

Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 3rd August, 1978

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

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT

Reduction in Payments, and Second Board: Petition

MR TONKIN (Morley) [2.17 p.m.]: I have the following petition drawing the attention of members of the House to various matters connected with workers' compensation—

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled:

We, the undersigned residents in the State of Western Australia do herewith pray that Her Majesty's Government of Western Australia will reconsider its policy in respect to Workers' Compensation.

We believe that there is no justification on either humanitarian or economic grounds, for any reduction to be made in weekly payments of Workers' Compensation.

Further, we believe that the Government's proposed alterations in the assessment of lump sum payments under the Workers' Compensation Act would similarly impose an unjust and unjustifiable burden upon those who have sustained injuries while in the service of their employers.

We are convinced that any proposals to amend the Act in these ways should be submitted to a public tripartite inquiry comprising a judge, a representative of the unions and a representative of employers to allow the greatest public scrutiny of all the arguments.

We also maintain that the Government should take immediate action to set up a second Workers' Compensation Board in order to expedite the course of justice for those affected, who at present may have to wait for 49 weeks before receiving a hearing.

Your Petitioners' therefore, humbly pray that your Honourable house will give this matter earnest consideration and your Petitioners' as in duty bound will ever pray.

The petition has 783 signatures and I certify that it is in conformity with the rules of the House.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

(See petition No. 14).

DEATH DUTY ASSESSMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Treasurer) [2.21 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill complements the next Bill I shall introduce; that is, a Bill to amend the Death Duty Act.

It is necessary to amend both the assessment Act and the taxing Act in order to implement the Government's undertaking to phase out death duty completely. Although the Bills are small in size, they are large in benefits, as they will eventually grant total relief from death duty to all taxpayers of Western Australia.

In the Budget speech delivered on the 20th September, 1977, it was announced that death duty would be phased out in three steps, commencing with the abolition of duty on estates passing from spouse to spouse. The spouse-to-spouse exemption was subsequently approved by Parliament and the benefit of this concession applied from the 1st July, 1977.

The remaining two steps to finalise the Government's undertaking to abolish this tax are contained in the Bill now before the House. Death duty will now be phased out, and ultimately abolished, by a 50 per cent reduction in the rates of duty payable on the estate of a person who dies on, or after, the 1st January, 1979; and amending the legislation to ensure that no death duty will be payable on the estate of any person who dies on, or after, the 1st January, 1980.

It is important to assist members in the study of the Bill that I give some further explanation.

Clause 2 will amend subsection (3) of section 3 of the current legislation to ensure that the existing law will continue to apply to the estates of those persons dying before the 1st January, 1980.

Clause 3 is to amend section 8 of the Act to enable duty to be assessed on the estate of a person dying before duty is completely abolished from the 1st January, 1980.

The current law refers to "a person to whom Table 1 or Table 2 or Table 3 of the Schedule to the Death Duty Act, 1973 applies" as a means of describing the class of beneficiary to whom certain provisions of the law would apply.

Because of the proposed duplication of the tables in the Death Duty Act it will be more convenient to define and use the expression "Table 1, Table 2 or Table 3 beneficiary".

As a result of the proposal to reduce the rate of duty from the 1st January, 1979, provision has been made for two parts to each table of duty rates and to introduce definitions of the various classes of beneficiaries that would be applicable under the proposed part I and part II of the schedule to the Death Duty Act.

The proposed amendments contained in the schedule to this clause set out the definitions of table 1, 2, and 3 beneficiaries that are to be contained in part I and part II of the schedule to the Death Duty Act, 1973, together with a list of the proposed consequential amendments to relevant sections of the existing law.

Part I rates of duty will apply to the estate of a person who dies before the 1st January, 1979, whereas part II rates will apply on and after the 1st January, 1979, until no duty becomes payable on the estate of a person who dies on or after the 1st January, 1980.

The proposed amendments in the schedule to this clause will substitute the new words "Table 1 beneficiary" in place of the reference to "persons to whom Table 1 of the Schedule to the Death Duty Act 1973 applies" in the following sections of the current law—

10(3); 22(b); 23(1); 23(3)(d); 24; 24(a)(i); 25(2)(a)(ii); 25(2); 25(2a)(a)(ii); 28(3).

Similarly it is proposed to further amend the existing legislation in subsection (4) of section 28 to cover the table 2 beneficiary and subsection (1) of section 19 in respect of the table 3 beneficiary.

It is also proposed to amend subsection (1) of section 25 which defines "deceased successor" for quick succession purposes in the existing law. In this case it is more appropriate to specify the individual relationship of eligible persons.

The proposed amendment will not change the existing classes of beneficiaries.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Davies (Leader of the Opposition).

DEATH DUTY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Treasurer) [2.27 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

As stated when introducing the Death Duty

Assessment Act Amendment Bill a moment ago the two Bills complement each other.

This Bill contains the rates of duty that apply to the value of an estate assessed under the provisions of the Death Duty Assessment Act. In the second reading speech to that other Bill it was proposed that the rate of duty would be reduced by 50 per cent on the estate of a person who died on or after the 1st January, 1979. Furthermore, it is proposed in the same Bill that no duty will be payable on or after the 1st January, 1980.

The proposals in this Bill carry out those intentions.

The existing schedule of the tables of duty rates numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4 become part I of the schedule and continue to apply to an estate where death occurs before the 1st January, 1979.

In this Bill it is proposed that four new tables of duty rates will be included under a new part to the schedule, to be known as part II.

The rates of duty in these proposed tables will be exactly one-half of the existing rates and will apply only during the period from the 1st January, 1979, to the 31st December, 1979, inclusive, as no duty will be payable on the estate of a person who dies on or after the 1st January, 1980.

The proposals in this Bill, together with the proposed amendments in the complementary legislation, will implement our programme to phase out and abolish death duty.

By way of explanation, to assist members, I should add that the second clause proposes to amend section 6 of the current legislation which deals with the imposition of duty. By the proposal in paragraph (a), the existing words of section 6 will become subsection (1) of the section.

The proposals contained in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this clause will restrict the application of duty rates in the existing schedule to the Act, which is to be numbered part I, to the estate of a person dying before the 1st January, 1979.

The proposal in paragraph (d) will enact a new subsection numbered (2) of section 6. The proposed subsection (2) will restrict the application of duty rates in what is to be part II of the schedule to this Act to the estate of a person dying on or after the 1st January, 1979, and before the 1st January, 1980.

The third clause refers to the schedule to the principal Act, which sets out the rates of duty applicable to the various classes of beneficiaries.

Paragraph (a) of this clause provides for the existing tables of rates incorporated in the schedule to fall under part I and to have

application only to the estate of a person dying before the 1st January, 1979.

The proposed amendment in paragraph (b) of this clause is a consequential amendment brought about by the creation of parts I and II in the schedule of duty rates. It is necessary to identify the reference to tables 1 or 2 with the appropriate part of the schedule.

Paragraph (c) proposes to include a new part, known as part II, to the scale of duty rates in the schedule to the principal Act. The proposed part II will apply to the estate of a person dying on or after the 1st January, 1979, and before the 1st January, 1980.

The proposed part II of the schedule contains four new tables of rates, numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4 to give effect to the reduction of 50 per cent in duty during the aforesaid period.

I commend the Bill to members.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Davies (Leader of the Opposition).

LAND VALUERS LICENSING BILL

Second Reading

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [2.33 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill provides for statutory control of land valuers; that is, those who, in the course of business, value land on behalf of others. At present, land valuers are not subject to any specific statutory control.

Section 14 of the Transfer of Land Act provides that the Governor-in-Council may, on the recommendation of the Registrar of Titles, appoint sworn valuers, but it is not at present necessary to be a sworn valuator to practise as a valuer. In any event there is no guidance given in the section as to the standards required to be applied to sworn valuator applicants, nor is there any control over the behaviour of persons who have been appointed.

Apart from the requirement in section 14, there are no legislative prerequisites of either qualifications or experience to prevent any person from nominating and entitling himself to be a valuer.

This Bill is designed to remedy this situation. Land valuers will no longer be able to carry on business as such unless they are licensed under this legislation. Applications are to be made to the land valuers registration board, which is to be set up under this legislation. Any person aggrieved by

a decision of the board will have a right of appeal to the District Court.

The composition of the land valuers licensing board will be as follows: It will consist of five members; a chairman who will be a legal practitioner, and four members who shall be persons experienced in the valuation of land, one of whom will be nominated by the Minister, two to be nominated by the Western Australian Division of the Institute of Valuers and one to be nominated by the Real Estate Institute of Western Australia.

The board will be assisted in the carrying out of its functions by a registrar and other officers of the board, appointed under the Public Service Act.

The board will have the power to cancel or suspend a land valuer's licence and also to fine or caution a licensee. For these general purposes the board will have the power to hold an inquiry, to summons witnesses and administer oaths.

The board is to be required to fix the maximum amount of remuneration for services rendered by licensees.

These are the main provisions of the Bill, which I think should be drawn to the attention of members. I commend it to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Davies (Leader of the Opposition).

ACTS AMENDMENT (LAND VALUERS) BILL

Second Reading

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [2.37 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill provides for minor amendments to the Transfer of Land Act, 1893-1972, the Trustees Act, 1962-1972, and the Building Societies Act, 1976-1977, which are consequential to the Land Valuers Licensing Bill.

The Bill is to amend references to valuers in these Acts so that they will agree with the provisions of the Land Valuers Licensing Bill. I commend it to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Davies (Leader of the Opposition).

FIREARMS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier) [2.39 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill makes provision for differentiation between persons in possession of a firearm who on the one hand are merely unlicensed, and on the other hand have been refused a licence or have had their licence cancelled under the provisions of the Firearms Act. The proposed penalty for the more serious offence is \$500 instead of \$200 for the lesser offence. A similar provision already exists in the Road Traffic Act for driving without a motor driver's licence.

In addition, it is proposed to widen the scope of control over alteration of firearms, making it an offence to alter a firearm from its condition when manufactured.

Alteration of firearms is becoming an increasing practice and is the subject of a great deal of concern to the police and this Government, especially in relation to armed holdups.

Situations have arisen when a person in possession of a firearm for which he does not hold a licence changes the character of the weapon and upon detection cannot be charged for that act, although he could be charged with the much lesser offence of being in possession of a firearm for which he does not hold a licence.

The Bill also makes provision for the situation where a person, without reasonable excuse, uses a firearm on land belonging to another person without the express or implied consent of the owner. A penalty of \$200 is provided.

Provision also is contained in this Bill to upgrade penalties for a number of offences where existing penalties are considered to be inadequate in present day circumstances; these offences and the proposed increases in penalties are—

Pointing a firearm—\$100 to \$200 or 6 months' imprisonment

Failing to ensure safe keeping of a firearm—\$50 to \$200

Permitting unlawful possession of a firearm by a child—\$50 to \$200

Discharging a firearm from a road—\$50 to \$200

Discharging a firearm so as to endanger or cause fear to the public or any person—\$50 to \$400 or 6 months' imprisonment or both

General penalty under the Firearms Act where no penalty is specifically provided—\$20 to \$200

Refusing to answer questions—\$50 to \$100

Wilfully misleading police—\$50 to \$100

Failing to produce licence—\$50 to \$100

Offences related to ammunition sales—\$40 to \$100

Penalties under the regulations—\$40 to \$100

The Government considers that this Bill is necessary in order effectively to control the use, or misuse, of firearms in this State and on that basis, on behalf of the Deputy Premier, I commend this Bill to the House.

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

SUITORS' FUND ACT AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)

Second Reading

SIR CHARLES COURT (Nedlands—Premier)
[2.43 p.m.]: Mr Speaker, I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Since the passage of the Acts Amendment (Jurisdiction of Courts) Act, 1976, appeals from decisions in Local Courts have gone initially to the District Court of Western Australia instead of directly to the Supreme Court, as had formerly been the case.

The District Court, however, is not at present referred to as a court of appeal in section 10 of the Suitors' Fund Act, 1964-1977, and, as a result, an unsuccessful respondent to an appeal on a question of law from a Local Court to the District Court cannot be indemnified in respect of his own and the appellant's costs.

In order to provide a respondent the right to seek indemnity which he enjoyed in the Supreme Court before the coming into operation of the Acts Amendment (Jurisdiction of Courts) Act, it is necessary to add the District Court to the list of courts in section 10 of the Suitors' Fund Act and to make consequential amendments to sections 6 and 13 of that Act. It is the purpose of the present Bill to effect these changes.

I think members will appreciate the significance and worth of the proposal contained in this legislation, and accordingly I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Bertram.

PLANT DISEASES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR OLD (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [2.45 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Legislation was enacted in 1946, at the request of

the fruit-growing industry, to introduce fruit fly baiting schemes. The purpose of these schemes was to protect fruit growers from losses due to fruit fly infestation by adoption of uniform baiting programmes over large areas. Previously, indiscriminate baiting, particularly in town areas adjoining commercial fruit-growing properties, had made control of fruit fly outbreaks particularly difficult.

By 1966 over 50 schemes were in operation with a number in commercial fruit areas. However, since 1960, the emphasis on baiting schemes has moved from commercial fruit areas to country towns and now 24 out of 25 schemes currently operating have no direct relationship to commercial fruit growing. This is because availability of new chemicals has enabled commercial orchardists better to protect their livelihood from fruit fly attack.

The schemes are now concerned therefore, mainly, with the control of fruit fly on fruit grown by urban householders. In these situations where there is high urban development it may not be practicable or economic to deal effectively with fruit fly in the absence of a baiting scheme.

Schemes are introduced where a fruit growers' association or municipality makes a request for a scheme to be established in a particular local government district or districts. The Minister can then approve a referendum amongst owners or occupiers of registered orchards—including people with backyard fruit trees—and, provided at least 60 per cent of these people vote in favour, a scheme is introduced.

The Act also provides that the scheme shall run until a poll, requested by not less than 10 per cent of the eligible voters, decides that the scheme will be terminated. This is the only provision for terminating a scheme.

The amendments sought involve two changes in the existing legislation—

The appointment of a shire council officer as secretary of a fruit-fly baiting scheme committee; and

provision for the Minister to direct that a scheme in abeyance, likely to go into abeyance or not operating effectively, be wound up.

Schemes are administered by committees and are independent of local shire councils although a council may, if it wishes, provide a committee with assistance. As the schemes are a community service and the need for them arises within the community, there is justification for their being represented at local government level.

In the past, scheme autonomy has at times denied local government of knowledge of the scheme's affairs or finances. Shire representation therefore will provide an opportunity for local government to oversee the scheme's operation and ensure that the interests of ratepayers are not forgotten.

In the Bill, paragraph (a) in section 12C of the principal Act is deleted and the substituted paragraph enables the appointment and naming of a committee by the Minister which includes an officer nominated by the municipality to act as secretary. This provision is supported by the Country Shire Councils' Association.

Baiting schemes have also at times suffered from a shortage of reliable labour and an uncooperative public attitude. One of the main problems facing committees, however, is a financial one arising from the difficulties of individual assessment as well as the collection and recovery of baiting charges.

A situation now exists where some 26 schemes have gone into long-term recess but have not moved to be officially wound up as provided by the Act. It is desirable that the Act be amended to enable the Minister to direct that such schemes be wound up where no request is made for a formal poll and where, in the Minister's opinion, the scheme is unlikely again to commence operation. This is necessary to ensure that funds, plant, equipment and materials are properly held or disposed of.

It is desirable also that a poll be taken where it is ascertained that a scheme has not been operating effectively or seems likely to go into recess. This is the most satisfactory way of determining the community's attitude to the continuation of a scheme.

Provision of these actions has been made in the amendments to section 12C of the Act.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr H. D. Evans.

WHEAT MARKETING ACT AMENDMENT AND CONTINUANCE BILL

Second Reading

MR OLD (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [2.50 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill before the House has as its purpose the continuance of the Wheat Marketing Act for a further five years.

The Wheat Marketing Act, 1947, was enacted

to provide for the marketing, sale, and disposal of wheat and to constitute a Western Australian Wheat Marketing Board should the need arise, or where there is a breakdown in the Wheat Industry Stabilization Acts of the States or the Commonwealth.

There never has been a need to proclaim the Act, but from time to time continuance Acts have been enacted to keep the legislation in existence.

By the Wheat Marketing Act Amendment and Continuance Act, 1974, the Wheat Marketing Act, 1947, was continued and will expire on the 31st October, 1979. The Wheat Industry Stabilization Scheme which is currently in effect has prevented the need to bring the Act into operation. It seems wise, however, to provide for the extension of the Wheat Marketing Act, 1947, for a further period.

Section 7 (3) (c) of the principal Act contains a reference to the Chairman of Trustees of the Wheat Pool of Western Australia constituted under the Wheat Pool Act, 1932, which Act has been repealed by the Grain Marketing Act, 1975. This proviso has been amended to make reference to the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Grain Pool of Western Australia established under the Grain Marketing Act, 1975.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr H. D. Evans.

ABATTOIRS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR OLD (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [2.53 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

As a sequel to the results of the referendum on livestock marketing the Government approved the formation of a working party to investigate ways in which a weight and classification meat marketing system might be implemented in conjunction with price scheduling.

The working party recommended that—

active trading, export and domestic, should be implemented on a continuing basis by a statutory organisation, and that such trading should be independent of any processing functions;

the statutory organisation should publish weekly price schedules; and

amending legislation should be introduced to ensure adequate producer representation on the statutory organisation.

Subsequent to further discussions which I had

with representatives of the producer organisations it was decided that the Western Australian Meat Commission would be a suitable vehicle for meat marketing change to be effected in accord with results of the referendum; and that there should be increased producer representation on the commission in view of the greater involvement in marketing sought by the producer organisations.

Section 12 (2) of the Act provides that the commission shall consist of six members appointed by the Governor of whom two shall be persons representing the interests of producers of meat. It was considered that the envisaged expansion of the commission's marketing role warranted the appointment of two additional producer members to the commission and the Bill gives effect to this increase in commission membership. The effect of this would mean that there would be four producer members in a commission of eight.

There are two other amendments to the Act which are included in the Bill and are considered to be necessary at this time. The first relates to the fact that members are appointed for a term of four years. In order to ensure continuity of experience amongst members of the commission it is desirable that their appointments be for a period of "not more than four years". This would enable appointments to be staggered and ensure continuity of experience within the commission.

The other amendment relates to the quorum within the commission, this being at present four out of six members. The proposed amendment requires that there shall be a quorum of five members.

I am hopeful that the restructuring of the membership of the commission will enable marketing to be pursued in a more vigorous manner in the overall interests of the meat industry.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr H. D. Evans.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Acting Minister for Labour and Industry) [2.57 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Standing Committee on Packaging, which has the responsibility of proffering advice to Commonwealth and State Governments in order to maintain uniformity in weights and measures

legislation affecting packaged goods, has recommended amendments to the Weights and Measures Acts of each State and the Commonwealth Territories.

This national committee was formed at the instigation of Commonwealth and State Ministers responsible for weights and measures as an advisory body and all States and the Commonwealth are represented thereon.

Uniform legislation relating to packaged goods was introduced into Western Australia in 1967 by the inclusion of part IIIA of the Weights and Measures Act.

It is desirable that this uniformity of legislation be maintained as it has been found that benefits have accrued to industry, commerce, and consumers from a uniform approach in relation to marking and standardisation of packaged goods. The amending Bill seeks to broaden certain sections of the Act and to clarify some points already in the Act.

Metric conversion has seen the introduction of new terminology in the use of units commonly referred to in weights and measures parlance for length, area, mass—previously weight—and volume. It will be found that where the word “weight” is required to be included in an expression marked on a packaged article, provision is made for the word “mass”, where substituted, to comply with the requirement.

The Act currently provides for markings of true mass or measure to be made on pre-packed articles. As other markings—for example, date coding, ingredients—may be used in the future, an amendment will empower this to be done in accordance with regulations to be made for that purpose.

Whilst the metric conversion programme is under way, markings on articles may be expressed in both metric and imperial units.

It is an offence if the true mass or measure is less than that stated on the article, but further clarification of this offence is made in an amendment to the subsection concerned.

It is necessary also to broaden the net for offences in respect of incorrect marking of the price of an article, especially where it is sold at a price per unit of the stated weight, or measure, and the marked price for the article is inconsistent with the details shown.

To enable action to be taken against the responsible person it is necessary to rope in those persons who marked the price on the article, caused or permitted the package to be so marked, or who sell such an article.

Experience has shown that under some sections of the Act it is impracticable to sustain a prosecution when an inspector finds a breach committed when articles are taken at random by an inspector for checking.

Legal argument has shown that the word “random” is not suitable on which to base a case and more appropriate words for packages “selected by an inspector without prior measurement” have been substituted.

Certain expressions which contain words such as “king”, “giant”, “jumbo”, are “restricted expressions” and the list is contained in the regulations. Some restrictions are placed on their use when marked on a packaged article. The amendments will further clarify some points on the use of such terms.

Section 27J(4) defines a “prohibited expression” and makes provision for such to be declared in the regulations.

The expressions are considered to be misleading. An additional clause to be inserted will include as a “prohibited expression” a statement the veracity of which is not likely to be proved or disproved; for example a statement marked on a package of dehydrated potatoes that it is equivalent to 20 potatoes.

Also in line with the committee's recommendations an increase in penalties is provided for in the Bill. It is incongruous to have penalties varying between the States for the commission of the same offence.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Tonkin.

YOUTH, SPORT AND RECREATION BILL

Second Reading

MR P. V. JONES (Narrogin—Minister for Recreation) [3.03 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill acknowledges that clear ministerial responsibility and accountability for the State's recreation service should be established.

The Bill contains provisions to repeal the Youth, Community Recreation and National Fitness Act of 1972, to create a youth, sport and recreation advisory committee, and to establish a small departmental structure under the Public Service Act.

The youth, sport and recreation advisory committee will advise the Minister on matters pertaining to community recreation, which includes sport and youth activities, and will

examine and report to the Minister on any matters referred to it by the Minister.

There will be seven members on the advisory committee: the permanent head of the department, *ex officio*, plus six other members appointed by the Governor and nominated by the Minister for their knowledge, experience or association with the administration or development of recreation, local government, sport and youth.

The proposed advisory council will have the power to form advisory committees relating to particular areas of concern and such committees will reflect the individual expertise or interests of its constituent members.

The new structure will establish formal ministerial responsibility for the State's recreation service. At present, Western Australia is the only State which operates its recreation service through a statutory council.

The smaller advisory council will also increase the effectiveness of the present organisational machinery and improve its responsiveness to community needs.

The Government is aware of the increasing importance of leisure time, and the provision of leisure opportunities as a means of improving the quality of life for the individual and the community.

It is the Government's belief that involvement in leisure activities which improves the quality of living, improves the total health of the individual and the community, and that it is necessary to take a positive approach at this time.

The Government recognises also the economic significance of the leisure industry to the Western Australian economy, which is presently conservatively estimated at \$400 million per year.

Recreation has become an increasing responsibility of both State and local government, and it is now essential for the Government to improve the necessary organisational machinery.

Finally, let me acknowledge the splendid pioneering and developmental work carried out by all who served with the Community Recreational Council and its predecessors, the National Fitness Council and the Western Australian Youth Council. The community and the Government are deeply indebted to them.

I might add, in that context I am referring particularly to the Chairman of the Community Recreation Council, (Mr Harry Dettman). He was the chairman of the council from its inception. I am referring also to the representatives from various Government

departments, including the Public Health Department, the Town Planning Department, the Department for Community Welfare, and other Government officers who have sat on the Community Recreation Council. These representatives, because of their particular expertise, and more particularly as a result of the work carried out by the various departments in the areas within the responsibility of the Community Recreation Council, are to be commended. In addition, there have been representatives from the Sports Federation and persons interested in recreation, youth and community activities. Some of these people will be invited to become members of the advisory committees or subcommittees at a future time. However, I should like to express the thanks of the Government for the work performed by the people I have mentioned.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Pearce.

TEACHERS' REGISTRATION ACT REPEAL BILL

Second Reading

MR P. V. JONES (Narrogin—Minister for Education) [3.08 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Members will recall that late in 1977 a decision to repeal the Teachers' Registration Act was made, and the deferment provisions under section 21 of the Act were applied.

Some reasons for the decision to revoke the Teachers' Registration Act resulted from significant changes in educational administration since the Act was originally passed in 1976; unforeseen problems in relation to technical, part-time and preschool teachers; and an increasing awareness that many of the supposed objectives would not be fully satisfied within the legislation.

As some of the original intentions have considerable merit, the principle of teachers' registration and other matters such as the rights of employing authorities to discharge incompetent or inefficient teachers, was referred to a committee under the chairmanship of Dr W. D. Neal, Chairman of the WA Post-Secondary Education Commission.

This committee has made several recommendations, including that consideration be given to methods of assessing teacher competence. It suggests also that the mechanism to detect, and either assist or discharge, incompetent teachers is not adequate. Whilst it recommends that the present legislation be repealed, it is indicated that

the object of the Act—namely, ensuring that the public interest is safeguarded by only competent persons being permitted to teach in schools—is still a valid and worth-while objective for which to strive.

These proposals are far-reaching and may involve legislation in due course. Meanwhile, these aspects should be considered, and I have invited the WA State School Teachers' Union and the Education Department to consider the proposal and, in due course, make recommendations to me. That fact was referred to by the union in its advertisement this morning.

Mr Pearce: They thought you might have held up the legislation until you had consulted them.

Mr P. V. JONES: Why?

Mr Pearce: Because you asked for submissions on the legislation.

Mr P. V. JONES: I did not on the repeal.

Mr Pearce: You are inaccurate in saying it needs to be repealed because you suspended it and that suspension can go on forever.

Mr P. V. JONES: I did not ask for recommendations as to whether the legislation ought to be repealed. If the honourable member cares to check he would find, as was indicated in the Press this morning, that the union is prepared to accept the proposition now that the objectives of the original legislation are still valid in many instances.

Mr Pearce: I agree with you.

Mr P. V. JONES: The objections made do not encompass many of the things hoped for under the original legislation.

Mr Pearce: I agree with you.

Mr P. V. JONES: I put the whole question back to the union and if the honourable member checks—and he probably has—

Mr Pearce: I have.

Mr P. V. JONES: —he will find that since I was speaking to them on Tuesday about this—and many other matters—they have accepted that proposition as well as the undertaking that there would be no hurry. I am not rushing this legislation.

I stated that legislation in the future may be involved. That does not mean necessarily that further teachers' registration legislation is required. What it could well mean, if the recommendations are in this form, is amendment of the Education Act. However, the initial objective is still valid and that is accepted; but some of the mechanical aspects and problems which have been encountered and further

identified since the legislation was suspended, on the 25th October last year, have become even more manifest.

Therefore we intend to wipe the slate clean and start again. On that basis it is necessary to proceed with the amending legislation which I commend to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Pearce.

BILLS (6): MESSAGES

Appropriations

Messages from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following Bills—

1. Abattoirs Act Amendment Bill.
2. Land Valuers Licensing Bill.
3. Wheat Marketing Act Amendment and Continuance Bill.
4. Suitors' Fund Act Amendment Bill (No. 2).
5. Teachers' Registration Act Repeal Bill.
6. Youth, Sport and Recreation Bill.

ARCHITECTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 4th April.

MR JAMIESON (Welshpool) [3.15 p.m.]: In general terms the Opposition supports the Bill but a few comments need to be made. It is some time since the measure was introduced and it is probably necessary to refresh the memory of members as to its intention.

Principally it sets out guidelines for the practice of architecture and also allows corporate bodies to practise architecture. I would object to this latter provision except that as so many other professions are able to practise in corporate bodies, it would be unfair to do so. It goes against my political philosophy to support the provision; nevertheless, because a number of other professions enjoy this concession, I do not believe architects should be denied it. However, I take strong exception to corporate bodies which, because of their actions, are able to indulge in tax avoidance which is principally what corporate bodies are all about. Someone finally has to pay the tax and it is the little person who has to pay a few cents more. I am concerned that those who can afford to pay the tax can, through the corporate body provision, avoid it. It seems to be the main escape route for tax avoidance which is, as the Premier has often said, quite legitimate; but to me it is morally illegitimate. Nevertheless, it is indulged in in

other professions and I do not see why architects should be denied the privilege.

The qualifications required before a person can be registered as an architect are clearly stipulated. Six years' experience is required and this seems to be somewhat of a protection to the people requiring the services of architects.

Provision is made for an appeal to be heard in the District Court instead of the Local Court. According to the Minister this is because in the Local Court it is not possible to obtain high enough costs and most of the appellants previously were unable to obtain costs anywhere near the amount involved.

The fees to be charged are to be left to the discretion of the board and will be included in regulations from time to time. This is desirable. Obviously if the fees went beyond the pale, members of the profession would object. The present figure of \$20 does not seem at all reasonable. Most trade unions charge between \$65 and \$100-odd depending on the income of the workers involved. Their fees are indexed to the base incomes of the workers. Therefore the \$20 charged in this instance was a minimal amount and how they ever got by on it without going into the red amazes me. A considerable amount of work must have been left undone because it could not be paid for.

Penalties have also been increased, the maximum of \$100 for an offence being increased to \$1 000. If offences are to be recognised at all these days, \$100 is a useless penalty.

Mr O'Connor: There are also maximum penalties.

Mr JAMIESON: That is true, but \$100 maximum would not be regarded as serious, and the court would treat lightly any offence with such a low penalty. I know the board concurs with the provisions in the Bill.

The Association of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors, Draftsmen of Australia, Western Australian Division is also quite happy with the provisions in the Bill.

I had to carry out some research in order to find any real objection to this measure, except those of principle which I have mentioned. However, I did come across one objection raised in the lofty hills area of the Darling Range. The person who contacted me was somewhat upset. He has a studio in the Darling Range and he has an Associateship in Architecture which he obtained at the Perth Technical College. He pointed out that he had a number of misgivings about the proposal and there were certain parts of it with which he could not go along. He made an

extensive survey of the Bill, a copy of which I sent to him on his request, and I think some of his comments are worth while and some consideration should be given to them.

The person who wrote to me pointed out that nowhere in the amending Bill, or in the Act, is an architect defined. Nor is it set out what work he performs. That leaves the position fairly wide open, because anybody is able to perform the work of an architect as long as he does so under another title. My understanding of the situation is that if this person practises from his studio, as an Associate in Architecture, no action will be taken against him as long as he does not claim that he is doing architectural work. The reason is that the Act does not define the work which he can do. It does not set out his field of activity, or his permitted range in the field of architecture.

This raises the question: Why do we want to register people if unregistered people can do the same work as long as they regard themselves as other than an architect? Basically, that is admitted by the Minister in his second reading speech; a person who has an Associateship in Architecture will not be affected in carrying out his occupation.

Unregistered people are able to submit plans to local authorities, and have them approved. There is no reason that banks, finance companies, and building societies would not approve plans lodged through that sort of person without any approval from the Architects Board, without the person being registered.

One also wonders why a registered person cannot advertise or solicit for business, speak in public, or be mentioned by name, when persons who are not registered can do all of those things. The unregistered people have some advantage. Many other professions do not impose those restrictions, although some, such as the medical profession and dental profession, do have ethical restrictions. However, people involved in many other professions can advertise openly and freely that they are available to the public and that they are experts in the field in which they practise. Just lately we have noticed a spate of advertising by tax accountants. The likes of that are very well known to members in this House.

I see some merit in the claim: Why should one bother to register when outside of registration one can certainly advertise the fact that one has some sort of practice which will allow people to have architectural work done under another name? I wonder why the Bill really is necessary if there is to be no protection other than that which I have mentioned. It is difficult to understand why a

person who is in the profession of architecture, and who has studied this Bill rather seriously, will want to be registered. A person within the profession should want registration, otherwise the possibility of the failure of this bill is quite obvious.

I have already mentioned that other people who are expert in their own fields, such as surveyors, engineers, plumbers, and electricians are able to advertise. Because of that, the person who wrote to me made some comments which I think are worth recording. He states the amendment is not solving the basic problem, which is—

“Legislating for the right and proper position of Architects in the Community with a clear definition of their rights and privileges and a clear definition of their responsibilities.”

He then stated—

This is not some piece of literary humbug as I believe the present act and its amendment are.

That is what he believes should be done. In conclusion, he states—

I shall remain unregistered as a form of protest until such time as this situation is resolved.

He has an argument, and I think the Minister should get his advisers to have a look at it. Certainly, various organisations have approval of the provisions in the Bill, but it is possible it will not be as satisfactory as it appears to be on the surface. I have not received a great number of objections; the one to which I have referred was the exception. I attempted to locate any objections to the measure from the profession concerned. The person who wrote to me did set out a number of points which we think are worthy of consideration.

The amendments are not of great moment, and we see no reason to disagree with them, despite the fact that in some principles of political philosophy they do not go along with what I would like to see as a general norm. However, as it seems to be normal to have exemptions from certain taxation fields for some groups of professional people, I feel I have to go along with this measure as part of the norm. Because of that, the Bill has our reasoned and limited support.

MR BERTRAM (Mt. Hawthorn) [3.27 p.m.]: This Bill is a living manifestation of a conspiracy between a very important but small section of the community—to wit architects—and the Government. The Bill is highly discriminatory, and is designed almost exclusively for the purpose

of giving unto architects that which most of the other members of the community do not have—special privilege and a greater facility to dodge income and other taxes.

That is what this Bill is all about. The Bill is to amend the Architects Act of 1922. It has in it 27 clauses, over 20 of which are designed for the purpose I have described. The other clauses are of somewhat minor significance.

The Bill really is here primarily—not completely or exclusively but almost so—for the purpose of facilitating tax dodging. If one is a dole bludger, one is a dole bludger and has to front up as such. If one is a tax dodger, or tax bludger, this Government just gives a wry smile, a slight shrug of the shoulders, and in effect says, “Well, that is not a bad thing anyhow, taxes are pretty hot.” I would not mind this sort of legislation if it were not favouritism—profound and obvious favouritism.

If the Government had the same concern for all the other people who pay tax and for the honest person who pays the tax he has to pay, I would not mind; but the Government does not have that concern. It has never manifested that concern at any time in this State. It has pulled a gigantic con trick on the public because people know very little about death duty and probate duty and the average citizen thinks the abolition of death duty will be a good thing for him, when it most certainly will not be a good thing for him. It will help a handful of people, 90 per cent of whom vote for members on the other side of the House, and be injurious to a substantial number of the rest of the people who vote for members on this side of the House. People whose deceased estates would not be liable for a penny of death duty will be paying tax during their lifetime and the death duty legislation before the House will save others from having to pay the duty—those others, incidentally, being financially very strong and best able to pay the tax.

Mr Nanovich: How do you think this would go at a referendum?

Mr BERTRAM: It would do very well for the reason I have already indicated—that the people do not know what is being done to them.

Mr Blaikie: If you go out to the people and say that you will confuse them further.

Mr Sibson: Are you saying the people are so dumb they do not understand it?

Mr Pearce: That is what the Government is saying.

Mr BERTRAM: The Government operates very much on the basis that the people outside do

not really understand what is going on, and substantially it gets away with it.

Mr Pearce: Half the members on that side do not know what is going on.

Mr BERTRAM: There are only about 500 architects and a number of them will be given an advantage by this Bill. The lawyers, doctors, and sundry other professional people will not be given the advantage. One of the significant reasons that the Bill is here is that the Government in this State for the time being possesses what is in fact unmitigated and unbridled power, and when there are excesses of power people can try on almost whatever they like whenever they feel like it. That is why the Bill is here.

It is a "try-on" Bill. It is not the kind of Bill which would be brought in by a responsible Government which was subjected to proper review and surveillance. Such a Government would not try it on for a moment. This is a favourites' Bill; it is a divisive Bill. It gives to people who do not really need it an opportunity to get tax and other advantages, while leaving the honest taxpayer to make up the shortfall or hiatus. The saving of tax paid by these people will have to be paid by somebody, similarly to the probate duty. It will be paid by the honest taxpayer.

Mr Sibson: You said in this House yourself that that tax was an unfair tax and should be abolished.

Mr BERTRAM: One will read the Minister's speech and the Bill and find the word "tax" does not appear in it anywhere. Neither income tax nor any other tax is mentioned; completely suppressed—secrecy.

Mr Young: Goldfish are not mentioned in it either.

Mr BERTRAM: The member for Scarborough is all for concealment apparently. Perhaps he can tell us the reason for concealing the real purpose of a Bill. What is it supposed to achieve, when, in a Bill of 27 clauses over 20 of them give effect to this proposal, and in a prepared speech—not a speech off the cuff—the Minister suppresses the real reason for it in a premeditated way? The Bill goes on for page after page in 27 clauses without disclosing the true intent at any time. What kind of a racket is that? What other organisation, meeting, or forum—other than this one—would dare to do it without having regard for the dignity of the people on the other side who have to cop it? Where does that occur? They are silent as the grave. The member for Scarborough did not advance any justification for concealment.

Another approach to the question is that it manifests in a brutal and unconscionable form the

Court Government's policy of evenhandedness. We are well informed about this policy of evenhandedness. It was trotted out about a year ago in respect of the Ridge-Bridge costs, where \$100 000 was to be paid and we were told half of it would go to Bridge, when we know 100 per cent of it went to Ridge; 100 per cent to nil. How many people in the electorate were aware of that racket? That is evenhandedness by the standards of this Government.

I hope when the Minister replies he will tell us why there is need for concealment. If there is a good reason for playing favourites with architects, why not tell the people about it? Why hide it? The idea is to have a try-on, because once we have the Bill tried on and we get it through in this rather odd manner—giving it the highest rating—shortly we will be able to trot in a few other Bills to come to the rescue of other people who want to dodge tax lawfully. Let us dodge tax lawfully. It is an interesting exercise to determine when one dodges tax lawfully by not paying it and when one dodges tax unlawfully by evading it. Morally they are almost the same. This is a Bill providing people with the ability to dodge tax lawfully.

Over half the taxes collected in Australia are by way of income tax, so it is a very important matter we are playing around with here. It is vital to keep the show going. We know now the statistical fact that these days out of their income people are saving more and more. They have no confidence in the Government. They are not spending money, they are saving it. This Bill will enable some people to save more and leave the bulk of the people—the honest people—to pay more. While some people are saving more and more the honest people will have to pay for those who are unemployed. The unemployed people must be sustained, and the number of people unemployed in Australia is now heading towards the one million mark.

Somebody has to pay for unemployment and social welfare benefits. It is hardly decent for a Government itself, a Parliament, to say to the people, "We are going to save a select band from its obligation to contribute. There are 500 of these people out of over one million Western Australians, and we will give them this benefit."

This legislation should have been introduced as a private Bill. The procedure for private Bills is hardly ever used, and it ought to be deleted from Standing Orders as it has not been used for many years. I believe one of the reasons for the inclusion of this provision in Standing Orders is to assist in regard to legislation affecting small

sectors of the community, or to facilitate the operations of small groups of people.

That procedure should have been followed here, and the Government should not be seen to be favouring, completely without mandate, a small group of people. In the main, these people do not need to be assisted taxwise. This is a conspiracy to save certain people paying tax, and to reduce the income tax collected by the Australian Government. Ultimately this will mean less money coming to local government, and when the double tax system becomes officially more operative in this State—thanks to the initiative of the Premier—we will receive less money here. That means overall the people will have to pay more taxes because the total taxable income at the Commonwealth level will be reduced by provisions such as those contained in the Bill before us. So all the honest taxpayers of Western Australia, and a few of the others, will have to pay a little more. That is what this Bill is all about.

The other provisions in the Bill are peripheral, and not of very great importance. I believe they were included in the measure to give the Minister something to talk about in his speech. He barely referred to the main point of the Bill; the saving of tax by lawful tax dodgers—this was kept a strict secret.

Mr Speaker, I ask you to draw your own conclusions. Anyone reading the Minister's speech, as it appears in *Hansard*, would not find anything very wholesome—in the fact that a Government suppresses the real reason behind a procedure. This is not the first time of recent date that this Government has acted in an extraordinary manner in respect of tax. Notwithstanding what we have been told here by the Premier and by the former Minister for Labour and Industry about upholding the law—and members will remember that the Premier said he would not approach the Commissioner of Police in respect of some rather odd charges laid under the provisions of the Fremantle Port Authority Act—

Point of Order

Mr BLAIKIE: I rise on a point of order, Sir. I have been trying to follow the honourable member's speech, but it seems to have little relevance to the Bill before us. I would ask that he be instructed to direct his remarks to the Bill.

Mr Pearce: What about your comments in respect of the homosexual legislation?

The SPEAKER: In my view the comments of the member for Mt. Hawthorn have relevance to the Bill. I see no point of order.

Debate Resumed

Mr BERTRAM: I appreciate your ruling on that, Sir. If I were to debate this Bill on the *prima facie* material before me, I would not be able to talk at all. I am talking about taxation, and that is what the Bill is really about. It is not about what it appears to be.

In the case I mentioned the Premier would not intervene with the Commissioner of Police. However, recently he had the temerity to approach the Commissioner of Taxation to tell him not to enforce the law. That was an exercise in inconsistency. If members look at section 26B of the income tax legislation—

Mr Young: You are referring to the thing your party said should not be done.

Mr BERTRAM: Our party says that the implementation of section 26B is very bad in certain circumstances.

Mr Young: It is very bad in certain circumstances, I see. You want to have two bob each way, do you?

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.05 p.m.

Mr BERTRAM: During the suspension, and entirely of his own volition, one of the more distinguished members of this Assembly said to me, "It is a living conspiracy, that is what it is." He pointed out what a conspiracy is: the joining together of minds in a joint enterprise. However, we can hardly call it a conspiracy according to his theory if one of the minds is virtually dead.

I do not think the architects' minds are in that state of repose at all. Apparently the honourable member concerned has a few very real misgivings about the gentry on the other side who form the Government.

This is not the first conspiracy that has been before this Parliament. My mind goes back very quickly to the Trade Descriptions and False Advertisements Act Amendment Bill of about 1969, which in fact enacted a statutory fraud on the people of Western Australia. That Bill wrote into the law that people selling wool could call a substance pure wool which in fact was not pure wool. The average citizen even today thinks that when he buys something labelled "pure wool" that is what he is getting, when as a matter of fact by virtue of a statutory fraud worked on the citizens by this Parliament, that is not what he is getting at all.

Mr B. T. Burke: What about the fraud of double tax?

Mr BERTRAM: That fraud is in fact lawful; it is an extraordinary thing. So this is not the first time such a fraud has been perpetrated by this

Parliament. On the question of income tax, I think it is worth while remembering that already the avoidance and evasion of income tax has reached enormous proportions, bewildering in the extreme in its dimension.

Therefore, it ill behoves any Government to go out picking favourites and giving them new avenues, new vistas of dodging income and taxes, generally. One hardly blames architects for having a go, business being business—and that means a lot of things, some of which are lawful and some of which are not so lawful. The architects have tried it on the Government, and the Government for whatever reasons—they have not yet been disclosed—has swallowed the bait.

It is true that other professionals in other walks of life already have the facility to set up companies and, by that vehicle, and perhaps by other means also, to dodge income tax and other taxation. The architects are in a different category. They get special attention and consideration under an Act put here for that very purpose, and other professionals in other spheres also have Acts to protect them and to regulate their affairs; but not many of them. This happens to be the very first instance I can bring to mind where a Parliament is going out of its way to stop the activities of the whole Parliament, and take up the time of all 87 members to deal with something of this sort for a small and select band of people. That is the precedent we are establishing here.

If people want to get around their taxes by this lawful procedure, let them do so, but ordinarily taxation is effected by other means, by way of various assessment Acts and so on, and not in the back door, concealed, suppressed style that we are witnessing here. If this is kept up just a bit longer we will find the Court Government will be rushing in for double income tax, something in respect of which it is now in the process of providing leadership in Australia; the Premier seems to be the prime mover for this, aided and abetted by that other giant of politics, Mr Bjelke-Petersen.

Just to recapitulate, I did not want to disappoint the member for Scarborough because he was hoping to take a point about having a bob each way. The ordinary person in the street will not be able to have a bob each way shortly if he keeps on copping the taxes while the other favoured few in our community continue to get relief.

The Australian Labor Party believes that the Government by all means should amend section 26B. However, it is the Premier who is always talking about enforcing the law and saying that

no special benefits should be given to anybody, and that the law must follow its course. Of recent times, we have seen some extraordinary circumstances where the law has taken its course and where the Premier in fact has gone to the Commissioner of Taxation and told him, "Do not enforce that law."

Another instance in recent times was when a person went out of his way by a variety of legal tricks to save himself over \$100 000. The Government then introduced a Bill into Parliament which was framed in such a manner as to allow that trickster to keep his \$100 000 but which precluded any other member of the public from using that same alleged avoidance procedure to save a bob or two. That particular trickster was dealing with land worth some \$1 million, and it has been suggested to me it was not his only asset but that he was probably a multi-millionaire. The procedure he adopted, to all intents and moral purposes, was a clear variety of evasion of the worst kind.

This is a Bill which should not be here. As I have said, it is before us because this Government has got itself into a particular position through the Electoral Act and other manoeuvres. The Premier often talks about manoeuvring. His Government has a majority which is far too great for the health of the Government itself and it cannot be healthy for the people of Western Australia.

The quicker the people of Western Australia sit down, do a little arithmetic and have a look at electoral boundaries and things of this sort, the better it will be for the future of this State. Until then—mark my words—we will continue to see legislation of this kind. In fact, the next time similar legislation appears before the Parliament, I will refer members back to what I said on this occasion.

MR YOUNG (Scarborough) [4.14 p.m.]: I wish to make a contribution to the debate on this Bill only because the member for Welshpool and the member for Mt. Hawthorn have chosen not to debate the Bill at all, but have decided to write their own Bill by inference and innuendo. The only accurate statement the member for Mt. Hawthorn made was that the word "taxation" was not mentioned in the Bill. Apart from that brilliant observation, the member for Mt. Hawthorn made absolutely no reference to the Bill itself.

The member for Mt. Hawthorn did not mention the fact that this measure will make sure that directors and shareholders of the corporations referred to still will be responsible

under the Act as though they were in practice by themselves.

Mr Bertram: That is quite right.

Mr YOUNG: Then why did not the member for Mt. Hawthorn mention it?

Mr Bertram: I did not have to; it is in the Bill.

Mr YOUNG: He also did not mention the fact that directors of foreign companies still will be responsible as though they were practising in their own name. He did not mention the four really important aspects of the Bill, including the extension of qualifications or experience required for registration and appeals against the board's decisions to be heard at the District Court in lieu of the Local Court—yet the member for Mt. Hawthorn is supposed to be a practitioner of the law.

The member for Mt. Hawthorn did not mention any of the other aspects of the Bill; what he chose to talk about was what was not in the Bill. By his own confession, he said that that was what he chose to dwell on.

For sheer hypocrisy and laziness, I have never heard a speech on an important Bill the like of the one made by the member for Mt. Hawthorn. He clouded the fact that, once again, he was not prepared to do his homework on a tremendously important item of legislation. Quite frankly, I think it is about time some of his colleagues woke up to the fact that, rather than do his work on a Bill, the member for Mt. Hawthorn prefers either to take on one very small part of the Bill or to talk about something which is not associated with the legislation at all.

The member for Welshpool tried to give this Chamber the impression—I know he did not say so, but the inference was there—that if a person sets up a corporation and practises a profession under that corporation, from then on he is almost absolved of the responsibility of paying tax.

The fact of the matter is that a private company pays 46 per cent of its net profits in tax. If it does not distribute a certain proportion of the after-tax profit, it must pay 50 per cent tax on the undistributed profits. If it does distribute some of the profits to its shareholders, the people receiving that money are taxed on top of their existing incomes at about the average rate of taxation, which is, again, some 46 per cent. However, those facts were simply wiped aside by the member for Welshpool as being of no significance whatever.

Corporations have existed for many years and many callings can practise under the umbrella and the protection of limited liability through incorporation. If, every time we dealt with any

question dealing with corporations or companies the Opposition were to stand and suggest the only reason this Government brought forward that particular piece of legislation was to protect the people who own the companies from taxation, it would be a ludicrous situation.

Yet on this occasion, a significant piece of legislation, dealing with a very important profession in our community—architects, who perhaps because of their professional expertise might be responsible for the lives of hundreds of thousands of people—was virtually ignored by the Opposition. Instead, members opposite chose to discuss only those things which were not contained in the Bill.

I think it is about time the Leader of the Opposition and some of the more senior members opposite got on to the people on their back benches and talked to them about carrying out responsible research into the legislation this Government puts forward.

Mr Davies: I will let you into a secret: We do not try to gag our fellows, or direct what they say.

Mr YOUNG: I am not talking about gagging; I am talking about being responsible. If members opposite are not prepared to conduct proper research into the Bills this Government puts forward, they are not doing their job as an Opposition, a job the public is entitled to expect them to do.

Mr Davies: If you do not like the job we are doing, that is just too bad.

Mr YOUNG: Reference was made to a conspiracy. If this Government was being conspiratorial by bringing down a taxation savings scheme under the guise of the Architects Act Amendment Bill, simply to save money for what the member for Mt. Hawthorn described as our "allies and friends", would the Government have introduced the Stamp Act Amendment Bill last year which closed loopholes in regard to stamp duty on bare trusts and options which could have cost this Government millions of dollars in lost revenue? If we were so conspiratorial would we have brought that forward to hurt—as the member for Mt. Hawthorn described them—friends of those on this side of the House?

The Federal Government recently closed a taxation loophole that was likely to cost \$1 000 million in any one year. The Labor Federal Government first discovered this when Mr Frank Crean was Treasurer and he said, "If you continue to do this I will have to come down hard on you and stop it." That Government remained in power for about two years after Mr Crean

made that announcement and did nothing about it. Our Government also left it for a year or so but we finally did something about it. If we are conspiratorial would we introduce that sort of legislation?

The member for Mt. Hawthorn tried to have two bob each way on the section 26 issue. He said on the one hand it was fair enough to impose a tax on notional income in some instances but on the other hand, perhaps it was not so fair. I will be the first to say people in isolated areas ought to have a higher zone allowance, just as our Premier said. He did not say that the law should not be carried out, but that the tax Act should be amended. The Premier said, "If you are going to do anything, make the zone allowances more reasonable so that the people who live in difficult circumstances in isolated areas will get a fair go."

It was the Secretary of the TLC, I believe, and the Federal member for Fremantle—supporters of the member for Mt. Hawthorn and the member for Welshpool—who said that the taxation Act ought not be implemented. They cried for a fair go and for it not to be imposed. It was not us.

The whole subject of this Bill is to do with so many other important factors and I am amazed that the Leader of the Opposition and the Opposition itself can continue to take such a cavalier attitude to important legislation. It is about time the Press made the public aware that important items of legislation such as this are not being dealt with by the Opposition at all. Instead, the Opposition is trying to score cheap political points to avoid the fact that it is not prepared to do its homework. It is as simple as that. One cannot replace homework with a cavalier and lazy attitude in the examination of important legislation.

If the member for Welshpool and the member for Mt. Hawthorn are not prepared to get down to the nitty-gritty and do the sort of research on important legislation that they ought to do, then perhaps it would be better if they simply agreed to the Bill and let it go through this House instead of debating for something like 45 minutes—

Mr Bateman: Hypocrisy!

Mr YOUNG: —an aspect, perhaps a non-aspect, of a Bill; in other words, something that was not contained in the legislation and, as confessed by the member for Mt. Hawthorn, had nothing whatever to do with the Bill. If that is not the height of hypocrisy I do not know what is.

Mr Bryce: If you consider yourself a shining example of an effective Opposition we will help you become that in 1980.

MR O'CONNOR (Mt. Lawley—Minister for

Works) [4.24 p.m.]: Perhaps I should start by saying I have heard that song before. I would like to speak to some of the points made by members—particularly the member for Welshpool whom I thank for his general support of the Bill.

To get to the commencement of this measure one must go back to the time when the architects' association was endeavouring to have a Bill of this nature introduced and when the member for Welshpool was the then Minister for Works.

Mr Jamieson: It is not all that long ago.

Mr O'CONNOR: Four years is a fair while to have a Bill suggested to the Minister and then brought before this House.

Mr Jamieson: It just sounded a long time.

Mr O'CONNOR: A great deal of work has been done by the association and the Public Works Department. The Bill actually covers five areas. The first is the practise of architecture by corporate bodies. I admit I was astounded by the attitude of the member for Mt. Hawthorn whose comments seemed irrational. He rambled on without touching on the subject matter of the Bill. Anyone listening to his comments would think that if we made a corporate body of the architects' association we would put them in a position of being free from tax. These people have to pay the same taxation as any other corporate body, whether it be a building company or whatever. They have to pay 47½ per cent tax initially and then a tax on undistributed profit. So the inference drawn by the member for Mt. Hawthorn is not there in fact.

The instance of qualifications and experience has been covered already and was mentioned by the member for Welshpool. He thought there were no real indications in the Bill that this position would be covered, but if one goes back to the original Act one will see that the situation is fairly clear.

Any individual who is to be registered as an architect has to be 21 years of age. He has to have his qualifications approved by the board and his college, school, or institution also must be approved. He must have passed examinations in architectural subjects conducted by the board, unless he comes under the grandfather clause which covers those people who were practising architecture before the legislation came into operation. He would have to be a member of a prescribed institute or registered as an architect of a prescribed body or authority.

The present board will be able to investigate any individual wanting to join the association,

whether he is a local, from the Eastern States, or from overseas.

I hope members will agree that this is a desirable piece of legislation. Not only does it allow for architects to set up corporate bodies; it also makes it quite clear that unqualified people cannot indicate through advertisements that they are qualified architects. In doing this we are protecting the public and I would have thought the member for Mt. Hawthorn would show interest in this aspect of the Bill. The Government is concerned that the public know who and what they are getting. We have the Trade Practices Act and other pieces of legislation in this regard and this legislation also goes to the extent of endeavouring to protect the public. It lets them know quite clearly that when they employ an architect, that person is actually qualified and not someone with little knowledge in the field.

The Bill also allows for these matters to come before a District Court instead of a Local Court. The other two points of the Bill allow for the removal from the Act of the maximum sum and a general tightening up of the Act and an increase in penalties which must be acceptable to members.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr O'Connor (Minister for Works), and transmitted to the Council.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

POISONS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 4th May.

MR HARMAN (Maylands) [5.11 p.m.]: This is a Bill to amend the Poisons Act. It was introduced some months ago, and the reason for its presence in this House is that last year the members of a particular medical practice decided they would write out an increasing number of prescriptions for methadone in order to treat patients suffering from drug addiction. Because of the monitoring system we have in Australia, it was established

consequently that the rate of supply of methadone rose sharply in Western Australia as compared with that in other States. Of course it did not take very long to find out which particular practice was issuing large numbers of prescriptions for methadone. In fact, I am told that it reached the stage where methadone, rather than the drug of addiction which it was supposed to treat, was being trafficked around the streets of Perth and the metropolitan area.

It was obvious that the authorities had to act, and they did. As a result, that particular practice has reduced substantially the number of prescriptions being written for methadone. It is unfortunate this occurred, but it did, and it should be made known that some medical practitioners are prepared to do such things, although perhaps unwittingly, and perhaps in the best interests of the patients. At the same time it must be borne in mind that there could be other effects from a large increase in the prescription rate of methadone.

The Government decided to amend the Poisons Act to gain greater control over the issue of prescriptions, and this is to be accomplished by regulation. We do not really know how the Government intends to take this particular action of gaining greater control because it will be achieved by regulation.

Some members on the other side of the House have argued against government by regulation, and I wish to make this point because in this particular case I believe the Government needs to give serious consideration to the framing of the regulations and the way in which they are to be implemented.

Although I would like to devote some time to the whole subject of drugs, I feel this is not the appropriate occasion to do so. I do not really believe this particular amendment will have a great effect on the drug addiction scene in Western Australia; nevertheless the Opposition does not raise any objection to it.

MR B. T. BURKE (Balcatta) [5.15 p.m.]: I would like to say one or two words at this time on some of the matters raised by my colleague, the member for Maylands. Those things he referred to when he spoke about the disadvantages involved in the previous practice with regard to the prescription of methadone amount in my mind to perhaps one of the most serious challenges that our society faces today. Perhaps the member for Maylands even understated the case, because it was well known that the members of one practice within the metropolitan area were prescribing up to 40 000 milligrams a week, and this was allowed

to continue for a long period at a time when the authorities were ill-equipped to counter the practice and to combat what had become a scourge to the community.

At the present time the member for Maylands is quite correct in saying that this amending legislation will not go a long way towards solving some of the problems that the Minister faces in respect of drug addiction and the control of poisons that fit into the category of addictive drugs. At the time referred to addicts in this State had methadone running out of their ears as a result of the practices that were being followed, and at the same time the efforts being made by the Alcohol and Drug Authority, while commendable, are not moving quickly enough.

One of the instances I would like to draw to the attention of the Minister is the desirable practice of preventing take-home doses of methadone. That practice is very desirable, very good, and it is a way, I suppose, of controlling a poison. At the same time, one of the propositions involved in the new practice to be followed is that the drug should be dispensed by chemists. Chemists are now charging up to \$3 for the service of dispensing the drug, and addicts cannot afford to pay a charge such as that. It amounts really to a restriction that the Government does not acknowledge, or the Alcohol and Drug Authority does not acknowledge, by conceding that take-home doses should not be permitted. It is a restriction that will result, I am sure, in further undesirable practices.

While we are discussing the control of poisons, it is true also that there are one or two matters the Alcohol and Drug Authority and the Minister should be looking at when further controls are being considered. One course of action would be to police the waiting rooms at the Alcohol and Drug Authority. It is well known amongst addicts that if they want to make contact for the purposes of obtaining illegal drugs, one of the best ways to do so is to meet other people in the waiting rooms of the Alcohol and Drug Authority.

It is true also that the control of poisons through the control of the hours during which the authority operates is one to which attention should be paid. In many cases we are not talking about people who can decide their own actions; we are talking about people who are compelled by perhaps the strongest compulsion known to man to take certain actions, and it is of no use attempting to control poisons through amending Bills while we do not facilitate the operations of the ADA, and while we allow authorities such as that to remain open for the length of time which they presently remain open.

I thank you for your tolerance, Mr Speaker, because this is perhaps not the most appropriate time to raise the points I have raised. However, these are urgent matters, and it is true, as the member for Maylands said, that this amending Bill goes part of the way towards controlling what is a particular type of poison. I only hope the Minister causes quick action to be taken on some of the questions worrying people like myself, quick action which must inhibit to a small degree a burgeoning problem which will prove to be the greatest problem we will face in the next decade.

MR RIDGE (Kimberley—Minister for Health) [5.20 p.m.]: I would like to thank both the member for Maylands and the member for Balcatta for their contribution to this debate. They have pointed out that we are dealing with a very sensitive and urgent issue in respect of which solutions are needed to a great number of problems.

However, I would like to suggest that in my view the Alcohol and Drug Authority is very firmly under the control of its Director (Dr Lawson Holman); and whilst it might be claimed that the authority is not moving quickly, I would suggest it might only appear that way. I indicate to the members for Balcatta and Maylands, and any other interested member of Parliament, that I would be very happy to have them go along to see what is being done at the ADA premises. I am positive they would be impressed with the results that are being achieved and some of the plans we have in mind for the future.

The member for Balcatta raised some points, to which I will reply briefly. In particular he referred to take-home doses of drugs and the necessity for our trying to reduce these. The authority has recognised that it has a particular problem here. One of the difficulties is that at the moment the only point at which methadone is dispensed is the Ord Street hospital. It is undesirable that this should be the case when there are people at the hospital who are there of their own volition and who have a desire to kick the habit, because at the moment the knowledge that other people are going there to receive methadone has quite an effect on them.

Therefore, it is intended later in the year to open some new premises which have been acquired recently by the ADA in William Street. The premises were formerly occupied by the Barrett Carpet Co., and it is intended they will be available for addicts to attend for counselling and for the dispensing of drugs on an almost round-the-clock basis.

I anticipate the premises will be opened

towards the end of this year, and they will probably remain open for up to 18 hours a day so that the service is available to addicts at all times.

In addition to that, as the member for Balcatta has indicated, the ADA is negotiating with chemists in appropriate locations so that addicts may, if they are in regular employment for argument's sake, collect their drugs from those chemists. Any person referred in this manner would have to be referred by the ADA to a particular chemist, and I anticipate it would be on the basis of that person reporting back to the authority every two weeks or so. That measure is to be adopted only in cases where a person's employment might be jeopardised if he had to attend the William Street premises.

Mr B. T. Burke: They can charge up to \$3 a day and that is \$18 a week, which is a fair amount.

Mr RIDGE: That is appreciated. I cannot tell the member precisely what will happen, but I know the authority is negotiating with some chemists. I feel only about five chemists will be involved in the metropolitan area, and I understand some have already indicated they are prepared to reduce their prices fairly considerably.

At the moment quite a bit of work remains to be done on the new premises, and we have to ensure they are secure. We must also ensure that the drugs which will be kept there are secure at all times. We have certainly been concerned about the aspects mentioned by the member for Balcatta, and also we are concerned about the problems to which he referred concerning the waiting rooms at the ADA's present premises, where a type of subculture develops amongst the people who are attending.

It has been necessary for us to have a security officer in attendance at most times because some of these people become quite violent, and occasions have arisen on which they have tried to break down doors and to do all sorts of things. I am quite sure the authority is aware of what takes place in the waiting room, and once the new premises are available I believe that and many other problems will be overcome.

As I have pointed out, I am very pleased with the progress the authority has been able to make, and I have indicated to the director that any members of Parliament who make representation are quite welcome to view the facilities and to see what is being done.

I thank members for their support of the measure.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

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

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Mr Ridge (Minister for Health), and transmitted to the Council.

House adjourned at 5.27 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

IMMIGRATION

Vietnamese Refugees

885. Mr WILSON, to the Acting Minister for Immigration:

- (1) Can he say how many Vietnamese refugees there are in Western Australia at present?
- (2) How many refugees have found their own accommodation?
- (3) Where are the remainder being accommodated?
- (4) How many have found employment?
- (5) How many are in receipt of unemployment benefits or other Government benefits?
- (6) Is the Government aware of any unease in the community about the continuing influx of Vietnamese refugees?
- (7) If "Yes" to (6), has the State Government made any approaches to the Federal Government on the matter?
- (8) What has been the response of the Federal Government to any such approach?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

The information required by this question is being obtained from Canberra. I will inform the member when it arrives.

EDUCATION

School Holidays

921. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Can he detail the specific number of requests he has had from parents for the

- show week school holidays to be abolished?
- (2) How many requests from parents for these changes has he received in writing?
 - (3) How many of these requests have come from parents in—
 - (a) the metropolitan area;
 - (b) the country area?
 - (4) Will he make copies of such letters available to the Opposition on a confidential basis?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (4) Comments from parents on the abolition of the Royal Show week school holidays have appeared in letters to the Education Department, in letters to the newspapers, in parents and citizens' publications and other media outlets. It is not practicable to provide details concerning them or to provide copies of them all without a prolonged search. However, significant parent comment and concern has been and is being expressed, mainly through the parents and citizens' organisations, at branch, council and finally at conference level. In this regard, the recent WACSSO conference supported the proposed changes and suggested a further evaluation after two years.

EDUCATION

Colleges of Advanced Education: Dunbar Report

922. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is he aware of the widespread concern among staff in colleges of advanced education about proposals in the Dunbar report to halve the amount of study leave?
- (2) Is he also aware of the Western Australian Post Secondary Education Commission's concern for education needed in the performing arts at all levels of education in Western Australia?

- (3) What is the State Government's attitude to the report, particularly in view of the possible detrimental effects which are likely to ensue from its implementation on opportunities for the study of contemporary technique in these areas overseas by academic staff?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes. The report on post secondary education for the performing arts has been endorsed in principle. It has been released and the public has been invited to comment. Further recommendations on implementation will be prepared by the commission.
- (3) The Government has not taken any official attitude to the study leave report. It is understood that the Western Australian Post Secondary Education Commission and most institutions have responded to the report which was in draft form only. A further review will be undertaken by the Commonwealth in the light of responses.

WATER SUPPLIES

Rates: New System

923. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Can he say whether any special consideration has been given to the possibly unfair manner in which the new system of charging for water used will operate against large families who can least afford the extra expense?
- (2) If "Yes" what measures, if any, are proposed to alleviate such situations?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) The new system is designed to achieve efficient management of the use of water by the community. In any case the difference of the basic house use between families of varying numbers would be small in proportion to the total used.

ABORIGINES

Housing: Federal Funds

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

- (1) Can he say when the Commonwealth grant for homeless Aborigines was first allocated?
- (2) Can he provide details to indicate—
 - (a) what the funds are meant to cover;
 - (b) how the funds are to be made available;
 - (c) how the funds are being used?
- (3) Can he say whether or not the grant money has now been fully expended?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) 5th January, 1976.
- (2) (a) The funds were to cover the administrative operations costs of the programme.
- (b) The funds were made available through quarterly payments from the Department of Aboriginal Affairs to State Treasury.
- (c) In general, the funds were used to provide an experimental action research programme to investigate the problems of Aboriginal homelessness in Perth and devise means of overcoming them. Specific components of the programme were as follows:
 - (i) the funds were used to assist homeless Aboriginal families in the metropolitan area to find accommodation. This service has assisted approximately 200 families in finding homes;
 - (ii) a bond loan scheme was provided through the Aboriginal Advancement Council. This programme assisted over 300 families of which 250 are still in the same accommodation;
 - (iii) loans and grants were made to various organisations for the provision of shelter and development of programmes;
 - (iv) camps were created in the Swan Valley. This programme has now been taken over by the Swan Valley task force of the Department for Community Welfare;
 - (v) research;

(vi) organisational liaison and programme developments.

- (3) The original grant money has now been fully expended.

HOUSING

Vietnamese Refugees

925. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Can he say whether any Vietnamese refugees have been housed in State Housing Commission accommodation?
- (2) If "Yes" what is the number of accommodation units involved?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) Except for the purpose of accountability in respect to Commonwealth funds for Aboriginal housing, the State Housing Commission does not distinguish race, colour, or creed in dealing with applicants. Therefore no information is available with respect to Vietnamese refugees.

ROADS

Highways: Minimum Surface Skid Resistance

926. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does the Main Roads Department have, or has it adopted, a minimum surface skid resistance on State Highways?
- (2) What are these standards?
- (3) Are these minimum standards currently being met on all lanes on Highway No. 1 between Hardey Road, Glen Forest and Mundaring?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

We have been unable to obtain this information. It will take some time to obtain it. I will convey the details to the member when they are available.

ROADS

Highways: Route Markers

927. Mr HERZFELD, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Can he advise whether there are any proposals to alter the colour or shape of

existing highway route markers in Western Australia?

- (2) (a) If "Yes" what changes are proposed;
- (b) why;
- (c) at what cost?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) The Australian Transport Advisory Council agreed recently to a proposal put forward by the Commonwealth Government that the colour of route markers on national highways be changed.
- (2) (a) The black and white route marker shields and arrow boards on national highways are to be replaced by green signs with yellow legend and border;
- (b) to distinguish national highways, for which the Commonwealth Government is financially responsible, from other national routes.
- (c) about \$8 000 on preliminary estimates.

MINING

Fimiston Goldmines

928. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Has Kalgoorlie Mining Associates given him a date by which it can present its feasibility study into the question of reopening the Fimiston Goldmines?
- (2) If so, what is that date?
- (3) Has the company indicated at which price of gold the reopening of the mines would be economically feasible?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) and (2) No. Kalgoorlie Mining Associates have been keeping me informed on the progress with feasibility studies.
- (3) No.

MINING

Nickel: Nepean Mine

929. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Is it a fact that the operators of the Nepean nickel mine, south of Coolgardie, have sought financial aid for its operation from the State Government?
- (2) What sum of money or other financial aid was requested?
- (3) For what purpose was financial aid required?
- (4) What has been the Government's response to the request for aid?
- (5) What prompted the company to seek such aid?
- (6) Is the operation of the mine in a precarious position?
- (7) Is the Government prepared to take any action to forestall the retrenchment of 16 men from the mine, which is effective from 4th August?

Mr MENSAROS replied.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) \$1 million.
- (3) Mining development.
- (4) State Government has investigated the matter and an offer of assistance has been made.
- (5) To increase the ore reserves.
- (6) Yes.
- (7) The 16 men about to be retrenched are being retrenched because the company is readjusting its operations on a two-shift rather than a three-shift basis. In these circumstances the Government would not intend to take any action.

MINING

Gold: Guaranteed Minimum Price

930. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Has the Government given any recent consideration to implementing a guaranteed minimum price for gold?
- (2) Have any recent discussions been held with the Federal Government with a view to implementing such a proposal?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) and (2) No.

MINING

Gold: Mt. Charlotte Mine

931. Mr GRILL, to the Minister for Mines:

- (a) During the last six "periods" what has been the tonnages of ore for each period treated from mining operations at Kalgoorlie Mining Associates' Mt. Charlotte mine; and
- (b) what has been the number of ounces and grams of fine gold won for each of the six "periods"?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

Period ended	Tonnes treated	Fine ounces	kg
10/1/78	46 187	6 275	195.174
7/2/78	54 314	6 793	211.286
6/3/78	44 138	4 966	154.460
4/4/78	49 743	5 117	159.156
2/5/78	51 281	6 720	209.015
30/5/78	41 609	4 983	154.989
	287 272	34 854	1 084.080

All mining at Mt. Charlotte was undertaken by Kalgoorlie Lake View Pty. Ltd. Kalgoorlie Mining Associates is associated with Kalgoorlie Lake View Pty. Ltd.

HOSPITALS

Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre

932. Dr DADOUR, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is a centralised catering and meal service planned on the Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre site?
- (2) If "Yes" please itemise those establishments it is envisaged will be serviced?
- (3) How many meals per day is it planned to process?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) and (2) The Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital at present prepares meals for Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Fremantle Hospital and Rockingham Hospital.
Existing facilities are inadequate to cope with the additional requirements when the podium and ward block is completed.

The services and therapies block being planned will provide kitchen and associated facilities to meet requirements of the three hospitals listed above but not for any other hospital.

- (3) The capacity will be 12 000 meals per day based on a five-day production week.

HEALTH

Mental Health Act: Amendment

933. Mr WILSON, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Can he say whether or not the Mental Health Act is being revised?
- (2) If "Yes" what stage has the revision reached and when is it anticipated that legislation to this effect will be introduced?
- (3) What opportunity is being given to concerned groups in the community to make submissions as part of any such review?
- (4) Is any consideration being given to separate provision being made for services to intellectually handicapped people as part of any such review?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) to (3) I would refer the member to my answer to question 872 on 2nd August, 1978.
- (4) No.

EDUCATION

Handicapped Children

934. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Council for Special Education given consideration yet to the problems of the education of the mentally handicapped?
- (2) If so, when did the investigations begin?
- (3) Have the investigations been completed?
- (4) If "Yes" to (3), will he table their report and recommendations?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) A study is in progress.
- (2) May, 1978.
- (3) and (4) No.

STATE FINANCE

Bureaucracies: Growth

935. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

Is the statement made by the Federal Treasurer, Mr Howard, after the last Premier's Conference, that the States had not matched Commonwealth efforts in restraining spending in the past few years, particularly in the growth of their bureaucracies, correct in respect of Western Australia?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

No.

BUILDING INDUSTRY

Funds

936. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

In view of his comments that the Commonwealth offer on loan funds at the last Premier's Conference was disastrous, particularly for the building industry, will he outline what options are available to the State to inject funds to revive the building industry and will he state what actions the State Government intends to take?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The capital works Budget is currently in preparation and in line with the philosophy and approach I explained when introducing the Budget last year, the Government is examining all possible means of supplementing the limited loan funds available to the State.

Parliament will be informed of our proposals when the capital works Budget is introduced.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN

Overseas Trips

937. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

In respect of overseas trips taken by Ministers of his Government, during the period of the 29th Parliament, will he advise—

- (a) the number of trips taken by each of the Ministers;

- (b) where each Minister has gone on each overseas trip;

- (c) the cost of each trip, including the costs involved in taking advisers, staff members and also including the costs of travelling allowances?

- (d) the purpose of each trip;

- (e) the benefits which have resulted from each overseas trip taken;

- (f) the overall cost to the Government of all trips taken?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

The information required by the member is being collated and I shall advise him when it is completed.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Prime Minister's Statements

938. Mr DAVIES, to the Premier:

- (1) Does the State Government endorse the view of the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, that predictions of recession and high unemployment because of the decreased advances to the States at the last Premiers' Conference were "nonsense"?

- (2) Does the State Government also endorse the Prime Minister's comments with respect to State and local government employment that "you have only got to look at their employment and it is perfectly clear that there has been no restraint whatsoever"?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) As I stated publicly following the June Premiers' Conference, I believe there is a degree of overkill in the Commonwealth Government's measures to combat inflation. The minimal increases in loan funds available to the States—a substantial reduction in real terms—combined with further cuts in specific purpose grants, will make it difficult, if not impossible, for the States to maintain previous levels of their employment.

- (2) No.

EDUCATION

Pre-primary: Thornlie School

939. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Education:

In view of the ever increasing numbers of pre-school children in the Thornlie area, will he advise:

- (1) Have funds been made available to establish a pre-school class at this school?
- (2) If "Yes" when can it be expected this class will operate?
- (3) If funds are not going to be made available, will he give the full reasons why?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) to (3) A preliminary survey has indicated that additional pre-primary places are required in the Thornlie area for 1979. Following the August census of school numbers, a decision will be made as to whether the new centre will be placed at the Yale or Thornlie primary schools.

HEALTH

Dental Therapy Centre: Thornlie School

940. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is he aware of the ever increasing numbers of children attending the Thornlie primary school, possibly brought about by the rapid development of the area?
- (2) If "Yes" will he give urgent consideration to the establishment of a dental clinic at this school to cater for the dental needs of children in the area?
- (3) If "Yes" to (2) when can it be expected the service to the school will be started?
- (4) If "No" to (2), then why not?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes, it will be considered along with all other unserved areas.
- (3) It will not be known until the Commonwealth and State Budgets are brought down and the building programme for 1978-79 is developed.
- (4) Not applicable.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City of Gosnells: Tavern in Maddington

941. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Local Government:

In view of the objections received by the City of Gosnells Council from the residents living in Maddington against a tavern being built in Radiata Street, Maddington, as opposed to those who desire such an establishment and do not live in the area will he—

- (a) take immediate steps to ensure the residents' views are given full and prompt attention, especially in view of the close proximity of the East Maddington primary school, which has an attendance of 760, plus 100 pre-school children;
- (b) further enquire into why the City of Gosnells councillors appeared to have ignored the wishes of their ratepayers?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (a) and (b) No. This is a matter for council decision and I have no power to intervene at this time.

WATER SUPPLIES

Pipeline in Albany Highway, Cannington

942. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

- (1) Is the Metropolitan Water Supply Board renewing water pipe along the south side of the Albany Highway in Cannington?
- (2) If "Yes" will he give reasons why this pipe is being renewed?
- (3) (a) Will he further advise if the pipeline is being re-sited; and
(b) for what reasons?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes. This work is carried out progressively as circumstances permit. A short section was completed several weeks ago.
- (2) Because of deterioration of the original pipe.
- (3) (a) Yes.
(b) To conform with the present building line.

ENERGY

Electricity Supplies: Lake Clifton Area

943. Mr BATEMAN, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

- (1) Is the power line along the Old Coast Road, south of Mandurah, being extended?
- (2) If so, will it connect with the power line from the south and now terminating at Lake Clifton?
- (3) If so, is the whole line to be three-phase?
- (4) What will be the cost of connection to the line by lot holders in the Lake Clifton area?
- (5) Will existing contracts be reviewed with a view to reducing the financial burden of people living in the Lake Clifton area?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) to (3) Yes.
- (4) Each application would be required to be assessed individually on its merits in accordance with existing contributory extension schemes.
- (5) Not envisaged at this stage but contracts are reviewed on connection of new customers.

IMMIGRATION

South-east Asian Refugees

944. Mr DAVIES, to the Acting Minister for Immigration:

- (1) How many refugees have come to Australia by illegal means from South-east Asian countries between—
 - (a) August 1976 and August 1977;
 - (b) August 1977 and August 1978?
- (2) How many have settled in Western Australia?
- (3) Will he provide a breakdown of the numbers of—
 - (a) men;
 - (b) women;
 - (c) children,
 who have come to Australia by illegal means from South-east Asia?

- (4) What are the total expenses which the State has been forced to bear as a result of illegal refugees coming to Western Australia within the two 12 months periods from August 1976-August 1977 and August 1977-August 1978?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) to (4) The information required by this question is being obtained from Canberra.
I will inform the member when it arrives.

FISHERIES

Rock Lobsters

945. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) When is the proposed conference to take place at which rock lobster fishermen from the Mandurah-Safety Bay area may attend to discuss the lobster catching season and other issues involved?
- (2) Where will the conference be held?
- (3) Is there any move contemplated that will change the catching size of rock lobster?
- (4) If "Yes" to (3), what are the changes?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) The 21st September, 1978.
- (2) Not yet determined.
- (3) and (4) No.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Federal Conference: Western Australian Representative

946. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

- (1) Did the Government send a representative from Western Australia to the environmental economics conference held in Canberra at the end of May this year?
- (2) If so, whom?
- (3) If "No" to (1), why not?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) The Director of Conservation and Environment, Mr C. F. Porter, attended the conference and presented a paper, a copy of which is tabled herewith.
- (3) Not applicable.

The paper was tabled (see paper No. 283).

947. *This question was postponed.*

EDUCATION

Midvale School

948. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Education:

- (1) In view of the fact that the Midvale primary school is in need of a playing area, would he consider making an allocation of \$15 000 towards the upgrading of the Goodchild oval, Bellevue?
- (2) If the department is unable to meet the total amount requested, would he indicate the amount that could be provided to upgrade the oval?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) and (2) The playing area at Midvale is considered adequate for an appropriate physical educational and recreational programme. It is not proposed to provide funding for upgrading Goodchild oval.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

System 6 Report

949. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

Can the Minister advise the House as to when the final report on the System 6 study will be tabled in the House?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

The report of the System 6 Committee is expected to be presented to the Environmental Protection Authority towards the end of this year. Before finally reporting to the Government the Environmental Protection Authority will make the report available for public

comment and the Minister will ensure that copies are available in the parliamentary library at that time.

ROADS

Kwinana Freeway

950. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Would the Minister table copies of reports compiled for the Main Roads Department by Pamela Gunn with regard to noise levels in respect of the southern extension of the Kwinana Freeway?
- (2) If the Minister is not prepared to table the reports, would he advise the House his reasons for refusal?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) These are internal reports prepared by Pamela Gunn, an environmental physicist with the Main Roads Department, to assist with the design of the freeway.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Conservation Council of Western Australia (Inc.)

951. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

Would the Minister have the Conservation Council of W.A. (Inc.) placed on the mailing list for his department's press releases?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

No. Press releases from the Department of Conservation and Environment are circulated only to the news media but copies can be inspected in the public reading room of the department.

PENSIONERS

Australian Pensioners' League

952. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Chief Secretary:

Would he table in the House the last

audited annual balance sheet of the Australian Pensioners' League (W.A. Division) Incorporated?

Sir Charles Court (for Mr O'NEIL) replied:
Yes.

The documents were tabled (see paper No. 284).

MINING

Gold: Leases 969 and 656

953. Mr SKIDMORE, to the Minister for Mines:

In regard to gold mining leases 969 and 656, would he advise me of the holders of those leases and any other conditions that pertain to them?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

Goldmining leases 656 and 969 in the Dundas goldfield were forfeited on the 22/8/1900 and 26/7/1907 respectively.

JETTY

Busselton

954. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Works:

- (1) What amounts have been expended upon the Busselton jetty during each of the past three financial years; and
- (2) for what specific purposes were the funds expended?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Expenditure incurred by the Government is:

1975-76.....	25 735
1976-77.....	16 213
1977-78.....	19 444

- (2) 1975-76:

- (i) Contribution to Shire of Busselton of \$4 000 for general maintenance of deck, handrails and lighting.
- (ii) Replacement of seven piles in main structure, removal of portion of west fender system, damaged buildings and protecting burnt section of head, and general minor maintenance.

1976-77:

- (i) Contribution to Shire of Busselton of \$7 000.
- (ii) Repairs to two piles, general minor maintenance and purchase of 30 piles.

1977-78:

- (i) Contribution to Shire of Busselton of \$7 000.
- (ii) 12 piles replaced, plus general minor maintenance.

LAND

Northern Developments Pty. Ltd. Project

955. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) What has been the total cost to the Government of the Northern Developments Pty. Ltd. project at Camballin since its inception?
- (2) How many parcels of land has the company subdivided under the terms of its agreement with the Government since 1957?
- (3) What development work and agricultural operations have been carried out at Camballin in the past three years?

Mrs CRAIG replied:

- (1) This information is not available in the Department of Lands and Surveys.
- (2) There is no record in either the Department of Lands and Surveys or the Office of Titles of the company having subdivided any parcel of land since entering into the original agreement with the Government in 1957.
- (3) The first parcel of land granted under the renegotiated agreement of 1969, containing 1 899.37 hectares, was developed to the extent that in 1974 it was deemed to satisfactorily conform with the requirements of the agreement. The extent of subsequent development work and agricultural operations is not known.

BAUXITE MINING

Alwest, Worsley: Environmental Review and Management Programme

956. Mr H. D. EVANS, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Has the environmental review and management programme, required by the Government, of Alwest Ltd. in regard to the Worsley bauxite project been received?
- (2) (a) If not, when is it expected that this environmental review and management programme will be received; and
(b) if this is not known, by what date will the Government require it to be presented?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) and (2) Yes.

STATE FINANCE

Consolidated Revenue Fund and General Loan Fund Estimates: Inflation Rate Adopted

957. Mr DAVIES, to the Treasurer:

- (1) What was the rate of inflation adopted by the State Treasury to compute the preliminary Budget estimates for 1978-79 for—
(a) the Consolidated Revenue Fund; and
(b) the General Loan Fund?
- (2) What is the revised rate of inflation adopted by State Treasury to compute the final Budget estimates for 1978-79 for—
(a) the Consolidated Revenue Fund; and
(b) the General Loan Fund?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) (a) Wages, goods and services—8 per cent;
(b) 10 per cent.
- (2) These factors are constantly under revision in the light of information from Canberra as to the inflation rates assumed in the compilation of the Federal Budget. Final figures to be used as the basis for State Budget estimates have not yet been settled.

ENERGY

State Energy Commission: Revenue from Establishment Fees

958. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Fuel and Energy:

What was the total revenue received by the State Energy Commission in 1977-1978 from the collection of establishment fees?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

\$895 185.

HEALTH

Drugs: Report of National Standing Control Committee

959. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Health:

Will he table the report from the national standing control committee on drugs of dependence presented to the recent meeting of the Commonwealth and State Ministers concerned with drug abuse?

Mr RIDGE replied:

If the member is referring to the 7th report of the National Standing Control Committee on Drugs of Dependence, the Ministers did not accept the document at their meeting and it would therefore be unwise to table it.

HEALTH

Salt: Letter in "The West Australian"

960. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Has he seen a letter to the editor of *The West Australian* published on 25th July, 1978, headed "Body Needs Salt"?
- (2) What action does he propose to take in respect of that letter?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) I have regarded it as a contribution to the current debate on the salt content of water supplies, but have not changed my own position on the matter.

HEALTH

Leprosy Among Vietnamese Refugees

961. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How many cases of leprosy have been identified among Vietnamese refugees in Western Australia?
- (2) What action has been taken?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) Two cases have been notified. Twelve other persons are under surveillance.
- (2) All Vietnamese refugees entering Western Australia are checked by the Public Health Department. Cases of leprosy are diagnosed, treated or kept under surveillance as required for maintenance of public health.

(3) Who were the shareholders of the company?

(4) Does the company have direct connections in Queensland?

(5) How many people were employed by the company?

(6) On what basis did the Department of Industrial Development justify such a large guarantee?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) to (6) The answer is being collated and I will let the member have it very soon.

964 to 966. *These questions were postponed for one week.*

HEALTH

Asbestos Manufacturers and Handlers

962. Mr HARMAN, to the Acting Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Are regulations being considered in respect of persons engaged in the manufacture and handling of asbestos products?
- (2) If so, when will such regulations be gazetted?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) A draft of proposed regulations having been circulated to industry for comment is now with Crown Law Department for final drafting.
A recommendation will be submitted as soon as the final draft is received.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mitex International (Australasia) Pty. Ltd.

963. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

Further to my question 844 concerning Mitex International:

- (1) What was the company's paid up capital at the time of its application for a guarantee?
- (2) When did the company commence operations?

STATE FINANCE

Economic Growth

967. Mr BRYCE, to the Treasurer:

- (1) What was the rate of growth of the Western Australian economy during each of the last ten years?
- (2) What is the projected rate of growth of the Western Australian economy for 1978-79 and 1979-80?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) Gross domestic product is the accepted measure of economic growth. However, statistics of gross domestic product are not available in Australia on a State basis.

I will confer with the Treasury and see whether I can suggest alternatives which might be appropriate alternative yardsticks for the purpose and will advise the member.

Normally the State Government uses a number of statistics for its own purposes such as growth of employment and other important specific economic indicators.

TOWN PLANNING

Orrong Road

968. Mr BRYCE, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

- (1) What is the total number of properties required by the Government for the proposed widening of Orrong Road?
- (2) How many properties are required on the Belmont side of Orrong Road?
- (3) How many properties are required on the Perth City side of Orrong Road?
- (4) When was the original realignment for this proposed widening first gazetted?
- (5) How many properties were involved in the original proposal?
- (6) How many properties in Orrong Road have already been purchased by the State Government?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) The number of lots affected by the proposed widening of Orrong Road between Riversdale Road where it joins the proposed Burswood Highway, and Kew Street near its junction with Leach Highway, is 179. This figure includes a number of lots which only have a small portion affected.
- (2) 99.
- (3) 71.
- (4) 26th May, 1970.
- (5) 174.
- (6) 26—9 purchased by the MRPA and 17 by the Main Roads Department, and of these 5 were only portions of properties.

HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS

Projects to be Cut Back

969. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

In view of his reported comments in *The West Australian* of 24th June this year, that "some of the hospitals and schools projects we were anxious to get on with will have to be cut back severely", after the last Premier's Conference, can he advise the House which hospitals and schools projects will have to be cut back?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

It will be apparent that, when the availability of capital funds is severely restricted, the Government is unable to undertake all the works it would wish to do. Details of the proposed capital works programme for 1978-79 will be presented to Parliament in due course.

STATE FINANCE

Development Project Programmes and Unemployment

970. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

Does the State Government endorse the view of the Queensland Premier, Mr Bjelke Petersen, in respect of the last Premier's Conference, when he said development project programmes would be wound down and unemployment would rise?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

Decisions made at the last Premiers' Conference and Loan Council meeting will not affect the progress of development projects in Western Australia. I am assuming the member is referring to resource type development projects. I am not aware of what impact they may have in Queensland. As I said, in reply to question 938, the minimal increase in loan funds and the cuts in specific purpose grants will make it difficult if not impossible for States to maintain previous levels of their employment.

MINING

Royalties

971. Mr BRYCE, to the Treasurer:

In view of the downturn in the iron ore industry, is there a prospect that revenue from mining royalties may be lower in the present financial year than were received in the financial year which has just been completed?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

Not on present estimates.

STATE FINANCE

Overseas Borrowing

972. Mr BRYCE, to the Premier:

- (1) Did the Federal Government outline the reasons why it found it necessary to maintain a veto on State Government overseas borrowing proposals?
- (2) If so, will he explain to the House the reasons given to him by the Federal Government?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) No adequate reasons were advanced, but the Prime Minister finally agreed with my suggestion that the present voting arrangements be tried for a period of three years following which they are to be reviewed in the light of the performance of all parties. I have no doubt that, if the Commonwealth exercises its power of veto in an unreasonable manner during that time, the voting arrangements will be changed.

CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS

Review of Control and Conduct

973. Mr WILSON, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Can he say what stage has been reached in the proposed review of the legislation relating to the control and conduct of charitable organisations?
- (2) What was the main motivation for the Government deciding to undertake this review?
- (3) What are the terms of reference to be used in undertaking the review?
- (4) What opportunity will be given to charitable organisations in the community to make submissions as part of this review?
- (5) When does the Government hope to bring such legislative changes before Parliament?

Sir Charles Court (for Mr O'NEIL) replied:

- (1) The review of legislation relating to the control and conduct of charitable organisations is being undertaken at departmental level.
- (2) A conference of charitable organisations sought amendments to the Act.
- (3) Recommendations from the conference referred to in (2).
- (4) Submissions will be welcomed from charitable organisations.
- (5) As no submissions have yet been made to the Government it is not possible to predict when or if legislative action will ensue.

CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Cockburn Sound: Discharge by CSBP

974. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister representing the Minister for Conservation and the Environment:

With respect to the discharge of waste materials from CSBP, Kwinana, into Cockburn Sound, what are the monthly totals discharged during each of the past 12 months?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

It is assumed that the member refers to the gypsum waste discharged by the company. The company produces approximately 345 tonnes of gypsum waste per day on a regular six day week. The average monthly discharge is therefore approximately 9 020 tonnes.

POLICE

Assaults on Policemen

975. Mr BERTRAM, to the Minister for Police and Traffic:

In his answer to question 853 of 1978 he said that 149 charges had been laid for assaults against policemen of which three were for common assault, 137 were for aggravated assault and nine were for other offences. Will he state the classification of the nine other offences?

Sir Charles Court (for Mr O'NEIL) replied:

One person charged with attempted murder indicted on charge of unlawful wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm. Imprisoned.

Two persons charged as accessories after the fact to attempted murder and grievous bodily harm and indicted on charge of accessories after the fact to unlawful wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm. One imprisoned, one has yet to be sentenced.

Six persons charged with assault occasioning bodily harm. Two imprisoned, two placed on probation, two to the care of the Department for Community Welfare.

OLYMPIC GAMES

Australian Contingent: Withdrawal

976. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

Relevant to my initial question 855 of 1978, and in view of the very considerable public interest therein, would he care to provide a more precise answer to the question as to the withdrawal of the Australian contingent from the Olympic Games in Moscow?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

My answer to question 855, 1st August, 1978, was precise. Any reference to the Moscow Olympics and withdrawal or participation by the Australian contingent is an invention of the member. He alone is causing any uncertainty in the minds of athletes that he alleges in his public statements.

My protest at this stage relates to the matters given in my answer to question 855.

If the member or his colleagues desire me or the Government to make representations to have the Australian contingent withdrawn, I suggest he advises me and the suggestion can be considered.

STATE FINANCE

Unpaid Wages and Salaries

977. Mr BERTRAM, to the Premier:

- (1) Is it still his policy that all accrued but unpaid wages and salaries payable out of Consolidated Revenue-Loan Funds and by Government instrumentalities should be brought into account each financial year?
- (2) If "Yes" was this policy completely implemented for the year ended 30th June, 1978?
- (3) (a) If "No" why; and
(b) how many millions of dollars were not accounted for?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) The policy has been applied to the salaries and wages item for departments in the Consolidated Revenue Fund Estimates in line with conventional accounting practice. Statutory authorities determine their own policy in this regard but are of course expected to follow conventional and acceptable accounting practices.

- (2) and (3) Yes, in relation to the Consolidated Revenue Fund items referred to previously.

LISTENING DEVICES ACT

Operation

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

- (1) Is the Listening Devices Act yet operating?
- (2) (a) If "Yes" since when;
(b) If "No" why?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) 16th June, 1978.
(b) Not applicable.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

*Alcoa Alumina Refinery at Wagerup:
Construction Programme Dates*

979. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

With respect to the proposed establishment of an alumina refinery at Wagerup, have discussions taken place or are they taking place with the company at which the company has suggested that it may have to put back its construction programme dates by up to 12 months?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

The Government and the company are agreed that construction of the Wagerup alumina refinery will begin as soon as possible after final approval by the Government of the company's environmental review and management programme.

ELECTORAL

Single Enrolment System

980. Mr JAMIESON, to the Chief Secretary:

- (1) Have any further developments taken place in connection with the provision of a common electoral roll in conjunction with the Commonwealth Electoral Department?
- (2) Will it be possible to achieve this goal before the next State or Commonwealth elections due in 1980?

Sir Charles Court (for Mr O'NEIL) replied:

- (1) The committee comprising the State Chief Electoral Officer, the Commonwealth Electoral Officer for Western Australia and a representative of the Under Treasurer has met and is in process of preparing a report and recommendations regarding joint Commonwealth/State Electoral rolls for presentation to the Government.
- (2) It is not possible to decide the question when or whether State/Commonwealth rolls will be implemented until the committee's report has been considered.

I.

HEALTH

Defoliant 2, 4-D: Manufacture at Thornlie

981. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Mines:

Adverting to page 173 of the Department of Mines Annual Report 1976, concerning (d) Pesticides at Thornlie, will he advise:

- (1) The name of the manufacturer?
- (2) The period over which 2, 4-D was manufactured at this site?
- (3) (a) What products were disposed of down a disused well; and
(b) by whom?
- (4) Was the Government of the day involved with the cessation of manufacture in this area?
- (5) Was any financial assistance provided either by loan, loan guarantee, direct grant or by any other means, to the manufacturer to transfer operation?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) Technical Supply Co.
- (2) 1952 to 1960.

- (3) (a) Residues and intermediate products from manufacture of 2, 4-D.

(b) Not known.

- (4) and (5) Yes.

SEWERAGE

Willagee

982. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Housing:

Will he advise me when I can expect to receive a reply to my letter of 23rd May, 1978, to the general manager of the State Housing Commission concerning the commission's policy in respect of connecting homes in Willagee to the sewerage scheme?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

There has been some work involved in giving a definitive answer.

The general manager advises me that a reply will be made within one week's time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

Large and Heavy Vehicles: Control

983. Mr HODGE, to the Minister for Local Government:

Section 543 of the Victorian Local Government Act gives Local Government Authorities the power to prohibit or restrict the use of certain streets and roads by large or heavy vehicles:

- (1) Does the Western Australian Local Government Act contain similar provisions?
- (2) If "Yes" what are the relevant sections?
- (3) If "No" to (1), are there any plans to amend the Act in this respect?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

- (1) and (2) No.
- (3) Not at the present. The matter is under consideration.

WAGE INDEXATION

Hearings

984. Mr HODGE, to the Acting Minister for Labour and Industry:

- (1) Is he aware that the Federal Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations has criticised the Premier of Victoria for continuing to assert that wage indexation hearings should be held every three months?
- (2) Does the Western Australian State Government support the policy of the Victorian Government in respect to wage indexation hearings?
- (3) At what interval does the Government believe the wage indexation hearings should be held?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) The Western Australian Government supports in principle the Commonwealth submission. However, in its submission to the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission it indicated that it was agreeable to six-monthly hearings in the interest of general acceptance.

TRANSPORT

Airport at Kwinana

985. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning:

Is his department aware of any proposals which could lead to the establishment of a new international airport in or near the town of Kwinana?

Mr RUSHTON replied:

A Commonwealth/State advisory committee is considering airport requirements for the region and it is understood that a report could be submitted for consideration by both Governments in the near future.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Ship Repair or Construction Facility

986. Mr TAYLOR, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

Is any company presently indicating an interest in establishing either a ship repair facility or a ship construction facility in Western Australia which could handle ships with tonnages in excess of 10 000 tonnes?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

No.

FISHERIES

Patrol Boats

987. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries and Wildlife:

- (1) How many patrol boats are operated by his department for the purpose of ensuring that fishermen do not infringe on requirements of Fisheries Act and regulations?
- (2) (a) In what areas are these boats based; and
(b) in what numbers?

Mr P. V. JONES replied:

- (1) Four ocean going patrol vessels.
Four mobile trailer units with offshore capability.
Six mobile trailer units restricted to inshore waters.

- (2) (a) and (b)—

Carnarvon: 1 Oceangoing

Shark Bay: 1 Mobile trailer unit offshore

Geraldton: 1 Oceangoing, 1 Mobile trailer unit offshore, 1 Mobile trailer unit inshore

Jurien Bay: 1 Mobile trailer unit inshore;

Lancelin: 1 Mobile trailer unit inshore;

Fremantle: 2 Oceangoing, 2 Mobile trailer units offshore;

Mandurah: 1 Mobile trailer unit inshore;

Bunbury: 1 Mobile trailer unit inshore;

Albany: 1 Mobile trailer unit inshore.

Small dinghies, etc., attached to oceangoing patrol vessels or used for riverine patrol work have not been included.

PATROL BOATS

Water Safety Requirements

988. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many patrol boats are operated by his department for the purpose of ensuring that owners of small craft meet water safety requirements?
- (2) (a) How many personnel are involved in above; and
(b) would the Minister indicate those areas where officers are based?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) 11 patrol vessels.
- (2) (a) 12 inspectors comprising 1 senior inspector, 9 mobile inspectors and 2 resident inspectors;
(b) 1 at Geraldton,
1 at Mandurah,
10 at Fremantle with a roving commission in all navigable waters within the State.

989. *This question was postponed.*

RAILWAY STATION

Capel

990. Mr BLAIKIE, to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Would the Minister advise whether Westrail intends to downgrade the Capel railway station to "unattended" status?
- (2) If "Yes" what are the reasons for this action?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

- (1) and (2) The future status of the Capel railway station is being examined but no decision has yet been made.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

HEALTH

Foodstuffs: Heavy Metals Level

1. Mr BARNETT, to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Is it a fact that Western Australia's health regulations set a maximum of 5.5 parts per million for heavy metals in foodstuffs and is this the basis of the Minister's recommendations?
- (2) Is the Minister aware that in 1973 the National Health and Medical Research Council set a level of two parts per million for cadmium in fish, fish molluscs, crustaceans, and processed and canned fish products?
- (3) In view of the fact that cadmium levels in mussels in Cockburn Sound are not just fractionally above WA's recommended levels but in fact more than three times the level recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council, would the Minister review his statements about the taking of mussels, as it may be necessary to recommend mussels not be taken at all in the light of this information?

Mr RIDGE replied:

- (1) No. Only those foods for which no prescribed limit for heavy metals is specified come under this designation.
- (2) Although this was included in the report of the 77th session no change was in fact recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council for adoption by States. The standard for heavy metals in foods, including fish, is being presently reviewed by the National Health and Medical Research Council.
- (3) No. The honourable member's facts are incorrect.

COCKBURN SOUND

Marine Pollution by CSBP

2. Mr HARMAN, to the Minister for Industrial Development:

- (1) Is there any legal requirement for CSBP to accept responsibility for marine pollution in Cockburn Sound?
- (2) If so, what are the details?

Mr MENSAROS replied:

- (1) and (2) I refer the honourable member to sections 15 and 27 of Act No. 93 of 1964.

STATE INCOME TAX

Rebate

3. Mr BRYCE, to the Treasurer:

- (1) Does he anticipate that when his Government proceeds with the implementation of stage 2 of new federalism a rebate will be granted on people's income tax?
- (2) Would he indicate to this Chamber whether he is aware of the name of any State leader, Treasury official, or economist who is on public record as having said he expects rebates on personal incomes to be granted by State Governments when this legislation is brought in?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, of course, has a bit of a "thing" about this.

Mr Davies: He has a right to have one, too, the way you are handling things.

Sir CHARLES COURT: He just tries to continue to distort and disrupt the situation and create an atmosphere of fear in the minds of people.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order. I have said previously that I want those of whom questions have been asked to be given the opportunity to answer the questions. Ministers are not obliged to answer questions in any specific way, and if the Opposition or any other member is not satisfied with the answer given another question can be asked.

Sir CHARLES COURT: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition tries to be smart and ask the smart aleck question about this matter. I repeat for his information, and in case he does not understand how taxing laws are placed on the Statute book in this State—

Mr Bryce: I understand clearly.

Sir CHARLES COURT: —that first of all the Government has to enact legislation which gives it the authority to levy a tax or make a rebate as the case may be.

Mr Bryce: You said that yesterday.

Sir CHARLES COURT: Secondly, having done that, in itself it does not impose or fix the rate of the tax or rebate. The Government then has to bring down another piece of legislation which is

specific as to the actual amount of rebate or tax as the case may be. It is not peculiar to this legislation. We have seen two Bills this afternoon dealing with exactly the same situation; one an assessment Act and the other the duty Act itself. The honourable member should be patient.

- (2) I cannot vouch for other States as to whether a Premier, Treasurer, or other officer has suggested he would be likely to grant a rebate, but it has happened. I remind the honourable member it has happened at the Federal level on more than one occasion. It is not unusual. However, the Budget situation dictates what would happen at any time. I repeat there is no intention to use the legislation this session, so the honourable member can relax.

STATE INCOME TAX

Rebate

4. Mr BRYCE, to the Treasurer:

As he has made public statements to give people the impression that there is a possibility his Government will grant a rebate on taxation, would he indicate whether it is likely his Government will do this when the measure is implemented?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

I think one is entitled to treat the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's question with the contempt it deserves.

Mr Bryce: All we want you to do is be straight and dinkum with the people.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I have said, and I say again, that this legislation is intended to enable either the imposition of a surcharge or the granting of a rebate. If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition wants to try his usual smart aleck kind of thing and say that meant I said people would get a rebate, he is distorting the facts. The cold hard fact is that such legislation would provide the facility to do one of two things; that is, grant a rebate or impose a surcharge.

Mr Bryce: Why don't you tell the truth and say people are going to be taxed?

Sir CHARLES COURT: If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition does not stop

talking about "telling the truth", I will deal with him.

LABOUR AND INDUSTRY PORTFOLIO

Acting Minister

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

- (1) Is he aware of the disadvantages involved in having an Acting Minister for a continuing period of time in a portfolio as sensitive as that of Labour and Industry?
- (2) When does he expect to complete his considerations of the Cabinet decision and announce the result of those considerations?

Sir CHARLES COURT replied:

- (1) and (2) To have an Acting Minister for a few weeks, or even longer, is not an unusual situation.

Mr B. T. Burke: But it is not a desirable thing, is it? Are you saying it is desirable?

Sir CHARLES COURT: Nobody has said it is desirable. If the honourable member will just listen for a moment, I was saying it is not an unusual situation.

Mr Bertram: Not with this Government.

Sir CHARLES COURT: I am not prepared at this stage to say when the vacancy will be filled, but it will be filled in due time.

WATER SUPPLIES

Reports

6. Mr DAVIES, to the Minister for Water Supplies:

I would like to ask the Minister for Water Supplies a question without notice. Will he table all the reports for the past 12 months of the Water Purity Committee and the Water Resources Council when the House next assembles? These reports have been mentioned in debate at other times. If the Minister will not table them, will he tell us why not?

Mr O'CONNOR replied:

I will give consideration to the matter and advise the honourable member next week.

Mr Davies: Splendid!
