem to Western Australia generally, the Agriculture Protection Board introduced policies to curtail the spread of rabbits. Those policies were successful.

It is impossible to obtain shooters to shoot the pigs coming out of the forests, just as it is impossible to eradicate the emus and the kangaroos. On behalf of Mr Drake-Brockman, I would like to refer this problem back to the Minister. I have his letter here, and I will let the Minister read it. It is a matter of concern, particularly as people are prohibited from entering the quarantine areas to get rid of these vermin.

The pigs are breeding very quickly in the Preston Valley area. They are intruding onto farm areas, and the farmers are powerless to do anything about it. The farmers concerned do not believe that shooting is the answer to the problem. I have had a letter from Mr Mathews of Noggerup as well as letters from many other farmers around Donnybrook. I ask the Minister to investigate ways and means to overcome this very difficult problem.

Mrs Craig: We are aware of the problem and it is a difficult one. The suggestion to use shooters was the only one possible at the time. We cannot let people have access to forests while they are under quarantine. The problem is increasing, but it is being investigated.

Mr T. H. JONES: Can I take it that the Minister's department is looking into the problem?

Mrs Craig: Yes.

Mr T. H. JONES: The next matter I wish to raise is the release of building blocks in Collie. I have given my close attention to this matter since 1975. We have had an upsurge in the price of land at Collie, and building blocks are now in the vicinity of \$10 000 each.

I received a letter from the State Housing Commission dated the 5th October, 1977, indicating that 845 blocks could become available. A great deal of criticism has been levelled at the Government because it has acted so slowly in this matter. I do not know where the blame lies. Mr L. J. Crocker—a former Liberal candidate for Collie—recently attacked the Government very strongly at a meeting of ratepayers, and it is apparent that the Government must take some action.

Mrs Craig: There have been two combined meetings of the officers of the State Housing Commission, the Lands and Surveys Department, and the Town Planning Department. Another meeting is planned. The Collie shire has been told that it needs to establish the demand. We put up some blocks for auction in Collie earlier this year and they were not all sold. How do we establish what the demand is? The shire has a responsibility to do this, and once the demand is established we will go ahead.

Mr T. H. JONES: I simply wished to draw the attention of the Minister to this urgent matter. Another meeting is planned for Friday. The Minister well knows that there is a demand for blocks in Collie; she has visited the town recently.

The next matter I wish to draw to the attention of the House is the shortage of rental accommodation in Collie. Families have to wait some months to obtain accommodation. I found that six commission houses have been empty since 1977 and so last week I asked a question in the House about them. What a terrible state of affairs; people are crying out for commission houses, yet six homes have been vacant since 1977.

Mrs Craig: Have you contacted the regional office about it?

Mr T. H. JONES: I intended to mention the office next. I am aware that staff have been moving in and out of the Collie office of the State Housing Commission. Sometimes I go down to the Collie office with a query to find that the only person available to talk with is a young typist.

Mrs Craig: You have the Parliamentary Liaison Officer.

Mr T. H. JONES: Not in Collie.

Mrs Craig: But we have one in Perth.

Mr T. H. JONES: Surely.

Mr Sibson: You know you have one here.

Mr O'Neil: Same story—does nothing but grizzle.

Mr T. H. JONES: These six homes have been vacant since 1977. It may be that some maintenance is required.

Mr Sibson: Have you checked that?

Mr O'Neil: Maybe they are purchase homes.

Mr T. H. JONES: I ask the Minister to do something about it.

Mr O'Neil: Maybe they are purchase homes and therefore they are not under the control of the State Housing Commission for rental purposes. Have you made inquiries?

Mr T. H. JONES: Yes I have.

Mr O'Neil: I notice once again you appear to be grizzling and doing nothing.

Mr T. H. JONES: My people in Collie know what I do.

Mr Pearce: If you want us to act as the Government, you just move over here.

Several members interjected.

Mr T. H. JONES: My time is running out, and I have a few other matters to refer to.

Mrs Craig: You have not told us about Dardanup yet.

Mr O'Neil: He just grizzles here.

Mr Tonkin: He is not grizzling; he is just doing his job as he should do.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr T. H. JONES: Quite obviously the open wounds are getting a little bit of attention today.

Mr Sibson: I'll tell you what, you will have some wounds when you get to Donnybrook.

Mr O'Neil: He won't be game to go to Donnybrook.

Mr Sibson: That was an absolute insult—what you said here today.

Mr T. H. JONES: What is the honourable member talking about? They should have left him down a mine.

Mr Sibson: You know.

Mr T. H. JONES: I want to turn now to the subject of marroning, and in particular the road blocks set up to catch people who do not comply with the regulations. The situation now is absurd.

The Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife was reported in the *Collie Mail* of the 16th February when he said he would not do anything about the existing situation. What is happening? People going to and returning from cabarets are being stopped for marron checks. Mr George Saunders is the proprietor of a mill in Preston Road, and recently he and his wife attended a cabaret at the Miners' Institute.

Sir Charles Court: Is that the same chap again?

Mr T. H. JONES: Mr Saunders' mill is some miles out of Collie, and when he was returning home from the cabaret, he said to his wife, "I will just drive out to the mill to see that everything is okay." On the way back this couple were stopped at a road block and the inspector asked, "Have you been marroning?" Mrs Saunders said, "Oh yes, I usually get dressed up in an evening gown to go marroning", and Mr Saunders said "And I usually wear a dinner suit and tie to go marroning." The inspector still persisted with his question and inspected the car in an evening suit and in a long evening gown.

Mr O'Neil: Who had the dinner suit on?

Sir Charles Court: You tell the story better every time you tell it.

Mr T. H. JONES: A young couple were stopped on their way to their honeymoon. They were in a hurry to get somewhere.

Sir Charles Court: You are starting to believe the story.

Mr T. H. JONES: The car was decked out with ribbons, and cans and things were dangling on the road behind. An inspector stopped this young couple to ask whether they were going marroning. I ask members here whether they would go marroning on their honeymoon? I guess not.

Mr Clarko: Did they get a good catch?

Mr T. H. JONES: I could go on and on with stories like these. A person travelling from Williams was pulled up by the inspectors, notwithstanding the fact that he had a horse float full of horses attached to his car. The inspectors asked him whether he had been marroning.

A Mr Bell wrote to the *Collie Mail*. He and his wife had visited Perth for the trots, and he was returning home in his big flash car, done up like a swell. Again he was stopped by the inspectors who asked whether he had been marroning.

A young nurse was travelling to her home in Bunbury after the night shift at the Collie hospital. She was still dressed in her uniform and yet she was stopped with this same request. Where on earth are we going with all these road blocks?

Mr Laurance: You have to admit they are on the job!

Mr T. H. JONES: I agree we have to look after our marron, but the inspectors are going overboard.

Another case referred to me was that of a young lad who had just attended his father's funeral. He was travelling back to Collie, dressed in a dark suit and black tie, and yet he was stopped by the inspectors. I could go on and on with similar cases.

The Minister said, "Nothing is to be done about it, the situation is quite okay." All I ask is that we let a little sanity prevail. A great deal of ill-feeling is being generated; one lad had an argument with one of the inspectors and it turned into a nasty incident. I ask the Minister to investigate this matter to see where the inspections are being carried out, and to ensure that the inspectors have a reasonable suspicion about a person before he is stopped. I do not think any sane person would get dressed up in an evening gown to go marroning. Perhaps I will leave that subject alone as I am going marroning tomorrow night. I hope to catch some, but I can assure members I will not be in my dinner suit.

It is unfortunate that the Minister for Education is not present in the Chamber because the next matter to which I wish to refer is the deplorable conditions at the Eaton and Donnybrook schools.

Mr O'Neil: He is attending a function at the Western Australian Institute of Technology.

Mr T. H. JONES: I am not being critical of the Minister; I realise he has many commitments. On the 23rd September last year, with the Minister, I paid a visit to Eaton and Donnybrook to look at the numerous matters requiring attention at the two schools. The situation at the Donnybrook school is quite scandalous. There is one toilet for staff and children; they are using old sheds and have very limited accommodation. I do not intend to read out the entire list. I simply

ask the Minister for Education whether any consideration has been given to the matters raised at that time.

The Eaton Parents and Citizens' Association has written to me asking for my assistance. With your indulgence, Mr Speaker, I should like this letter recorded in *Hansard*. It states as follows—

Dear Mr Jones,

At the Annual General Meeting of the above association parents expressed concern as to the problems confronting our school and we would like to know if you would assist us in these matters as listed hereunder:—

(1) The present class rooms at this school are fully occupied. At the end of this school year, thirty children leave for High School, with an intake in excess of sixty children to come for 1979, it can be seen the existing facilities will be overcrowded. An additional classroom will need to be provided before the commencement of the 1979 school year, and in time, an additional class room cluster. Alternatively, a school, we believe planned for the Australind area, could be implemented now. With 113 children attending Eaton School, from the Australind area, this would temporarily relieve the accommodation problem at Eaton. Any vacant classrooms created would soon be taken up by the constant development in our area, coupled with a new sub-division soon to be released, adjoining the existing townsite. We would appreciate early advice as to the remedy planned to relieve the accommodation problem at the school.

(2) Current school practice is to have an Assembly of Students at 12.40 p.m. each Thursday. The children assemble under a verandah of one of the buildings. The area accommodates the present students neatly, any additional persons present, parents or friends, need to stand outside. Obviously this is unsatisfactory, by the fact that the weather is not always favourable. The situation will worsen with the potential student increases. We suggest an extension of the roofing area to offer protection to ALL persons present.

(3) The Staff of Approximately 25 have the use of only one Toilet, plus the blocks provided for students. This must surely be totally inadequate. The minimum requirement must be a Toilet block for Male and Female personnel for personal reasons, with sufficient facilities for the number of staff.

(4) Sick room facilities for ill children are in a meagre form. Any child requiring these facilities must rest on a cane lounge in the passage to the Staff Room.

(5) Children requiring Remedial Teaching are taught in a section of the small Staff Room. A child has enough problems at learning already without being placed in an unsuitable teaching area, with constant distraction and the presence of unfamiliar people.

(6) The existing Administration area consists of an Office each for the Principal and his Secretary. Additional Offices should be supplied for Deputy Principal and Head Mistress. It is most unsatisfactory for these Teachers to have to conduct interviews and meetings on benches provided for students, or in a classroom, or wherever else they may be able to squeeze in.

Five other matters are also raised in the letter, including the lack of a sports oval and caravans being used as a school canteen prior to the construction of a canteen. I draw the attention of the Minister for Education to the serious conditions presently existing in Eaton and Donnybrook schools.

Sitting suspended from 3.43 to 4.05 p.m.

Mr T. H. JONES: I now refer to a very important matter that is causing concern to many districts in Western Australia; that is, the spread of fruit fly. This problem has been exercising the minds of the Collie Fruit Fly Baiting Committee and the Collie Shire. At the request of the Collie Shire I was part of a deputation that met the Minister for Agriculture and requested a thorough overhaul of the existing provisions. It is evident from letters I have in my possession and statements made to me that the problem of fruit fly is spreading in Australia.

I have a letter here from the Donnybrook Branch of the Fruit Growers' Association, which reads as follows—

I have been directed by my Association to write to you and ask that you do all in your power to clean up Fruit Fly in the Collie district, and we fully support the efforts being made by your Local Committee.

Thanking you,

S. H. Williams,

Secretary.

On the 21st March a member in another place referred to this problem as it affected Bridgetown and he indicated the matter was very serious.

The Collie Shire had a ratepayers' meeting recently to discuss this matter and I understand that in the Minister's own electorate the Shire of Darkan held a similar meeting where grave concern was expressed at this epidemic of fruit fly.

I make it clear that I am not criticising what has been done. Attempts have been made to alleviate the problem, but they have failed. Anyone who visits a fruit-growing area can see fruit lying on the ground beneath the fruit trees. I do not mean that this is a problem with the orchards, but more with the back-yard growers. In the Town of Collie half the people are covered by the fruit-fly baiting scheme, and the others are not. It would generally be agreed among members representing areas where fruit is grown that this problem is spreading. The fruit-growing industry needs to be protected and I ask the Minister, in view of the situation in the State, for an urgent overhaul of the existing regulations to be carried out.

I appeal to the Minister for Health for assistance on behalf of the aged people of Collie who have limited geriatric and frail aged accommodation. Recently large amounts of money were spent on the Collie Hospital to provide additional accommodation, but in fact it provided space for only three people. We have 41 people in our frail aged homes, some of whom are over 90 years of age. Shortly they will have to leave the home due to their frailty, but the problem is: Where do they go? There is limited accommodation at the hospital, and if they have to leave the River-view home in Collie they will have to move to the metropolitan area, which defeats the purpose of providing this type of accommodation in the first place.

I want now to refer the Minister for Police and Traffic to the very serious condition of the Police and Citizens' Youth Club at Collie. In a letter from the Minister dated the 9th November, 1977, he said he was arranging for Assistant Commissioner Carr who is a member of the Executive Council of Management of the Federation and Sergeant Wright the Secretary/State Organiser to visit the town. Those men later agreed that the existing premises were inadequate and that early consideration should be given to the provision of new or upgraded premises.

The Minister later informed me that he was considering the proposals, and I urge the Minister to give early consideration to this matter. The present building is very old and I sincerely hope a new building will be constructed.

Another problem that has been exercising my mind is the limited amount of finance spent on State Housing Commission homes in Western Australia. I do not know the position in other towns, but certainly those homes in Collie are in a poor condition. Many have rusted roofs and limited funds are being spent on maintenance. It hurts me to say this, but one area I represent is fast becoming a slum area. Homes there are deteriorating day by day.

It is time the State Housing Commission took a close look at this problem. I admit that hot water systems are being supplied in limited cases, but generally not enough money is being spent, especially on those homes constructed of weather-board. I have visited other areas where the situation is the same. To ensure that these homes are kept in reasonable condition, more money should be spent on maintenance.

I have referred to a number of issues during my speech and the Government has taken exception to some of my remarks. I assure the House that I have acted on requests from different shires, such as the Shire of Donnybrook, and I have not been misleading the House in any way. I was asked by the President of the Donnybrook Shire to raise certain issues on his behalf, which I have done. I do not want members to think I have raised matters without a reason. I have raised matters as a way of improving the current position. Certain comments I have made were an endeavour to improve the efficiency of emergency services during times of tragedy.

Surely, no matter who we are and what we do, there is always room for improvement, and it must be remembered that we could face such tragedies as cyclone "Alby" in the future. I hope the shires will be helped to alleviate the stress of coping with such situations and that farmers will be assisted when such things as fires have destroyed their farms. I do not know how the people of Donnybrook will fare as it could be two years before the apple industry picks up again, and they rely on the apple industry to provide stability in the district. I hope ways and means will be devised to create alternative employment and so help these people.

The last topic I shall raise is the correct development of Collie coal, and I believe this is a matter of importance to all members. A report yesterday from the Australian Energy Council confirmed the fact that by 1985 our supplies of fuel, particularly lubricants, will be limited. We will have to rely heavily on electricity supplies from coal-fired burners, as do many other parts of the world.

I heard a report on the news today which said that the symposium in the Eastern States is looking at the question of obtaining power from the sea. We have a very good asset at the Collie coalfield and it is important that it is worked on a proper and efficient basis. When I say it should be worked on an efficient basis, I mean that we should ensure all our cheap and easy open-cut coal is not removed today so that in the future we must revert to a total programme of deep-mined coal which is a more costly method of working the coalfields. It would be wrong of us to support such a policy.

The Minister knows the dependence which the State Energy Commission places on coal. I should like to see a long-time programme brought down by the State Energy Commission. Such a programme would be in the interests of the Collie coalfields and in the interests of the State generally. In years to come there will be heavy reliance on coal from the Collie coalfield for power generation. It is incumbent upon us to ensure that it is available. Mistakes have been made in the past. It is no good dwelling on those; we have to look to the future. I hope the State Energy Commission will embark on appropriate policies resulting in the drawing up of 15 to 20-year contracts which will bring stability to the industry. Such a policy would be in the best interests of the people of Western Australia.

I should like to reiterate that the miners' union is very concerned. It cannot be said that the miners' union has been a disruptive one. It has co-operated right along the line. It even agreed to work on a night shift basis when the Kwinana power station was reducing capacity, as were Perth, South Fremantle, and Muja. There was no argument about it. The miners acted in a very sensible manner. They said, "If the State needs the coal we have to put our shoulders to the wheel and co-operate", and co-operate they did.

The representatives of the union did not want to recommend to the members that they work night shift; but what was the alternative? We would have been faced with further increases in charges for electricity. The Minister knows this is the true situation. I want to say in Parliament that the State Energy Commission should not let down the miners. The miners have been trusting the State Energy Commission. They have been trusting Mr Kirkwood, the commissioner, who has assured the miners that during the 15-year contracts for the supply of coal more deep mines will

be put down which will add stability to the coalfields, and less reliance will be placed on the one deep mine in the Collie coalfield being able to supply coal from that source.

I am appealing to the Minister. He has had a good understanding with the mining officials at Collie since he has been the Minister for Fuel and Energy. I do not think he would deny this. However, the miners have asked me to mention quite clearly and plainly in this House that there is industrial unrest on the coalfields. The miners consider the Government has let them down and in the planning of 15-year contracts there should be a provision that at least the Griffin company should be required to put down a deep mine in order that less reliance is placed upon open-cut production. It would mean also that the field is worked in the most efficient manner.

As I mentioned earlier, on the figures presented the production from the open-cut mine is nearly three times greater than it is from the deep mine. We have limited reserves of easily-won coal. I shall conclude my remarks on that point.

Debate adjourned until a later stage of the sitting, on motion by Mr Cowan.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY: ELEVENTH DAY

Motion

Debate resumed, from an earlier stage of the sitting, on the following motion by Mr MacKinnon—

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 COWAN (Merredin) [5.00 p.m.]: Most members of this House take the opportunity afforded by the Address-in-Reply debate to comment on the Government's policies as they relate to their areas. It is quite understandable that they do so because there are only two debates in which they can; one is this debate and the other is the Budget debate.

I should like to spend some time commenting on some of the positive actions the Government has taken which have affected the people of

Merredin and perhaps other areas, and then go on to some of the negative actions which the Government has taken and on which it could improve.

Every member who has a rural electorate has commented during the debate on the effect that cyclone "Alby" has had in his area. Rather than talk about the specific problems associated with that, I should like to comment on the appreciation of people of the very quick action that the Government took to get aid to those people. People in Merredin did not suffer greatly from cyclone "Alby" but on the 23rd February we suffered flooding. Three towns were seriously flooded. They were Merredin, Narembeen, and Southern Cross, which is now in the electorate of the member for Yilgarn-Dundas.

I commend the Government for its very prompt action in getting officers of various departments to these areas, having members of the Government go into those territories to assess the sort of assistance which was needed, and then very quickly making aid available. I am sure that the same applies to those areas in the south-west which were more directly affected by cyclone "Alby". Of course, that aid deals only with fire and flood.

There is one other natural disaster that people have been suffering, particularly people in my area; that is, the two years of drought that most wheat farmers have encountered. Most members of this House realise that farming is now a business and as such is highly capital intensive. It requires a lot of money to run a farm and to keep a farming budget operating. It is most opportune for me to commend the Drought Consultative Committee and the Department of Agriculture for the action they took in recognising that farming is capital intensive and that it requires a great deal of finance to provide a farmer with liquidity.

Through the Drought Consultative Committee up to \$40 000 has been provided at concessional interest rates and this has allowed most farmers who are in need of that type of money to service the debts that the money they have borrowed incur. They have no chance at all of earning an income of any magnitude until the end of this year and it is very pleasing that the Government has given people an opportunity to finance another year of farming at interest rates which will allow them at the end of the year to say, "I have not had such a service on that debt that it is going to take 50 per cent of the income from the farming year." The Drought Consultative Committee has done a great job in getting this finance to farmers with a limited amount of administrative

red tape and it has been instrumental in giving farmers the necessary finance to carry on for another year.

Another positive action which the Government has taken and on which most people in the industry were looking to the Government for a lead is the handling of the live sheep dispute. I understand the point of view of the AMIEU. The union is seeing a million sheep being shipped out of Western Australia and, at the kill rate of between 100 and 120 animals per day, that represents to the union about 10 000 man days of work. The union sees that as work being taken away from its members.

But the union must understand that farmers are looking for the best possible return and there is no way in the world that any unionist should be able to prevent another member of the community from presenting his product in a market which will give him the best possible price. Unionists must have misjudged the attitude of farmers in this matter because farmers have had two very bad years. In some cases they have had three. They have been forced to look at farming as a business and a business alone. They can see an opportunity to receive top prices and they will not brook any interference from any union.

Farmers have discovered, funnily enough through the actions of the Federal Labor Government, that they must be united and become militant if they are to receive a hearing and to achieve something for themselves. It was small wonder, when the union decided it would impose these bans or try to place restrictions on the export of live sheep, that farmers jacked up. They had had enough and the union would do well to recognise this fact.

Three avenues are open to farmers to resolve this issue. One is to sit down and negotiate, but that takes a long time and nearly always negotiations involve reaching a compromise. Compromises have been reached in the past and they have been unacceptable to farmers. I see no reason at all that we as producers should accept a minimum liveweight for stock. I see no reason at all that we should accept a quota of carcasses to live sheep. Those are the sorts of compromises which rural producers have been asked to accept, and as far as they are concerned it is just not on.

Of course, then there is direct confrontation, and farmers can react in one of two ways. Either they can load the sheep, which they did, or they can withdraw all their livestock and remind unionists that it is the farmers' produce which is giving them employment. One of those two courses was taken. I am sure that the Government has

been given support by every member of the farming community for the action it took in ensuring that those sheep were loaded. I hope that charges are pressed against those people who broke the law and that they face the consequences.

Mr Davies: I thought you might want to conciliate and do something about permanently healing the rift.

Mr COWAN: Why should we conciliate when it seems to farmers that they are the ones who always have to accept a compromise?

Mr Davies: If you want to exacerbate the situation you are doing just that. People are working very hard to get a settlement and you make statements like that.

Mr COWAN: Why do not the unions understand that they should be promoting the export of live sheep? Why do they not understand that only 30 per cent of the animal makes the end product, that 10 per cent is natural loss, and that the other 60 per cent would go to the abattoirs?

Mr Davies: Why do you not acknowledge that farmers have been breaking the quota for months and months?

Mr COWAN: Farmers have not been breaking the quota.

Mr Davies: Of course they have.

Mr COWAN: No quotas exist.

Mr Davies: They have been breaking it since last December.

Mr COWAN: That is untrue.

Mr Davies: A well-known farmer told me that. He said, "Have a look at that aspect of it", and it is true.

Mr McPharlin: Farmers do not break the law.

Mr Davies: Not much they do not.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Sibson): Order!

Mr COWAN: There are two areas in which the Government has taken positive action and for which it is to be commended. However, there are some areas which affect my electorate particularly, and others, which should be investigated again by the Government. I am talking now about policies. There should be rethinking of those policies. The first one I should mention is the policy of the State Energy Commission. In July the State Energy Commission recommended to the Minister that there should be an increase in CES charges, and that increase is 100 per cent. It also recommended that approximately 1 000 potential subscribers should be

totally disregarded. I can see no rationale whatever behind the action the Government took in agreeing to an increase in those charges.

The Government has already recognised that farmers are in financial difficulties by providing loans at concessional interest rates, but by the same token it is prepared to accept that there should be increases of 100 per cent in these charges. I shall explain the system. When I talk about CES charges I am talking about the contributory extension scheme. This is a scheme which is offered to people who live outside the metropolitan area or outside rural towns to enable them to be connected to the SEC by contributing their own capital. For most farmers the cost works out at an average of between \$4 000 and \$6 000 per connection. Half of this money is required before the scheme commences. It is given to the SEC which uses it for 30 years on interest-free terms and then returns it to the farmers concerned. The other half is paid on a quarterly basis. That is a fairly large capital contribution when one considers that in his tariff every consumer of power is already paying a charge which contains a component for capital expenditure by the SEC.

The situation is aggravated further by the fact that the amount of increase recommended by the commission and accepted by the Government will return a revenue of \$300 000 and will also save about \$7 million in terms of capital expenditure during the next 10 years. If we compare that saving and that revenue with what it cost to convert the Kwinana power station, which I believe to be about \$30 million, I can see no rationale at all behind the policy of the Government to accept that recommendation from the commission.

What I find worst of all is that Government back-benchers were not informed of the decision by the commission or of Cabinet approval of that decision until after it had been implemented. All I can say is that if the Government does not advise back-benchers of its intentions or invite them to participate in its decisions, it is very difficult to believe the Government can be given the full support of back-benchers.

I support the Government and I try to give it loyalty at all times, but loyalty to the Government is one matter; blind loyalty is certainly another. I would never like to be accused of giving the Government blind loyalty.

Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Sibson), just to prove I am not entirely parochial in what I wish to speak about, I shall turn now to the rock lobster

industry. Of course, I would have no more than two fishermen in my electorate, so it concerns people from other areas.

Mr Jamieson: Is it right you are going to Cuba to study the rock lobster industry there?

Mr COWAN: No; that is not right.

Mr Jamieson: I wondered how you would get into Cuba on an Australian passport.

Mr COWAN: I believe it is accepted by most people that there must be a 15 to 20 per cent reduction in the rock lobster catch in Western Australia. The fishermen accept that and a need for reduction has been demonstrated by the various departments which have carried out studies into this resource. I do not believe anybody argues with that fact. But people can certainly have some argument with the policies which are going to provide that reduction. We had a situation where the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife declared that the season would be shortened by six weeks and that shortened period would reduce the catch by about 6 per cent.

There are three or four criticisms of that statement. The first one, of course, is that the final decision—and I know the decision was certainly rumoured or mooted before the season began—to gazette the new season was made after the season had opened. That is very important because most fishermen who lease boats write their contracts the day the season opens, so they found themselves with a contract they could not get out of and with six weeks with no income at a time when they were paying for the lease of their boats.

The second point is the shortening of the season affects only a small percentage of rock lobster fishermen. The percentage affected involves those people who are inshore fishermen. Most of the bigger boats which fish the outer reefs finish fishing in May and they do not go back to it; but the smaller boats spend the whole season fishing, weather permitting, and their catch goes right up to the end of the season. So really only two groups of fishermen were affected. They were the inshore fishermen and the lessees. It had no effect at all on the other bigger boats.

I believe some more acceptable alternatives were available to the Government. I know these alternatives have already been mentioned, but I should like to mention them again. These alternatives have been put to me by members of the industry. I am fully aware this decision was made with the approval of the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee; but I think in

this case the decision was not one which would uniformly affect the fishing industry. It discriminated against the two groups of fishermen in the category I have mentioned.

Had the Minister taken the action of reducing the number of pots per boat licence or had he increased the minimum size of rock lobsters, there would have been an overall effect on the industry which would be much more uniform and much more acceptable to the industry. Both of these alternatives would have been acceptable to the industry.

There is a third alternative which many people have put forward and which would be much more difficult to implement, of course, but I do not think we should resist trying it for that reason. I am referring to a ban on the taking of female rock lobsters. At the moment the only ban imposed is on what is termed "spawner crays" and that is the rock lobster that actually carries its eggs. There have been suggestions that if the industry were to ban the taking of what is termed "tarspot crays" we might find ourselves in the position where the catch might be reduced by 20 per cent immediately which would make the industry a replenishable resource which will last for a very long time.

One of the problems with the rock lobster industry is that the legal size at which the industry has permitted the crays to be taken is not the size at which the female reaches maturity and can breed. Consequently, females have to run the gauntlet of being taken for at least two or three seasons before they are able to breed. If some protection can be given to the female rock lobsters it is felt they may be able to increase the number of young in the water and, at the same time, reduce the total number of the catch by the amount that is required to keep the industry going for a long time.

It is recognised by the fishermen that their industry has become more and more efficient. It has been assessed that at the moment the resource is being exploited to the value of 70 per cent of its capacity. This is why most of the scientists and people involved in the industry are so concerned that there has to be a reduction in order to protect the resource.

I certainly support the action of the Government to protect the resource; but I think that action must be taken in a manner which uniformly affects all segments of the industry rather than just a select few fishermen which is exactly the effect the Government's action has had in this case.

Some comment and speculation has appeared in the media about the stand of the National Country Party on bauxite mining. I believe everyone should recognise that the problems associated with bauxite mining are that we have three finite resources which must be considered. We have bauxite itself; we have the jarrah forests; and we have the water derived from the water catchment areas. Despite all the speculation in the Press, at this point of time I have an open mind on bauxite mining. I am not opposed to it; but I believe it should be in the mind of everybody that we should be opposed to any permanent damage to our other two finite resources which are the jarrah forests and the water that is collected from the water catchment areas.

I am quite sure there are areas in Western Australia where the forests have suffered from dieback and where those forests have to be rehabilitated anyway, and perhaps they should be looked at very closely in regard to bauxite mining. Of course, we then have the problem that we must be very careful when dieback is present because mining tends to spread it.

Mr Tonkin: It is very unlikely that you can rehabilitate a forest after bauxite mining.

Mr COWAN: It is very unlikely rehabilitation with jarrah trees would take place in an area where dieback is present. If an area which has suffered from dieback is to be rehabilitated, surely it does not make any difference if mining proceeds. It cannot be rehabilitated with jarrah; therefore, why not take the bauxite and then rehabilitate the area? The problem with bauxite mining is there has been no rehabilitation of jarrah. The area can be rehabilitated with other trees but not with jarrah.

I intend to enter the debate on bauxite mining with an open mind. It is the responsibility of the Government to convince me that it will not permanently damage the jarrah forests or the water catchment areas. It is the responsibility of the anti-bauxite lobby to convince me that the jarrah forests will be permanently damaged. My mind is quite open on this matter.

Mr Barnett: Surely it is your responsibility to inform yourself.

Mr COWAN: Of course it is; but it is the responsibility of other people to make sure the information is presented.

Mr B. T. Burke: I really do not think the Government cares that much.

Mr COWAN: I have one more topic that I should like to cover and I shall then conclude my Address-in-Reply speech. It relates to an action

which was taken in this House last year and it was mentioned by my colleague, the member for Stirling. I refer, of course, to the defeat of the Government on the Electoral Act Amendment Bill. The Speaker of this House was very prominent in ensuring that Bill met the fate it deserved. One of the results of the Speaker's action—and in my opinion it was the correct action—was that a great deal of pressure was placed on the Speaker by the Premier and other members of the Liberal Party to violate the traditions of his office.

If what I read in the Press was correct, I understand the Speaker was informed by the Premier at a Liberal Party meeting that the Speaker of the House is expected to act similarly to a Minister of the Crown; that is, if he cannot vote with the Government he should resign. In the interests of the correct functioning of Parliament I see that attitude as one of the most serious situations to develop since I have entered Parliament.

The Presiding Officer of Parliament must be free from all party political or Government pressure in order to be able to carry out the duties of his office. It would be very difficult for any Speaker to demonstrate his impartiality to all members if he is placed under the threat of resignation by the Government or by the Premier.

I might remind members that the Speaker is elected by the Parliament. He is not appointed by either the Premier or the Government. I should like also to remind members that it has been a privilege in this House for the Premier of the day to have his nominee elected to the position of Speaker without contest. It could be argued that the threat to the Speaker's impartiality has forfeited any privilege given to a Premier in this matter. It is my intention if I remain in Parliament to ensure that the National Country Party will submit its own nominee to the position of Speaker. Our nominee may not be elected, but the resulting ballot for the Speakership should very adequately demonstrate to all members of this House that the Presiding Officer is elected by the Parliament. It may remind members also that "The Speaker" is responsible to Parliament as a whole and not just to the Government.

MR JAMIESON (Welshpool) [5.29 p.m.]: I was rather stunned by the last remark and because I am just getting over being stunned it took me a little longer than it should have to get to my feet. However, having recovered from the blow and having realised that in future we could be presided over by a National Country Party Speaker, it brings a thought to mind that this would probably be a "first". I do not believe we have

had a National Country Party Speaker previously and "firsts" are often good and worth trying out. We will just have to wait and see.

Mr Cowan: There are quite a few precedents in another place.

Mr JAMIESON: In another place we have seen this occur; but I do not think this discussion will be giving the present incumbent very great heart and cheer for the action he took. However, that is another day, another vote, and another matter to think about.

I want to comment firstly on the new electronic counting devices which we have in this House. It is time we brought the Chamber and the facilities in Parliament up to date. Some years ago when Speaker Hearman was on the "Throne" I put forward a proposition that we should get away from the old system of divisions and we should have an electronic bell punch method of dividing.

We went into the matter. The Clerks even went to the trouble of gaining information from the United States, and I think the quote was something like \$30 000 which frightened everyone. However, no-one does anything these days without an efficient recording machine. We know how electronic devices have decreased in price compared with other items in the community. A few years ago when calculators were first manufactured, the cheapest, even in Singapore, would cost about \$50, but now it is possible to get an extremely good one for that price. The same applies to transistor radios. When they first were used they were quite dear, but now when the Big W and others open a new store they practically give them away, charging only about \$2. Therefore, with the change in electronic devices and manufacturing which is taking place in these solid state type of circuits, probably the bell punch system in a small House like this would cost much less than it would have in those days. If such a system were in use, no member could cheat from his next-door neighbour. As soon as he pressed the button his vote would be recorded on a board with a light. If he pressed the wrong button there would be a cancellation button he could use. This system has been in operation in Parliaments for a number of years, and it should be available here.

Of course we would not need tellers because the machine would do the tellers' work. All the tellers would be required to do would be to handle the pairs lists, and they could be included in the records afterwards. Probably the Premier

of the day would endeavour to reduce the salary of the respective Whips in those circumstances, because they would not have so much to do.

I hope, Mr Acting Speaker (Mr Sibson), you will convey my remarks to the Speaker. I consider it is high time the Presiding Officer had another look at this aspect. Such device would not be unsightly. It would obviate the necessity for members to cross the floor and before doing so put away any papers they do not want members of the other parties to see. This becomes a nuisance when there are a number of divisions.

When we talk about \$30 000 it is not a great figure in comparison with the price of some of the technical machinery bought by various departments. Such machinery has a limited use, but an electronic device of the type to which I am referring would be regularly used every session. I hope some attention will be given to this matter.

Mr Clarko: It would also do away with the possibility of a conflict between members when crossing the floor.

Mr JAMIESON: That is true, and that has occurred in the past when there has been an acrimonious debate. We could have battling Bill and another member running into one another as they crossed, and this could cause problems. However, that is only a side issue.

I want now to deal with a matter I do not usually refer to in this Parliament; that is, salary increases for members of Parliament. I think it is very hard to judge one's own worth and I think at times we all disagree with decisions that are made on this subject. However, today I want to make a plea to the Government to do something about the salary of the Leader of the Opposition. When I was in that position the Premier chided me several times by indirectly implying that something should be done about this matter. The salary of the Leader of the Opposition in this State is fairly low in comparison with the salary received by his counterpart in the other States, despite the recent increase granted by the tribunal.

I consider the salary of the Leader of the Opposition should be the same as that of a Cabinet Minister, and this would be an easy equation for the tribunal to make. When I was in the position my colleagues were urging me to make representations on the matter, but I think that might have been so they could get an increase also. However, now that I am not in that position I want to point out very clearly that the Leader of the Opposition in this State is hard

done by in comparison with his counterpart in the other States and the Commonwealth, and this situation should be corrected fairly soon.

An increase of \$2 000 has just been granted, and I suppose people outside would consider that to be a large amount, but it is not when we take into consideration our obligations and the activities with which we are associated. The task of the Leader of the Opposition is far more strenuous than that of a Minister because he has only one or two departments with which to deal and he has the Premier behind him also, as well as the other Ministers. However, the Leader of the Opposition is obliged to be associated with practically every social and community event and this becomes costly, especially when practically every night of the year he must attend a function.

Mr O'Neil: Hairdo's and evening dresses cost a lot.

Mr JAMIESON: That is very true. In January of this year my wife consulted her diary to ascertain the number of occasions she had to attend a function with me or as the wife of the Leader of the Opposition during 1977. She discovered she had had to attend 197 functions. That is a fairly tall order.

Mr O'Neil: That would mean 197 hairdo's, too.

Mr JAMIESON: That is true. With the recent increase in salaries, a junior Minister is on \$34 000 a year. That includes his base salary and his ministerial salary. The total salary of the Leader of the Opposition is only \$30 984, well over \$3 000 behind. I suggest that the tribunal needs to pay a bit more attention to the situation.

This is a big State and if the Leader of the Opposition desires to do his job properly he must cover a great distance. Surely he should be paid the same amount as is being paid to his counterpart in the other States.

Before the member for Scarborough leaves the Chamber, I would like to deal with the by-election in the Kimberley, as he also referred to it. I believe this subject should be discussed in more detail because it requires more than the cursory mention given it by the member for Scarborough in the early stage of the debate.

Many of the things he said were correct. I was up there and I was quite satisfied that the last election, in the main, was run very well by the Electoral Office. There was one exception, which I will mention directly.

There was one humorous incident which occurred during the whole campaign. During the night of the election it rained really hard and an elderly Liberal canvasser was sitting out with the rain tumbling down onto him. Everyone else

had moved onto the verandah at the suggestion of the presiding officer, who was well trained and was formerly from the Federal Fremantle office. He said that as long as there was one from each group giving out the cards, they could sit on the verandah. As I said, the rain was drenching, and everyone had gone inside except this one Liberal canvasser who insisted on remaining on his chair in the rain. I have never seen it rain as hard as it did that night. Everything was awash, and many inches must have fallen.

At 8.00 p.m. when the voting closed, the gentleman took in his chair and said, "I hope that proves that we can run clean elections in Derby!" If anyone could be cleaner than he was on that occasion, I would be surprised. That was his way of proving that a clean election was being run! It was probably the only humorous incident during the day.

I would like to refer to one unfortunate aspect of the election which was the black versus white attitude which manifested itself in the area. It was generated in the Kununurra region which has a really dyed-in-the-wool, Tory, Nedlands-Dalkeith type of atmosphere. This has developed distinctly and it is unfortunate, because that is not the type of people who have previously been in the north. They are most unco-operative and divided in their attitude on politics. They want to win their argument whether or not it is worth while.

I noticed during the course of the meetings we attended and addressed that there were many black people and people of various colours, and a sprinkling of white people. However, the reports I received concerning the Liberal Party meetings indicated that they were attended by white people.

Something should be done by the Liberal Party to encourage all people to attend the meetings in order that they might be correctly informed as to what the Liberal Party is doing and intends to do in respect of their welfare.

Mr Young: We went to them. We did not expect them to come to us.

Mr JAMIESON: I was coming to that point. The welfare people, who are not politically biased, took us to the various places and they said that they had approached several Liberal members to attend also, but they would not oblige. They preferred to canvass from house to house and would not be associated with the meetings.

I went to their reserves on several occasions and while I was there a reporter from one of the papers was usually present because there had been suggestions of undue influence being brought to bear on the Aborigines. I talked to many of

the Aborigines quietly in their camps and eventually when I returned to the reporter I said, "If that is exercising undue influence on the Aborigines, I have been guilty of it."

Suggestions were being thrown about in the Press by the Premier at the time. He wanted to have an on-the-spot investigation whether this was occurring. Certainly I did not see any undue influence being exerted.

I was concerned that people were not too keen to oblige when they were invited to have a look at these alternative life styles.

I intend to be a little bit critical, or maybe even a big bit critical, of the member for the district. I checked back through *Hansard* to see what he had said in the past. On page 412 of *Hansard* of 1973 he had this to say—

After buying several tents in which to live they decided to graduate from those and take a great leap forward. At a cost of \$179 each, 13 of those people have ordered tin sheds measuring eight feet by eight feet—the type of shed which we erect in our back gardens to house our tools. The Department of Community Welfare is obviously aware of the fact that these people are subjected to living in eight feet by eight feet shacks but it is doing nothing about the matter. It should be prepared to help people who are prepared to help themselves.

They were very noble sentiments expressed by the Minister.

Mr Ridge: My views have not changed, incidentally.

Mr JAMIESON: In 1969 he had this to say—

I regret I cannot be complimentary on the question of native welfare, and, as this is related to the matter of native reserves, I should like to say that I have not yet seen a native settlement that we would be proud to show overseas visitors and say, "This is how we look after our aborigines." Most of them consist of substandard buildings in dirty and unimaginable surroundings, and although I do not advocate spoon-feeding these people, we have a moral obligation to set examples which are fit to bring out the pride that their race is capable of displaying.

I say again: Noble sentiments.

Mr Ridge: And a lot has been happening since 1969.

Mr JAMIESON: Let me finish my story. I went to a number of places such as Mowanjumb and others and, just as the Minister before me, I was appalled at the conditions these people

were living in. They seemed to be quite happy people, but obviously they had not had a proper go in life.

I would not be so critical about this member if it were not for the fact that over the last three years he has held a portfolio and more recently that of Community Welfare in this Government. During that period, unless my memory has failed me badly, \$4 million allocated for Aboriginal housing was returned to the Commonwealth because the State Government could not use it. If the money is not available to do these things, we should not be overcritical of Government members, but I would hate to see my constituents living in such conditions without attempting to do something about it. I have visited his settlement before, but it seemed to be even less attractive on this occasion. It is indeed filthy.

Mr Ridge: You might be talking about Mowanjumb but what about One Arm Point and the new villages at Fitzroy Crossing?

Mr JAMIESON: Those are all right, but what about the nine-mile camp at Wyndham about which the Minister was speaking. I saw that people were trying to help themselves there. One man had a hand-turned cement mixer and he was spreading cement around to stop the water coming into his little hut. These people are living under deplorable conditions. Certainly we could not be proud of these camps, and we could not show them to any visitors from overseas. No wonder the United Nations is concerned about our Aborigines.

We should allocate sufficient money to provide venues so that these people can live adequately in the various regions. We know the Aboriginal is a nomad and likes to move about, but if we set up these villages in particular areas the Aborigines could move from one to the other. Many Governments in the past have had the money to undertake such a project and certainly it should have been undertaken, even if a little more money were wasted to provide certain facilities. Unfortunately these people like to follow the examples of the Caucasians in regard to the luxury items and leisure times, rather than following their example in regard to the necessities of life. We must correct this attitude. I do not stand here and say that the Labor Party is not at fault because we are all to blame. Such conditions should not exist when it is known that groups of people reside in certain areas over long periods.

Mr Young: Can you tell us what conditions were attached to those Commonwealth funds?

Mr JAMIESON: Even if conditions were attached to this money, they would not have been harsh conditions. Towards the latter end of the life of the Whitlam Government, it was accused of wasting funds on Aborigines. If the State Government had wanted to, I am sure the conditions could have been varied to allow the money to be used on Aboriginal settlements and self-help programmes. Many of the projects commenced at that time are still funded from Commonwealth money.

Mr Young: The biggest problem with some Commonwealth funding is that the State Government cannot match the conditions. You may not remember, but was not some of this for urban housing?

Mr JAMIESON: It might have been but surely the Whitlam Government was not so petty that it would not have allowed an alteration to the conditions. There was no indication that the State Government was prevented from converting it from one use to another.

We have to accept this responsibility. It does not do the member for Kimberley any good to note that after nine years as member for the area no improvements have been made. If I were in that position, I would go to the Ord Dam and take a deep swim.

Mr Ridge: There has been a great deal of improvement. If you have been up there you must have been walking around with your eyes shut.

Mr JAMIESON: I first visited the nine-mile camp long before the Minister went to the north-west, and yet I cannot recall its being any worse than it is at present.

Mr Ridge: At the time I spoke out on this it was a darn sight better than it had been a few weeks before.

Mr JAMIESON: That may be so, but the fact is something needs to be done and done this year.

Mr Ridge: And something needs to be done in many other Aboriginal settlements right throughout Australia.

Mr JAMIESON: Maybe so, but this is in the Minister's electorate.

Mr Ridge: You expect it all done overnight.

Mr JAMIESON: The Minister should do something.

Mr O'Neil: Are you saying that because he happens to be also the member for the district, you think he should favour his own problems?

Mr JAMIESON: I do. He has held other portfolios, and he has been a responsible member of the Government.

Mr Davies: Surely conversely you do not think he should do the opposite.

Mr JAMIESON: I would not be the only one to suggest this. When Ross McLarty was Premier a wonderful hospital and high school were built at Pinjarra. These buildings were far better than the area called for.

Mr Shalders: I would not say that.

Mr JAMIESON: The honourable member was not even born then. When Sir David Brand was Premier, some wonderful facilities appeared in his electorate. I do not think this is uncommon.

I wish to refer to some aspect of the election in the Kimberley. I will turn to this topic now because shortly I will run out of time, as I can see from your new electronic device, Mr Speaker.

One of the most vicious attacks to follow on the recent election in the Kimberley was the one launched against Mrs Jessie Callaghan because she had written an article in a local news sheet entitled the *Kimberley Forum*. I am not breaching faith by referring to this matter, because it was well known beforehand.

A Liberal member of Parliament went out of his way to make a complaint about Mrs Callaghan mainly because of a statement she made in this news sheet before the previous election. I do not know who actually wrote the statement, but as the editor, Mrs Callaghan was responsible. The statement appeared in the news sheet that a Liberal member of Parliament had been granted land by the Minister for Lands—then the member for Kimberley. I believe that is a fair statement to make because to my knowledge one cannot obtain a grant of land without the Minister's approval.

Mr Ridge: Except that the land is allocated by the board; the Minister has nothing to do with it.

Mr JAMIESON: That is so, but in the final analysis the grant had to be signed by the Minister. This might have been written in a mischievous way.

Mr Ridge: The way the article read it was done in a very mischievous way.

Mr JAMIESON: Maybe it was and maybe it was not, but this was the attitude of the member concerned.

Mr Ridge: Just for the record it was not me, incidentally.

Mr JAMIESON: I did not say that it was; it was a member in another place. Thank goodness we are all pure here!

Mr Young: Also for the record, can you tell us Mrs Callaghan's position in the community?

Mr JAMIESON: She is a nurse involved with community health, but that is beside the point. As I have often pointed out, people are entitled to their own political views. Surely this idea operates in Kununurra also. This member of Parliament went out after Mrs Callaghan; he threatened to take suit against her. When he found he had no grounds for action he waited for another edition of the *Kimberley Forum*. When this other edition was printed, a technicality had been overlooked and eventually action was taken against Mrs Callaghan. I wrote subsequently to the Minister administering the Electoral Act. I thought he would not have been taking such action. As a matter of fact I said this to him—

As such prosecutions require your approval as Minister before they are proceeded with, then further action on this matter needs to be quite closely examined because no action was taken after the 19th February election until the 20th June this year, some time after a further edition of "Kimberley Forum" had been produced.

This would not have been so bad except that action was taken against her and the Minister denied it was his responsibility. I examined the files and from that I am obliged to say that on or about the 12th July there was a notation to the Crown Law Department with the Minister's initials on it authorising that department to take the necessary steps. This was as a result of a minute from the Electoral Department which had said, "Here is the result of the inquiry. If you are to take further proceedings, I suggest Crown Law takes certain actions." It was minuted by the Minister to proceed with the action. So, there is no doubt the authority of the Minister was forthcoming.

After Mr Medcalf had written to me and said permission was not required, I thought perhaps I had misinterpreted the Act, but the Act is quite clear. It states—

The Governor may, from time to time, appoint a Chief Electoral Officer who shall, under the Minister, be charged with the administration of this Act.

The Act is quite specific that the Chief Electoral Officer is under the authority of the Minister.

I was not satisfied with that, so I checked back on the times action had been taken. In fact, very few cases have been brought forward as a result of elections. One case, a few years ago, concerned a person refusing to put in a return declaring funds spent and another, quite a long time ago, concerned something else. But those cases were in connection with offences against the Electoral Act outside election time, and some were committed by members of Parliament. Usually, the matter was raised by informants in the Parliament running to the Liberal Minister, and the Liberal Minister initiating action.

I traced this matter back and in not one instance was authority by the Minister of the day not obtained. So, one could not imagine why it would not have been done on this occasion when all precedent justified it.

A person who once had been Chief Electoral Officer said that on one occasion when the Liberal Party had taken out a writ of *mandamus* because the Labor Government would not proceed to a by-election, he asked whether he had authority over the Minister. He sought advice from the Chief Justice, but the Chief Justice would not rule that he did. He said, "What would be my position if the Government of the day set down the election date and I said that we could not have it on that date?" It is too stupid for words to make such a suggestion.

The full recourse of the law was taken against Mrs Callaghan. Her typewriter was seized and brought to Perth for examination to endeavour to establish whether it was the typewriter used in the preparation of the newsletter. However, Mrs Callaghan quite freely admitted the typewriter was, in fact, the one which was used, and that she had used it. She was prepared to make a statement to that effect. Notwithstanding that, the police officers took the typewriter to Perth and kept it for some six months after which they returned it with a damaged keyboard. The machine in question was an IBM electric typewriter worth something of the order of \$1 200. Of course, Mrs Callaghan refused to sign a receipt for the typewriter because of its condition.

Mr Davies: It sounds like a police State.

Mr JAMIESON: Yes; after that, one wonders what is going to happen next in the area. Nothing ever stops the Liberal Party from proceeding on its merry way.

Then we come along to the by-election. When I was up there and obtained a copy of the *Kununurra News* I found Mrs Callaghan's offence to publish the *Kimberley Forum* without having the printer's name and address on it had been repeated in the *Kununurra News*. It had the name and address of the editor and, like Mrs Callaghan had authority in respect of the advertisements appearing in that newspaper but no printer's name and address. One advertisement said "Vote Alan Ridge, Liberal, Kimberley, December 17." Another advertisement urged readers to vote for "Ernie Bridge, the Kimberley man", while yet another recommended Brian Conway, 'the man all Australia will hear'.

Mr Laurance: We are still waiting to hear him!

Mr JAMIESON: I have looked in vain for an authority on the newsletter. Certainly, I have not noticed the Government racing its police officers up there again and putting them in the offices of the Department of Regional Administration where the *Kununurra News* was printed. They broke not only a State Act but also a Commonwealth Act, because both require an authority.

Mr Speaker, is the application of the law in Western Australia to be one-sided? Is it to be more rigorously applied against Labor people than Liberal people? What the Minister should have done at the time was simply read the report, minute it, and send it back to his department, and that would have been that. Usually, that is the course of action taken by Ministers for minor, technical breaches of Acts. This practice was followed when the Labor Party was in Government, and breaches by Liberal members came before the then Attorney-General (Mr T. D. Evans). I am sure he will be able to tell members opposite about some of those cases; however, I do not want to embroil those people in this argument.

It seems to be palpably wrong that people can get away with this sort of nonsense in this day and age. The Commissioner of Police even wrote to tell me I did not know the law. I wrote to the Minister and I did not even receive a reply from him; however, I did receive a reply from his colleague and from the Commissioner of Police. The Minister was very good about the matter and allowed me to peruse the file. The Act justified the endorsement of the file; there was nothing wrong with that position, and in fact the same practice applied when Val Abbot was Attorney-General. When a matter required legal action, it went back to the Minister for signing, and if it did not, there was trouble.

In fact, one of the electoral officers told me he got into trouble once when he asked the Crown Law Department whether there was a case for prosecution, and Crown Law proceeded to prosecute without the consent of the Minister. When he heard about it, the Minister contacted the department and said, "What is going on? Pull it out immediately." Of course, the Government can do it in respect of that case, but it finds it impossible to withdraw charges against people on the picket lines.

The action against Jessie Callaghan is a discredit to the Government of this State. Its officers have hounded and hounded her because of a technical breach of the Act. I am not the first person to express disquiet about no action being taken against the *Kununurra News*. The regional administrator himself expressed concern when somebody mentioned the matter to him after I had raised it at a meeting. He telephoned me to say, "They are getting their Press, but we do not want to get involved." Perhaps Jessie Callaghan did not want to get involved in a fight about whether or not she had authority to produce the newsletter.

As it happened, the Labor advertisements which appeared in the *Kimberley Forum* and *Kununurra News* were endorsed, "Authorised by R. McMullen, Curtin House, Perth", and I suppose the Liberal advertisement was authorised in a similar manner. I do not think there is anything wrong with that. Surely the Act should be interpreted to mean that in such minor, technical cases, the person involved should be contacted and informed a breach has occurred. I am certain the person concerned should not be hounded and pressed into the ground because of a technical breach of the law.

Certainly, no such action has occurred before although there have been numerous occasions when the DLP was in its heyday when signs were put up all over the place without authority. When the matter was drawn to the attention of the Electoral Office its officers just shrugged their shoulders and said, "What can we do?"

Many years ago, a person by the name of Ernie Howe was announced as the Liberal Party candidate for my seat. His address was given as West Perth. In those days, a person had to undergo a three-month residential qualification before being allowed to be on the electoral roll. Two months later the election occurred, and my opponent was on the electoral roll out in my territory. When I objected, and drew this point to the attention of the Government, it took his name off the roll. However, he must have signed a statutory declaration to get on the roll.

Sir Charles Court: I bet that caused you to lose no sleep that night.

Mr JAMIESON: It caused me some concern to think a person could be so silly as to try to deceive other people in a matter which was so public.

The Hon. Mr Griffith, who was then Minister for Justice, just wiped it off without taking any action against Mr Howe, which I thought was fair enough.

It must have cost thousands of dollars to pursue the case against Mrs Callaghan to such an extreme length. Several policemen were sent north. I am not too sure whether this State does not have a political Police Force, because the same fellows turned up to investigate the postal vote matter. They were sent up with a warrant to search and seize, and they took away with them Mrs Callaghan's typewriter, a Gestetner and sundry papers. The net result of this extensive investigation was that Mrs Callaghan was fined some \$10, with \$50 costs awarded against her.

Mr Taylor: And the loss of a good typewriter.

Mr JAMIESON: I am not too sure what has happened about that; the last I heard after I objected to this action was that it had been returned but that she refused to sign for it due to its damaged condition. I understand the Commissioner of Police has ordered that it be repaired, but that is not good enough. This machine is worth something like \$1 200, and the Government should not have indulged itself in this manner. I believe an inquiry should be conducted to ascertain who is responsible for this action.

Mr Young: Was it her own typewriter?

Mr JAMIESON: Yes, her personal typewriter. The papers they removed were not returned in time for the Court of Disputed Returns hearing at which Mrs Callaghan was to give evidence. Communications between me and Kununurra are not too good, and I am not sure whether Mrs Callaghan has had the papers returned.

I showed her the letter I received from the Commissioner of Police telling me I did not understand the position and that the police had to prove it was the same typewriter used to type the newsletter. She said, "Nonsense! When they came to the door I admitted I was responsible for the production of the periodical and produced the typewriter I used." Notwithstanding that, the typewriter was removed to Perth for some six months.

I do not know how much this little exercise has cost the Western Australian taxpayer, simply because a Liberal member of Parliament decided to put the boots in. Of course, that member has

already announced he does not intend to stand again, so it did not matter what the results of the investigation would be; no action could be taken against him. He will have a five-year holiday at the expense of the people in the north.

Mr Young: That is not fair. He is one of the hard-working members of Parliament.

Mr JAMIESON: It is fair, because he has been unfair on this occasion. Members opposite should not associate themselves with this sort of mischievous nonsense. There are things which should not be done in this world, and that is one of them. It does the Premier and the Liberal Party no credit to be associated with this incident.

Mr Speaker. I see my time has almost expired. I will deal at a later date with other matters I had hoped to raise. I simply conclude by commenting that I believe it was quite unnecessary to replace all the Government car licence plates with plates bearing the slogan "W.A.—State of Excitement." If the Government must have a slogan, I would prefer to see "W.A.—State of Development". That would be more appropriate, because excitement comes and goes and we want development to go on forever.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Sibson.

House adjourned at 6.14 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

APPRENTICESHIPS

Cancellation

435. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Is he concerned by the continuing high level of cancellations of apprenticeships particularly as this affects apprentice painters and decorators?
- (2) Is it a fact that a major weakness in the cancellation's procedure is that authorisation for the activation of regulations is solely on the employer's side?
- (3) Is he aware that unions representing apprentices can only act in terms of prosecutions for non-payment of wages?
- (4) Will he look into the possibility of requiring the Department of Industrial Training to provide independent evaluations of situations where cancellations are applied for so that it might exercise a more positive role in stabilising the apprenticeship situation?

Mr GRAYDEN replied:

- (1) I am naturally concerned at any cancellation that may occur; however, I cannot agree that there is a "continuing

high level of cancellations". The member refers particularly to the painting and decorating trade. There have been no cancellations in this area for the past four months.

- (2) An application for cancellation of an apprenticeship under the Industrial Training (General Apprenticeship) Regulations, 1978, can be made by any party to an apprenticeship agreement, not just the employer.
- (3) The member's information is totally incorrect. The unions concerned are notified of every formal action taken on an apprenticeship matter; either before the WA Industrial Commission or within the division of industrial training. I am informed that in practically every instance the union is represented at any of the proceedings mentioned above.
- (4) The division of industrial training makes inquiries into every instance where cancellation proceedings arise. The situation is continually monitored and endeavours made, if the situation warrants it, to place the apprentice with an alternative employer.

EDUCATION

Regulations

436. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

In view of the strong recommendations from the Parliamentary Commissioner at the end of last year, for a total review of the education regulations, what action does he propose and when can he be expected to act on this matter?

Mr Rushton (for Mr P. V. JONES) replied: A review of all regulations under the Education Act was commenced prior to receiving the report of the Parliamentary Commissioner and is still continuing.

HEALTH

Diseases Amongst South-East Asian Refugees

437. Dr DADOUR, to the Minister for Health: Of recent refugees from South-East Asia to Western Australia:

- (1) What are the recorded notifiable diseases amongst them?
- (2) How many of each notifiable disease are there?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) and (2) Tuberculosis—16 persons notified, all are on treatment.
- Hookworm—21 persons notified, all have been treated.
- Salmonella Gastroenteritis—50 persons notified, all have been treated and are now clear.
- Hansens Disease—2 persons notified, one has active disease and one is inactive. Both are on treatment.
- Syphilis—3 persons notified, all have been treated.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Wanneroo Shire Council

438. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Premier:

- (1) Is he aware of the difficulty being experienced by the Wanneroo Shire Council in obtaining a site for the establishment of new offices in the Joondahup regional centre?
- (2) Is he further aware that construction of the offices was due, under the terms of the contract, to begin on 10th April?
- (3) Will he undertake to instruct that a reserve be created on Crown land to allow the new offices to proceed as quickly as possible?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) The matter is currently being considered by the Ministers concerned. Endeavours are being made to determine whether early allocation of a site is possible.

PRISONS ACT

Amendment

439. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Is it the Government's intention to amend the Prisons Act during the current sittings of Parliament?
- (2) If "Yes" what areas, in general terms, will be revised?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) and (2) This was announced in the Governor's Speech at the opening of Parliament.

WATER SUPPLIES

Equipment Issued to D. J. Reynolds

440. Mr BRIAN BURKE, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) On how many occasions has the Metropolitan Water Board issued board equipment to private contractor D. J. Reynolds?
- (2) What were the terms of each issue?
- (3) What equipment was issued on each occasion?
- (4) For what purpose was the equipment used?

Mrs Craig (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) According to board records—once, on the 19th August, 1977.
- (2) Standard charges applied—\$20 for the first week and \$5 per day thereafter. With overhead charges, the total cost was \$78.75.
- (3) One set of timber comprising—
50 only 8 ft lathes;
4 only 5 ft whalings;
4 only 5 ft toms.
- (4) The connection of a private property to the board's sewer.

HIGH SCHOOLS

Halls-Gymnasia

441. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Are halls/gymnasia available for hire by community organisations at the following high schools:
 - (a) Governor Stirling;
 - (b) Tuart Hill;
 - (c) Mirrabooka;
 - (d) Swan View;
 - (e) Lockridge;
 - (f) Belmont?
- (2) (a) What opening fee is chargeable at each; and
(b) what is the hourly rental?
- (3) Who establishes these rates?

Mr Rushton (for Mr P. V. JONES) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Governor Stirling—Cleaning Fee \$9.60. No rental.
Tuart Hill—Opening fee \$2.00. Rental \$3.00 per hour.
Mirrabooka—Opening fee \$2.00. No rental.

Swan View—No opening fee. Rental \$5.00 per group per session.

Lockridge—No opening fee. Rental varies from nil to very little depending on financial standing of group.

Belmont—Opening fee \$3.20 week nights, \$6.50 Sundays. No rental.

- (3) The Principal.

EDUCATION

Governor Stirling High School

442. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Are basketball backboards supplied in the gymnasium at Governor Stirling High School?
- (2) If not, will he investigate the provision of backboards?

Mr Rushton (for Mr P. V. JONES) replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Yes.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Finance

443. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Local Government:

Will he please provide me with a copy of the formula used to allocate funds from the local authorities assistance fund formula grant?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

The formula for the 1977-78 grants was as follows:

- (a) Grants are limited to councils having a rate revenue of less than \$5 000 per square kilometre.
- (b) Grants are assessed on the basis of—
First 1 000 of population at \$5.00 per capita;
Second 1 000 of population at \$3.75 per capita;
Third 1 000 of population at \$1.90 per capita;
Fourth 1 000 of population at 95 cents per capita;
Fifth 1 000 of population at 60 cents per capita;
Sixth 1 000 of population at 30 cents per capita.
- (c) The grants are subject to a minimum of \$5 000 and a maximum of \$12 500.
- (d) Six country town councils, namely Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Narrogin and Northam, receive a flat grant of \$6 250.

ABORIGINES

Electoral Voting: Education Programme

444. Mr CARR, to the Minister for Education:

With reference to the team of people sent to the Kimberleys prior to the by-election to help teach Aborigines to vote:

- (1) How many persons were employed in the scheme prior to the by-election?
- (2) Has the scheme been continued since the by-election?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2)—
 - (a) in what areas is the scheme operating;
 - (b) how many people are involved?
- (4) If "No" to (2), will the Government consider re-establishing the programme on a State-wide basis and as an on-going concern in the less emotional climate when no elections are imminent?

Mr Rushton (for Mr P. V. JONES) replied:

- (1) 15.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) This is being considered.

RECREATION

Cultural Facilities

445. Mr CARR, to the Premier:

- (1) Does the Government have any plans to establish a fund for the financing of capital expenses associated with the provision of cultural facilities in regional centres?
- (2) If "Yes" will he please advise of the details?
- (3) If "No" to (1), does the Government have any other plans for the provision of cultural facilities in regional centres?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) As I stated in reply to question 416 yesterday, and as I have indicated on earlier occasions, the Government is giving consideration to a scheme of assistance and, to this end, the Treasury is in consultation with the Minister for Cultural Affairs and the Arts Council with a view to submitting proposals having regard particularly for the needs of major country centres.

There is no provision in the 1977-78 Budget for expenditure of this nature, and any proposed scheme would need to be considered in the context of the 1978-79 Budget and the funds available to the Government at that time, as well as its potential capacity to finance a proposal on a continuing basis.

RAILWAYS

Federal Funds

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

In view of the State Government being able to spend less than half the funds available to it in the 1976-77 financial year for railway projects and the Minister's statement that the fact that less than \$225 000 was recovered, does not indicate failure to take advantage of Commonwealth funding, but only points to an over-estimation of expenditure, is it not a fact that if the State Government had made full use of the funds that were available to it, the Federal Government would not have been guilty of over-estimating expenditure which ranks for reimbursement?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

The \$225 000 represented the estimated reimbursement from the Commonwealth in the terms of the Railway Standardisation Agreement Act of 1961.

The amount comprised—

- (a) Expenditure incurred by the State in previous years; and
- (b) the estimated expenditure to be incurred in 1976-77.

Of the "shortfall" of \$115 000, part was due to expenditure not being accepted by the Commonwealth as being within the terms of the Act and this was funded from State sources.

Part was incurred in 1976-77 and not processed by the Commonwealth for reimbursement in that year. It will be reimbursed in 1977-78. That portion of the expenditure not incurred in 1976-77 has been carried forward to 1977-78 and will be reimbursed in due course.

The balance of the "shortfall" is composed of an over-estimation in the funds required to complete some of the work in progress and this amount will, of course, not be spent.

I repeat that the last paragraph in my answer to your question of the 15th March still applies.

FISHERIES

Denmark Estuary

447. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

Referring to question 406 of 12th April, 1978 regarding fishing in Denmark Estuary, can the Minister advise what period of time he intends to convey by "not recently"?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

A search of departmental files has not discovered any letters of complaint over the last two years.

ORD IRRIGATION SCHEME

Cassava

448. Mr JAMIESON, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Has an evaluation been made of the growing of cassava in the Ord irrigation area for the purpose of making ethanol?
- (2) Has research been made into tonnes to litres of ethanol production from cane sugar grown experimentally at the Ord?
- (3) If not, in view of the possible use of this spirit as a motor fuel of the future, would such examination be made?

Sir Charles Court (for Mr OLD) replied:

- (1) Cassava has not been grown in the experimental programme on the Ord although an officer of CSIRO has undertaken a preliminary feasibility study of growing cassava. This study was not promising.
- (2) No research has been undertaken on the production of ethanol from sugar cane growing on the Ord but on information available from other sources with existing technology one tonne of sugar cane will produce 80 to 90 litres of ethanol.
- (3) Developments in Queensland and overseas are being followed closely.

DAIRYING

Milk Transport; Freight Rate

449. Mr CARR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What company has the contract for cartage of milk to each of the following centres:—
 - (a) Geraldton;

- (b) Kalgoorlie;
- (c) Carnarvon;
- (d) Port Hedland?

(2) What freight rate is charged for cartage of milk to each of the above centres?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) (a) OD Transport Pty. Ltd.
 - (b) OD Transport Pty. Ltd. and Innes Transport for the cartage of by-products only. Bulk milk is delivered by Masters Dairy (own vehicle).
 - (c) and (d) Gascoyne Trading Pty. Ltd.
- (2) (a) Geraldton—rates are not readily available as special contract rates are negotiated with the suppliers.
 - (b) Kalgoorlie—OD Transport Pty. Ltd. charge 7.1 cents per kg 4 tonne consignments. Innes Transport charge 8 cents per kg for up to 1 tonne consignments.
 - (c) Kalgoorlie,
 - (d) Port Hedland—

Rates are not readily available from the companies due to the competitive nature of this transport.

POLICE FORCE

Applicants' Questionnaire

450. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Is it a fact that persons applying for positions within the Western Australian Police Force are requested to complete a questionnaire which includes a question relating to the applicant's opinions on the mining of uranium?
- (2) What is the relevance of such a question?
- (3) Would he table questionnaires used by police as mentioned above?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) to (3) No.

STOCK EXCHANGE

Policy on Directorship of Public Companies

451. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Is it a fact that:
 - (a) in 1969 the Perth Stock Exchange barred its members from becoming directors of public companies;
 - (b) this decision was applauded throughout Australia because a broker's unbiased commitment to his clients'

interests should not only be assumed but should be assured;

- (c) no other stock exchanges in Australia followed suit?
- (2) (a) Is it a fact that the Perth Stock Exchange has removed the ban which it imposed in 1969 and now permits members of the stock exchange to become directors of public companies?
- (b) (i) Did this change of policy require his approval;
- (ii) if "Yes" when was this approval sought; and
- (iii) when was it given and why?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) (a) The Perth Stock Exchange by-laws were first examined in 1971 and the prohibition referred to was in force then.
- (b) and (c) This is not known.
- (2) (a) Yes.
- (b) (i) No. But under the Securities Industry Act the Minister may within 21 days of receiving notice of an amendment move to disallow the amendment in whole or in part.
- (ii) Notice was given by the stock exchange to the Minister on 2nd February, 1977.
- (iii) The stock exchange was notified on 17th February, 1977. The Minister decided not to disallow the amendment because it was considered that the stringent provisions of section 112 of the Securities Industry Act controlling insider trading and the misuse of confidential information no longer made it essential for the stock exchange itself to control such a situation.

PUBLIC SERVANTS

Annual and Long Service Leave

452. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

Further to his answer to question without notice No. 10 of 22nd March, 1978:

- (1) Has he made the inquiries then contemplated?
- (2) If "Yes" what is the precise incidence of deferments of annual and long service leave?

- (3) What does he intend to do to absorb urgently these accumulations of leave and when?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (3) My enquiries have revealed that to ascertain precise incidents of deferment of annual leave and long service leave in the Public Service, it would require lengthy and costly research throughout all departments of the Service.

Under the Public Service Act, officers are entitled to accumulate with the written consent of the permanent head, when the convenience of the department is served thereby, three years' entitlement, and again when the convenience of the department is served thereby, in excess of three years' entitlement if the permanent head so recommends and the Minister approves.

Also, under the Public Service Act, long service leave may, with the approval of the Public Service Board, be accumulated. It is the Board's policy to closely examine requests for accumulation to ensure there are valid reasons for the request.

I do not propose to have the costly inquiry undertaken, but will ensure that the Public Service Board, to reinforce the Government's policy regarding leave, brings the matter to the notice of all permanent heads at regular intervals.

EDUCATION

Wembley School

453. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Education:

With respect to the Wembley primary school:

- (1) How many private homes are to be purchased in order to enlarge the grounds?
- (2) What is the estimated cost of such purchases?
- (3) What is the estimated cost of demolition and re-development for education purposes of such sites?
- (4) Will he table a plan of the school showing lots to be purchased?

Mr Rushton (for Mr P. V. JONES) replied:

- (1) All four houses in Alexander Street north of Rutter Park have been purchased as well as two in Jersey Street. The remaining two in Jersey Street are also to be acquired by negotiation.
- (2) Lots already purchased—\$154 772. Estimated cost of remaining two lots in Jersey Street—\$75 000.
- (3) No final decision has yet been made on plans for the additional land acquired. Costs of demolition and redevelopment are not, therefore, available.
- (4) Tabled.

The plan was tabled (see paper No. 141).

HOUSING

Transportable Houses in Norseman

454. Mr GRILL, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Has the Government received a request from the Dundas Shire Council requesting that the Government through its various departments and agencies endeavour to purchase as many of the 90 transportable Anaconda Company houses in Norseman which are shortly to be placed on the market due to the closure of the Redross mine?
- (2) Is the Government aware that if the said housing is sold and removed from Norseman it would possibly result in the virtual decimation of the town?
- (3) What action does the Government intend to take on the matter?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes, to a partial extent.
- (3) The matter is under investigation.

MIDLAND JUNCTION ABATTOIR

Saleyard Land

455. Mr McPHARLIN, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) What is the real estate value at the present time of the land occupied by the Midland Junction abattoir saleyards?
- (2) What is the estimated value of—
 - (a) the plant;
 - (b) machinery; and
 - (c) buildings?

Sir Charles Court (for Mr OLD) replied:

- (1) The WA Meat Commission has no available assessment of the present land value of its 40 ha Midland site. I am therefore unable to provide an accurate estimate of the area's real estate value.
However, I understand that industrial land in the area is valued between \$80-90 000 per ha, and rural land between \$15-20 000 per ha.
- (2) Based on "depreciated value" the following estimates apply—
Abattoir
(a) and (b) \$6.3 million.
(c) \$4.7 million.
Saleyards
(a) to (c) \$723 000.

PORTS

Wharfage Charges

456. Mr McPHARLIN, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What are the wharfage charges incurred per day by shipping companies when ships are in the following ports:
 - (a) Fremantle;
 - (b) Albany;
 - (c) Esperance; and
 - (d) Geraldton?
- (2) What are the additional amounts because of the recent 'live sheep' strike, applicable to each port?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) Daily charges incurred by shipping companies for vessels using the ports referred to by the member are—
 - (a) 3.26 cents per gross registered tonne per day.
 - (b) 4 cents per gross tonne per vessel for first 24 hours then 3/4 of one cent per gross tonne for each 6 hours or part thereof subsequent to the first 24 hours.
 - (c) 12 cents per tonne on all cargo unloaded or shipped.
 - (d) 12 cents per tonne on all cargo unloaded or shipped.
- (2) Additional amounts incurred by shipping companies for "sheep ships" because of the "live sheep" strike were—
 - (a) \$2 000.
 - (b) \$3 600.
 - (c) and (d) Nil.

POLICE

Nollamara-Balga Area

457. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) Is his department aware of possibly increasing violent activities of a small group of male and female young people in the Nollamara-Balga area?
- (2) Is his department also aware that the activities of this small group are threatening the continuation of organised social gatherings for young people and youth clubs in the area?
- (3) Will he ensure that adequate numbers of police will be made available to allow local youth clubs and school social functions to be held without being terrorised and subjected to the threat of serious personal injury?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) The department is aware of isolated disturbances, but from information available, the position is considered to be relatively static.
- (2) Yes. There have been three complaints in the past month. Two youths were arrested for disorderly conduct, and hindering police.
- (3) Yes. School functions have police in attendance by arrangement. Other social functions have regular police visitations to the area when advised, and police attend immediately upon receipt of a complaint.

STATE HOUSING COMMISSION

Land

458. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) In view of the recent announcement about land releases of remaining pockets of State Housing Commission land in some Perth suburbs, can he say what are the priorities used by the Commission in deciding when such land is to be released?
- (2) Is he aware of the problems facing residents in areas like Nollamara and Dianella with homes adjacent to such undeveloped blocks which over many years have become unsightly rubbish dumps?
- (3) Why is the commission not sympathetic to the interim use of such land for play areas or some other recreational purpose?

Mrs Craig (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) The release of higher value lots in various areas is determined by an assessment of public demand, availability of services, and the need for the funds so generated to be applied to the construction of homes for the Housing Commission's low and moderate income applicants.
- (2) As the owner of extensive undeveloped holdings, the Housing Commission is very much aware of illegal dumping of rubbish. Prevention is difficult, but the commission will respond to any reasonable complaint of a specific nature.
- (3) The commission is generally not receptive to the interim use of undeveloped land for play areas or other active recreational purposes because of—
 - (i) Complaints from non-users;
 - (ii) Lack of effective control by those who assume the temporary responsibility;
 - (iii) Local authority resistance;
 - (iv) Legal complications possibly arising out of accident or injury.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Mirraboopa Town Centre Offices

459. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Can he say whether any Government departments, State or Federal, have taken up options to establish regional offices at the Mirraboopa town centre site?
- (2) (a) If "Yes" what are the departments concerned; and
(b) what stage has planning for such offices reached?
- (3) When is it anticipated that the first such offices will be completed?

Mrs Craig (for Mr O'CONNOR) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) State Government Departments—
State Housing Commission
Department for Community Welfare
Crown Law Probation and Parole
Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Board
Education Department (small floor area)
No decision has been made by the Commonwealth Government.

- (b) As soon as a reply is received from the Commonwealth Government, detailed design work will commence. Preliminary plans have already been prepared.

(3) April, 1979.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS AND LIGHTS

Flinders Street-Nollamara Avenue Intersection

460. Mr WILSON, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many accidents have been recorded at the intersection of Flinders Street and Nollamara Avenue, Nollamara during the past 12 months?
- (2) Does this figure indicate any marked increase on the record for previous years?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2), will this intersection be given greater priority for the installation of traffic lights?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) 16 during 1977.
- (2) and (3) No.

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE

Balga Office

461. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Community Welfare:

- (1) Will he itemise the numbers and deployment of staff at the Balga office of the department since the office was established up to and including the present?
- (2) Does the department consider that the present staff complement is adequate for the area served by this office, especially in relation to the work of supervising juvenile offenders referred by the courts?
- (3) What is the current policy of the department in respect of case loads for officers engaged in such supervisory duties?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) The number of staff on the establishment at the Balga office in October 1972 was
3 full time field welfare staff
1 Clerk/Typist.

At that stage the Balga office was a sub-office, the divisional office being located at Morley where approximately another nine staff were located.

In August, 1974, the Morley office closed and the Balga office became the divisional office. The staff complement

shown below then covered the combined areas previously divided between the two offices.

- 1 Divisional supervisor
- 1 Senior family welfare officer
- 7 Field officers
- 1 Divisional assistant
- 3 Clerical staff.

Presently, staff numbers consist of

- 1 Divisional supervisor—officer in charge of the division.
- 1 Senior family welfare officer—responsible for court, panel and some administrative duties.
- 7 Field welfare officers—these officers carry out a wide range of welfare duties.
- 1 Divisional psychologist—this officer consults with staff and works with a small number of special cases.
- 1 Divisional assistant—responsible for the clerical management of the division.
- 3 Clerical staff—these include a receptionist, typists.

- (2) Present staff complement at Balga division is insufficient to cater fully for the welfare requirements of the area. Whilst the department recognises the need for further staff within the area, limitations on funds and staff numbers have prevented the deployment of additional staff. With further staff, closer supervision of juvenile offenders would be possible and preventative work with families and children at risk could be given more attention.
- (3) Caseload in relation to the work of supervising juvenile offenders varies from area to area and is dependent on staff numbers and the number of juvenile offenders within a particular area. Within the metropolitan divisions particular officers are encouraged to specialise in specific areas of welfare work such as juvenile offenders and in Balga office there are three officers who specialise in working with juvenile offenders. Full time attention cannot be devoted to this area of work by the officers concerned, due to the many other welfare demands placed on the division in general.

HEALTH

Tronado Machine

462. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) What action has been taken by the medical authorities to the suggestion of further experimental study on the effects of very high frequency radiation using the Tronado machine, as contained in the report of the evaluation committee headed by Dr D. D. Letham?
- (2) As Royal Perth Hospital has research workers of repute—as instanced by a recent newspaper report—will he arrange for research workers to follow up the suggestion as per (1)?
- (3) (a) What study is being pursued or interest shown in V.H.F. radiation treatment of cancer proceeding in overseas countries; and
(b) by whom are these studies being undertaken?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) It has always been considered that such an experimental study was beyond the resources available in Western Australia.
- (2) No.
- (3) (a) and (b) A list of the studies and the persons conducting the studies, as reported in the recent literature, has been tabled.

The paper was tabled (see paper No. 142).

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

SHEEP EXPORTS

Industrial Dispute: Comments by Mr J. Marks

1. Mr TUBBY, to the Premier:

- (1) Has he seen the report in today's edition of *The West Australian* headed "A blunt warning"?
- (2) If so, has he taken any action to seek the views of the Trades and Labor Council and the union concerned in relation to the remarks attributed to Mr J. Marks?
- (3) What is the Government's reaction to the remarks attributed to Mr J. Marks?
- (4) Is the Mr Marks referred to a known communist?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes, and I shall seek permission to table copies of the letters I have sent to both the TLC and to the AMWSU.

- (3) I shall seek permission to table a copy of the Press release I have made today. I think I would speak for most members of the State Parliament when I deplore the statements reported to have been made by Mr J. Marks.

This country has had more than its fair share of this type of attitude from the militant left-wing extremists within the union movement, and the comments by Mr Marks highlight the viciousness and the brutality of the approach of those who seek power over people and communities outside the democratic processes and the responsibilities of an elected Government.

I sincerely hope the trade union movement as a whole comes out and disassociates itself from not only the comments, but also the sentiments attributed to Mr Marks.

- (4) To the best of my knowledge and belief, he is a long-term and active communist. I have now been advised that according to the *Australian Parliamentary Handbook* he contested the Federal seat of Fremantle at the 1972 election as a Communist Party candidate. I also understand he contested a seat in the State election in 1953—Guildford-Midland, to be precise—as a Communist Party candidate. I do not propose to read out the letters, unless it is your wish, Mr Speaker, but I seek permission to table a copy of the letter I have sent to the President of the Amalgamated Metal Workers and Shipwrights' Union; also a copy of the letter I have sent to the President of the Trades and Labor Council and a copy of the Press statement I have made on behalf of the Government in respect of this matter.

The papers were tabled (see paper No. 143).

NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF

Potato Growers

2. Mr T. H. JONES, to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is he aware that large acreages of potatoes in the south-west have been extensively damaged as a result of the recent fires and high winds?
- (2) Will the Minister advise what level of financial relief will be available to growers involved and the method of assessing the losses?

Sir Charles Court (for Mr OLD) replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Growers who experienced such losses are eligible for the concessional loans applicable in cases of disaster relief. A loan is granted on an assessment of the grower's financial need. No upper limit has been fixed at this stage. This, of course, is independent of any immediate relief for which the individual farmers concerned may qualify on the grounds of personal hardship and distress.

PICKETING MEATWORKERS

Charges: Ministerial Buck-passing

3. Mr HASSELL, to the Premier:

- (1) Has he seen a report of a statement said to have been made by the President of the National Country Party, alleging that three State Liberal Ministers are buck-passing over charges against union pickets?
- (2) If so, is there any foundation whatsoever for the suggestion that the Ministers are buck-passing on the issue?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) I have read the report in tonight's edition of the *Daily News*. I am very sorry to see Mr Fletcher has made such a statement. When he feels the urge to make such statements, I wish he would pick up the telephone and speak to someone who knows something about the matter.
- (2) There has been no buck-passing by any of the Ministers. There has been a completely proper and sensible approach by all the Ministers concerned. The conduct of the Government in respect of the livestock dispute has, I believe, been exemplary. We have had nothing but commendation from the grower organisations and many individual growers. I remind those who question the attitude of the Government on these matters, and the answers given by the Ministers and the port authorities, that we are dealing with a situation where charges related to specific matters have been laid.

If I may, I would like briefly to summarise the nature of the charges, because they may be a matter of interest not only for Mr Fletcher, but for other people.

Mr B. T. Burke: It is all *sub judice*.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Charges are not *sub judice*.

Mr B. T. Burke: When they have not been heard, they are *sub judice*, and you know it as well as I do.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I will give the break-up of the arrests. First of all, dealing with Fremantle, for refusing to leave the wharf contrary to regulation 305A under the Fremantle Port Authority Act, 31 charges have been laid. For entering closed premises contrary to regulation 288 under the Fremantle Port Authority Act, two charges have been laid. For using insulting words contrary to section 59 of the Police Act, one charge has been laid. For disorderly conduct under section 54 of the Police Act, one charge has been laid. All those offences relate to the port area. In the Ports of Esperance and Geraldton, no charges were laid. In the case of Albany, 35 persons were arrested and 37 charges laid. Offences in the port area were refusing to leave the area after being requested to do so by the manager, under regulation 272 of the Albany Port Authority Act—18 charges.

Mr B. T. Burke: They are hardly offences until they are convicted.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I am stating the charges.

Mr B. T. Burke: You called them offences.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I am telling the honourable member that I am referring to the reasons for the charges being laid.

Mr B. T. Burke: Then don't call them offences.

Mr Pearce: Say "alleged offences".

Sir CHARLES COURT: Two people were charged with resisting arrest under the Police Act and for obstructing traffic 17 were charged under regulation 703 of the Road Traffic Code Regulations. The offences against the Traffic Code all occurred at the holding paddocks.

I hope that satisfied the honourable member, if he wants to be so pedantic.

POLICE

Rifle Fire at Picketing Unionists

4. Dr TROY, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

- (1) In view of the speed with which the Government has acted over the words alleged to have been used by a union official in this morning's paper, has he verified the incident relating to the discharge of a firearm aimed at terrorising pickets the other day in the incident to which I referred?
- (2) Has he seen the alleged admission of this incident by the person concerned in tonight's issue of the *Daily News*?
- (3) What does he intend to do about it?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) to (3) I am sure the member for Fremantle will be gratified—personally gratified—to know that at 4.25 p.m. on this day a message was received purporting to come from the Commissioner of Police or his agent, saying that a man will be charged later this evening with an offence. Further details will be available tomorrow.

FREMANTLE PRISON

Miss Vera Griffiths

5. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Chief Secretary: Referring to his answer to my question without notice of yesterday—

- (1) Will the Minister please list those areas in which the activities of Miss Vera Griffiths extended beyond her direct association with the Jaycee movement?
- (2) Will the Minister please indicate what rules or regulations were broken by her "extra curricular" activities?
- (3) Does the Minister's statement that he is advised that Miss Griffiths is to be forbidden from the prison mean that he is unaware of the reasons for this action?
- (4) If "No" will the Minister please inform the House of the reasons for this action?

Mr O'NEIL replied:

- (1) Miss Griffiths has outlined the activities referred to in her letter to me dated the 28th February, 1978, and to which I referred in

answer to a question without notice on Wednesday, the 12th April, 1978. I understand the member has a copy of that letter. If this is not so, I am prepared to make a copy available to the member on a confidential basis.

Since the letter refers to specific prisoners by name and comments on the offences for which they have been imprisoned, I, as Chief Secretary, am not prepared to make that letter public.

Whilst the question refers to areas not directly related to Jaycee activities, I feel it pertinent to quote a letter written by the President of the Central West Region of the Jaycee Movement to the President of Australian Jaycees Inc., as follows—

Due to internal departmental and industrial conflict within the confines of the Fremantle prison, and following investigations by my Executive, there seems no alternative left but to request the provisional dis-affiliation of the Academus Chapter from Australian Jaycees.

Further investigations by our executive in the ensuing weeks will be made to ascertain whether the situation can be rectified, and all efforts will also be made to restore Academus Jaycees within the true Jaycee concept.

- (2) The Prison regulations are designed primarily to preserve order and good government of a prison and the administration under those regulations has the right to deny access to any person if it believes this could be jeopardised.
- (3) No.
- (4) To prevent industrial disputation within the Department of Corrections.

DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Appeals Against Decisions

6. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Premier seen the report that Magistrate P. V. Smith was greatly concerned about news items touching on

two appeals he was hearing against decisions by the Director of Fisheries and Wildlife?

- (2) Is he aware that one item specifically referred to in court was an article in *The West Australian* on the 1st April, quoting the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife as saying he was confident the magistrate would agree with the decision made by Mr Bowen?
- (3) Does he agree that it is improper for a Minister to comment publicly on matters before a court when a decision has not been handed down?
- (4) Will he instruct his Ministers that they should refrain from such comments in the future?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (4) I have seen the Press report of the matter referred to by the Leader of the Opposition. I must admit that in the time since then I have not had a chance to follow the matter through. I have always found that Ministers clearly understand the importance of being careful not to comment on matters currently before courts where litigation is involved. I know for certain they understand that, and understand it well. I am not aware of any case in which a Minister has breached that understanding and that requirement. Unless I am able to research the particular case to ascertain what is involved, I cannot express a view as to whether the Minister on this occasion has done that. From what I read of the article I did not think it came within the normal sphere of *sub judice*. However, I will look at the matter if the Leader of the Opposition so wishes.

Mr Davies: The article is in *The West Australian* of the 1st April.

EDUCATION

Swan View High School

7. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it intended to allow Swan View High School to progress naturally into a five-year high school by the provision of year 11 classes in 1979, and year 12 classes in 1980?
- (2) If not, will he indicate where current year 10 students will be accommodated if they desire to continue next year, and

what criteria will be used to determine the need to provide year 11 and year 12 classes?

Mr Rushton (for Mr P. V. JONES) replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Governor Stirling or Eastern Hills Senior High Schools.

PORT AUTHORITY REGULATIONS

Hymn Singing on Wharves

8. Mr PEARCE, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Premier recently gazetted port authority regulations prohibiting the singing of hymns on Western Australian wharves?
- (2) Do the regulations also prohibit humming and whistling?
- (3) Is this part of a deliberate Government policy to lessen the incidence of Christianity in Western Australia?

Mr Clarko: You have an excessive interest in "hims".

Mr B. T. Burke: It is better than having an interest in Alsatian dogs.

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) to (3) I have read some Press comment on this matter. It seems to me as though somebody is trying to make a storm in a teacup over the whole matter. However, in due course I will look into the matter to see why the regulation is there and whether it is desirable. I also remind the honourable member that some explanations were given which might appear a little quaint to him, but when one has a great deal of experience of the situation referred to on the wharves they are not all that unreal.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Wanneroo Shire Council

9. Mr B. T. BURKE, to the Premier:

My question without notice refers to question 438 on today's notice paper. The second part of the question asked the Premier whether he was aware that construction of new offices for the Wanneroo Shire Council were due under the terms of the contract to begin on the 10th April. The Premier replied that he was not aware.

As a result of that answer, I ask him whether he received a letter from the council on the 29th March and whether

that letter said in its last paragraph that as construction is scheduled to commence on the 10th April, 1978, his assistance with this matter would be appreciated. If the Premier did receive that letter, will he assure the House that in future he will read letters sent to him?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

Quite obviously the member for Balcatta does not have ministerial experience, or else he would realise that most Ministers cannot read every letter that goes across their desks or comes into their offices.

Mr B. T. Burke: You would think they would tell you what was in it.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Look, smarty pants, just listen for a while. Does the member have X-ray eyes so that he can see what is inside an envelope?

Mr B. T. Burke: Surely your staff should not mislead you so that you give an incorrect answer in the Parliament?

The SPEAKER: Order! I said yesterday that I expected members to remain quiet while questions are being answered. The member for Balcatta has been given the opportunity to ask a question. He asked it, and I might say that I extended some leniency to him because I very much doubted that his question should be admitted. However, I allowed it to be asked and I now want him to give the Premier the opportunity to answer it.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I think if the honourable member studies objectively the answers he received he would say they were full and proper under all the circumstances. I cannot say here and now whether a letter came in dated the 29th March. But obviously if the member understands the answers given to him he will appreciate that something is being done about the representations being made by the Wanneroo Shire; and the shire will be advised of the result in a matter of days. So far as his specific question relating to the 10th April and its significance to a contract is concerned, I will have the matter looked at.

The SPEAKER: I will take two more questions.

EDUCATION

Pre-school Centres: Non-Government Schools

10. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware that some pre-primary centres attached to non-Government schools are running on shoestring budgets while they await the allocation of *per capita* grants promised by the Premier last year?
- (2) In view of the fact that *per capita* grants for non-Government primary schools were received nearly two weeks ago, can he say when the parallel grants for pre-primary centres will be made available?
- (3) Can he also say what will be the amount per child that the Government will be paying to pre-primary centres in non-Government schools?

Mr Rushton (for Mr P. V. JONES) replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) and (3) Calculations, based on enrolments which determine the amount to be paid by way of grant, are nearly completed, and payment is expected before the end of first term.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Impact Statement: Wagerup Refinery

11. Mr BARNETT, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it a fact that the Premier has given an assurance that an environmental impact statement on the Wagerup refinery proposal will be available for public perusal for a period of 12 months or more before action is taken by the Government?
- (2) Can he advise when the statement will be available for public perusal?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) I cannot recall the precise nature of the comments I made, but I will have the matter researched and give the honourable member an answer on Tuesday next.
- (2) I do not know the exact date when the study and statement will be available, but I understand that the time is not far off. I can find out between now and Tuesday and give the honourable member a more precise answer.