

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 5 September 1989

THE SPEAKER (Mr Barnett) took the Chair at 2.15 pm, and read prayers.

PETITION - DAYLIGHT SAVING

Western Australia - Opposition

MR McNEE (Moore) [2.18 pm]: I have a petition as follows -

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

We, the undersigned, are totally opposed to the concept of Daylight Saving and request that no consideration be given to its introduction into Western Australia.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 333 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 30.]

PETITION - EDEN HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Covered Assembly Area - Building Request

MR DONOVAN (Morley) [2.19 pm]: I have a petition as follows -

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

We, the undersigned citizens of Western Australia, call upon the State Government to provide Eden Hill Primary School with a "covered assembly area", in line with schools currently being built, in order that our children's assemblies and other important social functions are not reliant on the weather being favourable.

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

The petition bears 122 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 31.]

PETITION - ABORTIONS

Prohibition

MR DONOVAN (Morley) [2.20 pm]: This petition is couched in the following terms -

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

We, the undersigned, note that approximately 8,000 abortions are being performed in Western Australia each year. The vast majority of these abortions do not conform to the requirements laid down in the Criminal Code, but are carried out on physically and emotionally healthy women.

We plead that the Parliament of Western Australia take all necessary action to prohibit freely available abortions (including the enforcement of the Criminal Code against abortionists) that are taking the lives of thousands of unborn Western Australian children.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 24 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 32.]

A similar petition was presented by Mr Ainsworth (23 persons).

[See petition No 35.]

PETITION - DAYLIGHT SAVING

Western Australia - Opposition

MR WIESE (Wagin) [2.21 pm]: I have a petition which reads as follows -

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

We the undersigned request the Government of Western Australia to respect the wishes of the people of Western Australia regarding daylight saving. These wishes have been twice expressed by way of Referenda held on 8th March 1975 and 7 April 1984.

In both of these Referenda the people of Western Australia soundly rejected daylight saving and we again reaffirm that rejection by signing this petition.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

The petition bears 1 576 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 33.]

PETITION- STATE BATTERIES

Sale Withdrawal - State Batteries Board Establishment

MR MacKINNON (Jandakot - Leader of the Opposition) [2.22 pm]: I present the following petition -

To: The Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, request the following:

That the government application for the sale of the State batteries be withdrawn, and that they continue to operate until a more efficient system can be developed.

That the government immediately establish a State Batteries board consisting of government, industry and prospectors representatives to consider the feasibility studies and make recommendations to the governments future operations of State batteries.

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

The petition bears 29 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 34.]

PETITION - GRAIN SILOS

Bunbury Port - Preservation

MR P.J. SMITH (Bunbury) [2.24 pm]: I have a petition which reads as follows -

To: The Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We the Undersigned ask that the State Government do everything possible to preserve the Historic concrete grain silos at the Bunbury Port for the following reasons:-

- (1) Their construction is being recorded as being of architectural and engineering significance to the history of W.A.
- (2) They are recommended to be retained as a feature building of an historic-tourist precinct in the proposed Bunbury Harbour City development.
- (3) They are an ideal building for the proposed South West Regional Environment Museum and Fun Park as part of the Harbour City development.
- (4) They will be a symbol of the grain trade which has linked Bunbury to its hinterland for decades.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 1 654 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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

[See petition No 36.]

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) BILL

Second Reading - Budget Debate

Debate resumed from 31 August.

MR MacKINNON (Jandakot - Leader of the Opposition) [2.32 pm]: The Budget is a document that tells the people of Western Australia and this Parliament about the type of Government they have; about the effectiveness or otherwise of the administration of the Government, or its maladministration; and how the Government has taken advantage of opportunities presented to it throughout the year or whether it has squandered those opportunities. This Budget does just that; it is a clear indication of the maladministration practised under the premiership of Peter Dowding and his colleagues. It is quite clearly an indication of the tremendous waste and lost opportunity for radical and fundamental change in Western Australia. The Budget is clearly an indication of the cost now being paid by all Western Australians as a consequence of that maladministration and lost opportunity.

I turn first to the crisis in confidence faced by the Premier and his Government in Western Australia. If the Premier doubts the existence of that crisis in confidence, I suggest he takes time to walk around the streets and the suburbs of Perth, as I did on Saturday. If he does so, he will probably bump into the sorts of people I bumped into. Two of those people have distributed how-to-vote cards for the candidates opposing me at every election in which I have been involved. They are members of the Australian Labor Party, and they approached me and asked what the Opposition intended to do about the corrupt Government in Western Australia. One of those persons is a senior office holder in a union with its headquarters in Perth. That is a reflection of the crisis in confidence among the Government's supporters; little wonder that the crisis in confidence exists among the balance of the community in Western Australia. Of course, it is not surprising in view of what has happened in this State. Prior to the election the Premier was supported by some big business people, some of whom had the temerity to liken him to Margaret Thatcher. Before the election the Premier asked those people to vote for a future they could believe in. Little wonder that those same people cannot believe in the present, as delivered by this Premier, let alone any future he may have promised. They shake their heads in disbelief at what has happened in the last week. The Premier attacked almost every one of those people who, prior to the election, were his strongest, most vocal, and biggest financial supporters. He used the Parliament in a totally unprecedented way to launch those attacks. He and his Government have been subjected to an unprecedented number - and I predict the number will increase - of court actions. He has taken mudslinging to a new art form. The real Peter Dowding is beginning to emerge. His true colours began to emerge on the evening of the election, but they are now clear for all to see. On the television program "A Current Affair" last week the Premier was almost struck dumb by his own activities.

From this whole affair some amazing revelations have emerged. As I have said previously - for the first time three or four weeks ago - there are many more chapters to be written in this seemingly never ending saga of WA Inc, and Peter Dowding will be the star of almost all those chapters. Many more revelations have yet to come. In fact, the revelations in the Bond Corporation statement last Thursday disclosed some major discrepancies which go to the very core of the petrochemical affair, and the WA Inc scandal. Those revelations relate to the three fundamental questions which surround this matter: First, who encouraged who in this affair; secondly, what was the level of Government support; and, thirdly, how does this compare with the Government's and the Premier's claims?

Let us briefly consider some of the comments contained in the statement made by Mr Beckwith on Thursday 31 August. In the second paragraph he indicated that a letter of assurance had been written by Mr Grill, the present Minister for Tourism, which induced Bond Corporation to lend funds to Rothwells, and which led to the PICL venture. I ask the Minister for Tourism whether he gave such a letter to Bond Corporation.

Mr Peter Dowding: Boring, boring. The documents have been tabled. This is endless. Why not talk about some of the issues -

Mr MacKINNON: It can be seen that the Premier and Government members monotonously repeat the untruth. The Premier just said, "We have tabled all the papers." I ask the Premier: Where is the letter of assurance from Mr Grill?

Mr Grill: Let me look at it; you say you have a letter.

Mr MacKINNON: Where is the letter of assurance? Is the Minister for Economic Development and Trade denying its existence?

Mr Grill: I cannot remember any such letter. If the Leader of the Opposition has such a letter, let me see it.

Mr MacKINNON: Let us place on record the fact that the Minister cannot recall such a letter; is he saying there is no such letter?

Mr Grill: A letter has not been tabled today. If the Leader of the Opposition has such a letter, show it to me and I will look at it.

Mr MacKINNON: Can the Minister for Economic Development and Trade recall signing such a letter of assurance?

Mr Grill: To be honest with you, no.

Mr MacKINNON: That sounds a bit like the answer to the question about the R & I Bank. Perhaps the Minister will stand in the Parliament tomorrow and give another answer, a "further explanation". This statement is clear and was not made with the protection and privilege of the Parliament and it talks about a letter of assurance from Mr Grill.

Mr Grill: What are you reading from?

Mr MacKINNON: From Mr Beckwith's statement of Thursday last. He says that that letter encouraged them to enter into the Rothwells adventure in the first place.

Mr Grill: If there is such a letter, you should produce it.

Mr MacKINNON: Did the Minister for Economic Development and Trade sign it?

Mr Grill: If there is such a letter, you should produce it.

Mr MacKINNON: This is astounding: The Government is at the centre of the major scandal in this State's history; this Minister is named in the second paragraph of a major statement made last week and yet he indicates that he cannot remember whether or not he signed the letter - as if he has not read the statement. He is either derelict in his duty, or is not telling the truth.

Mr Peter Dowding: What statement are you quoting from? Is it a Press release?

Mr MacKINNON: It is a statement made by Mr Beckwith on 31 August.

Mr Peter Dowding: Where did you get it from?

Mr MacKINNON: I rang the media office of Bond Corporation and they sent it to me. Like the Government media office, you ring that office to get a copy of the transcript. I would have thought that the Premier's media office did exactly the same thing as my media office.

Mr Peter Dowding: Who rang, you or your media office?

Mr MacKINNON: What difference does that make?

Mr Peter Dowding: Did you ring or did you get your media office to ring?

Mr Court: Did you talk to your father on Father's Day?

Mr MacKINNON: Yes. The interesting matter is that the Premier and his colleagues can ask all of these questions but cannot answer the simple one about whether there was a letter of assurance, when was it signed, and why it has not been tabled. The Premier said in a disparaging way a moment ago, "Get on with it, we have tabled all the documents." The Government has not done that, and this is one of the crucial documents to be tabled.

I return to the document to see the level of Government support. Perhaps the Premier would be so kind as to comment on Mr Beckwith's statement that the PIL agreements that were finally entered into had the Government first reducing the gas price to zero.

Mr Court: You can't get much cheaper than that.

Mr MacKINNON: You can. Initially, under the direction of Kevin Edwards, the original contract said that if the company got into difficulty the SEC would provide extra support, but they ended up at zero. Why is that not shown in the documents tabled?

Mr Peter Dowding: The documents tabled reflect the agreement entered into; that is, the agreement which binds the parties.

Mr MacKINNON: Nothing in those documents relates to a zero price for gas.

Mr Peter Dowding: I make clear to the Leader of the Opposition that we always had a system of negotiation over these matters and the documents that have been tabled demonstrate where the negotiations ended up; so whatever position people took at an early stage is where the agreement ended up, and that is in the documents tabled.

Mr MacKINNON: Unlike the statements of the Premier, this statement was made by Mr Beckwith without the protection of the Parliament. He said, "the PIL agreements finally entered into," not the "preliminary agreement" and not the "discussion" but the document finally entered into, "had the Government of Western Australia first reducing the gas price to zero." It is interesting that when the documents were tabled last week all the prices and those other aspects were deleted.

Mr Peter Dowding: No, they were not; the price was deleted.

Mr Kierath: How much?

Mr MacKINNON: Zero.

Mr Kierath: Are they giving it away?

Mr MacKINNON: Yes, zero. Mr Beckwith's statement continues -

Prior to completion of the transaction as I have said the Government agreed to provide a Treasurer's guarantee -

There is that "guarantee" word again -

and produced the written opinion of the Solicitor General to convince us such guarantee was legal, binding and effective.

Mr Peter Dowding: That is a Government to WA Government Holdings -

Mr MacKINNON: That is the guarantee that is not a guarantee. Where is the opinion of the Solicitor General? Was that tabled?

Mr Peter Dowding: Are you making Bond's speech or your own?

Mr MacKINNON: I am making my own speech about a very public and important matter every single word of which I am prepared to repeat outside this place. The Premier appeared on a radio station claiming, as he just did, that, "We have tabled every single document. They are all there." He said that again today. He has not tabled one of the most crucial documents of all, the Solicitor General's opinion saying that such a guarantee was legally binding and effective.

Mr Peter Dowding: That was referred to in the report of the Commission on Accountability which was issued prior to the election. Don't pretend that is a secret.

Mr MacKINNON: If it was referred to in the report of the Commission on Accountability, why not table it?

Mr Peter Dowding: Why did you not ask for it when you were here in April?

Mr Court: We are asking now.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr MacKINNON: To show how foolish this Premier is, he claims that we have asked for all the documents tabled. We did not ask for specific documents, we wanted them tabled.

Mr Peter Dowding: I said all the relevant documents were tabled.

Mr MacKINNON: Does the Premier not think that the Solicitor General's guarantee is relevant?

Mr Peter Dowding: He did not give a guarantee.

Mr MacKINNON: If he did not give a guarantee, then table the opinion.

Mr Peter Dowding: To what end?

Mr MacKINNON: The Premier asks, "To what end?"

Mr Peter Dowding: The report of the Commission on Accountability advised -

Mr MacKINNON: This document indicates that one of the key factors influencing the Bond Corporation was a letter of assurance from Mr Grill, now Minister for Agriculture, which has not been tabled and which he cannot recall and does not know the existence of. Also, there was a written opinion from the Solicitor General, as we understand, given twice to convince them that such a guarantee was legally binding and effective, yet the Premier asks, "What do you want that tabled for?"

Mr Peter Dowding: I am not saying that at all. I am saying that that document was referred to publicly in the report of the Commission on Accountability about the nature of the relationship between the Government and WA Government Holdings, so do not pretend to me that it is some kind of secret document.

Mr MacKINNON: Then why not table it?

Mr Peter Dowding: Because there is no doubt.

Mr MacKINNON: Agree to table it.

Mr Peter Dowding: There is no dispute.

Mr MacKINNON: Table it.

Mr Peter Dowding: What for? The Leader of the Opposition should make his speech and say what documents he wants, and we will consider his request.

Mr MacKINNON: That comes from the man who moments ago said, "We have tabled all relevant documents." He will not table the key documents.

Mr Peter Dowding: What is the relevance of it?

Mr Kierath: He only wants to tell the part of the story he wants to tell.

Mr MacKINNON: Exactly, and under privilege. Later in his statement Mr Beckwith said the following -

As part of the commercial settlement of our pending litigation the Government was required to complete a number of transactions some of which were previously agreed to by the Premier.

Can the Premier tell us which of those transactions were agreed to? Is it a fact that the Government has already agreed to purchase the Emu Brewery site? No comment.

Mr Peter Dowding: I am sorry, what did you say?

Mr MacKINNON: Is it a fact that the Government has in principle, or in any other way, agreed to purchase the Emu Brewery site?

Mr Peter Dowding: I made my position absolutely clear on that matter; that we were not prepared to do a deal of any sort, nature or colour which was uncommercial.

Mr MacKINNON: I will ask the question again. Has the Premier agreed to purchase the Emu Brewery site; yes or no?

Mr Peter Dowding: No; there was no agreement to purchase the Emu Brewery site.

Mr MacKINNON: Has the Government purchased it?

Mr Peter Dowding: No; we have not purchased it.

Mr MacKINNON: Which parts of that agreement have been agreed to?

Mr Peter Dowding: You want to cross examine me on Peter Beckwith's statement. I say that statement grossly misled the public about many aspects of the past, but it is a very surprising thing that you are taking on the task of cross examining me on his statement.

Mr MacKINNON: If that is the case, why does the Premier not table all the relevant documents?

We come finally to the memorandum of understanding, which Mr Turnbull was apparently negotiating on the Premier's behalf up to 1.00 pm last Tuesday, just before the Premier came into this Parliament. Where is that document, and will the Premier table it?

Mr Peter Dowding: That is an absolute nonsense. We have said we had a series of negotiations with Bond Corporation over an extended period, but no final agreement was made. I made it clear that no final agreement was made because the Bond Corporation started to threaten the Government and make demands that were absolutely untenable.

Mr MacKINNON: Yet despite all those threats and demands, and the Premier's detailing the dates of all those negotiations, his representative was down at Bond Corporation last Tuesday - just before the Premier stood up in this Parliament - trying to seek some agreement, and leading them along; or was he really trying to reach an agreement, and if so, where is the documentation? Why will the Premier not table that document?

Mr Peter Dowding: I made it clear that no agreement was reached.

Mr MacKINNON: Why can we not see the document?

Mr Peter Dowding: There have been negotiations with Bond Corporation for weeks and weeks.

Mr MacKINNON: The man sitting opposite us is indicating that he will not show us any of the relevant documents, and that everything he said last week does not really matter because his man, Mr Turnbull, was negotiating with Bond Corporation right up to the death knock; or was it part of a monumental con which was intended to be put over Bond Corporation for some commercial advantage?

Mr Peter Dowding: Why not say that outside the House?

Mr Court: What - that it was a confidence trick?

Mr MacKINNON: I will say anywhere, at any time, that it was a confidence trick.

We have not seen tabled any of the crucial documents necessary to ascertain the truth of what is happening in this affair, and what was the role of the Premier. What we saw at the end of last week and what we see at the beginning of this week is a Premier who is actively seeking to destroy one of the biggest corporations in Australia, Bond Corporation, with huge potential costs to be imposed not just on the people of Western Australia - who may well have investments therein - but also on the State of Western Australia.

Mr Hassell: It is a deliberate and cold blooded plan to destroy a corporation because it is in conflict with him.

Mr MacKINNON: Absolutely. Secondly, we see a Premier who is prepared to make outlandish claims and to mudsling all over the place, particularly in this Parliament, about the matter. Thirdly, we see a man who has told only half the truth - if that - about who encouraged whom and what level of Government support was involved in this affair. We see, finally, that the Premier's claim to have tabled all the documents is a massive deception. Lest there be any doubt about who stands where in respect of Bond Corporation, let it be noted that it was the Opposition which referred the claims of the Premier to an independent authority for assessment because I will not condone or abide by any such action. I have received an acknowledgment from the Corruption Commission. The Premier has been

prepared to stand in this place and wax long and lyrical, but do nothing about the pursuit of his claims. We will diligently do that.

Mr Peter Dowding: You know we took advice on that subject.

Mr MacKINNON: I also have taken advice, which varies considerably from that which the Premier has tabled and which he claims to have acted upon.

Mr Peter Dowding: Bond Corporation did not make available a copy of that statement, but as you have it, will you provide us with a copy?

Mr MacKINNON: If the Premier wants a copy, I will get one for him, but I would ask his adviser to phone Bond Corporation media office to see whether they will send him a copy. They sent us a copy, so why would they not do that for him?

Mr Peter Dowding: Are you saying you will not give me a copy?

Mr MacKINNON: Is the Premier saying there is no copy of Bond Corporation's statement in the Ministry of Premier and Cabinet?

Mr Peter Dowding: There is not, as far as I am aware.

Mr MacKINNON: The Premier can have a copy at the conclusion of my speech, when I will have finished with the statement.

Mr Grill: What is the date of the letter I am supposed to have signed?

Mr MacKINNON: He did not give an indication of the date; that is why I asked the Minister.

The Deputy Premier said in October last year, "There will be no impact whatsoever on the Consolidated Revenue Fund or the General Loan Fund." The Premier indicated on 21 October, "Finance for the project is self supporting and will not impact on taxpayers or Government revenue." I will prove conclusively that the comments which were made deliberately and wilfully by those men in October last year were made in the sure and certain knowledge that they were false. The real message of this Budget document shows that to be the case. We see on page 59 of the Budget papers that in the financial year 1988-89, under item 78, there was no vote for WA Government Holdings Ltd, but there was an amount of \$38.8 million for expenditure. The Estimate for this financial year was \$62.3 million. The member for Cottesloe asked last week what that \$62.3 million was for, and why in the \$38 million spent last year the Government was actually repaying the principal of the loan. The Government says that is part and parcel of the overall scheme of things, but I remind the House that it is Petrochemical Industries Ltd which is actually borrowing the money, through WAGH, yet the Government has repaid an amount of \$20 million off the principal of that loan.

Mr Parker: We have not paid any money off the PIL loan.

Mr MacKINNON: Bingo - the Government paid it off the WAGH loan, which went to PIL. We all know that PIL is dead; there will be no opportunity to recover the debt, yet \$20 million has been paid off the WAGH loan. That happened because the Government gave a guarantee; and it knows it.

Mr Blaikie: The Deputy Premier is looking very ill right now.

Mr MacKINNON: Does that \$62 million for this year and \$38 million for last year include the total repayments of loans for WA Government Holdings Ltd this year? Does the \$62 million repay the total WA Government Holdings Ltd loan which the Treasurer says is not a loan?

Mr Parker: I told you last week, if you put the question on the Notice Paper I will tell you.

Mr MacKINNON: He cannot remember the most important single issue in this Budget. The Treasurer cannot recall whether it repays all the loan. When are we likely to see the repayment of the \$175 million owed by WA Government Holdings Ltd to the SGIC? The cost to taxpayers has been enormous.

Look at page 14 of the Budget. Financial institutions duty last year was \$36 million. This year it is \$56 million. The Government could have wiped out financial institutions duty completely this year with what it has lost and squandered deceitfully on the PIL project, and still had money left over. Alternatively, the Government need not have increased the fuel

levy by 36 per cent, and it would still have had change left over. It could have employed another 1 500 teachers or 1 500 police officers. The cost of that investment was 1 500 public servants, or all of the financial institutions duty, or the fuel tax increase. That is what I meant when I talked of a Budget of lost opportunity.

Those statements by the Premier and his deputy about the impact on the Budget which I read out earlier were never true. I refer members to the First Boston report.

Mr Grill: Is the letter you refer to dated 3 July 1988 and sent as part of the memorandum of understanding?

Mr MacKINNON: It is called a letter of assurance.

Mr Grill: If that is the letter, it has been tabled already.

Mr MacKINNON: Is it a letter of assurance?

Mr Grill: Well, that is what it amounts to. It has already been tabled. You are the one who has made the mistake.

Mr MacKINNON: I asked the Minister a question about the letter.

Mr Grill: How do I know which letter you are referring to if you don't give me the date of the letter?

Mr MacKINNON: I did not sign the letter. I asked the Minister a question, "When did you sign it?"

Mr Grill: You can't even give me the date of it. Which letter are you talking about?

Mr MacKINNON: There is no date in the Press statement, so how would I know? It is called the letter of assurance from Mr Grill.

Mr Grill: What date is it?

Mr MacKINNON: There is no date given. It is not my letter.

Several members interjected.

Mr Kierah: Are you prepared to table the letter of assurance?

Mr MacKINNON: How many letters of assurance did the Minister write?

Mr Grill: A letter has been tabled.

Mr MacKINNON: A letter has been tabled, but is that the one written by the Minister?

Mr Grill: It fits the description.

Mr MacKINNON: How many letters did the Minister write?

Mr Grill: You do not have any idea what you are talking about; why don't you admit it?

Mr MacKINNON: I wonder how many letters the Minister did write.

Mr Grill: You have no idea at all.

Mr MacKINNON: How many letters did the Minister write?

Mr Grill: You have no idea!

Mr MacKINNON: The Minister has no idea how many letters he wrote.

Mr Grill: You have no idea; which letter are you referring to?

Mr MacKINNON: The Minister does not know how many letters he wrote; that is why there is this confusion.

Mr Hassell: Now he does not know how many he wrote.

Mr MacKINNON: He does not know whether it is this one or another one. When the Premier and his deputy said in October that there would be no impact on the Consolidated Revenue Fund or the General Loan Fund, what did they know? They knew that the First Boston report, on which they had relied totally to justify their investment, said this -

The First Boston considers the Government financial support arrangements as adding material support to the financing prospects of the project. Without such contingent WA Government support the 100 % debt financing for PICL cannot be arranged.

It was not that the support "may not be able to be arranged", it was that it was "not possible". Within a month of that statement, the Premier and his deputy then said words to the effect that there would be no impact on taxpayers or on Government revenue. They continued to deny that there would ever be any impact in any form whatsoever. As we know now, every Western Australian is paying that price.

Let us turn to the claim by the Treasurer that this is a Budget to help the family. It does not require any close examination to see that it does not measure up. The Premier claims that his Government is keeping costs within the rate of inflation.

Mr Peter Dowding: Which you never did!

Mr MacKINNON: It does not measure up. Let us look at what has happened as far as the impact on the family is concerned within the rate of inflation since the election and that commitment to keep costs down. Firstly, the fuel levy was increased by 36 per cent. As I understand it, that is in no way within the rate of inflation - not yet, anyway. I remind members and the Premier that fuel costs impact on every single person in Western Australia.

Mr Kierath: Including families!

Mr MacKINNON: Every single family in Western Australia. They buy food; they go to work; they go to school. Whatever they buy has this 36 per cent added.

Mr Parker: It has the effect of increasing the price of fuel by three per cent.

Mr MacKINNON: The increase was 36 per cent.

Mr Peter Dowding: What did Greiner do in New South Wales?

Mr MacKINNON: We do not happen to be talking about the Government of New South Wales; we are talking about Western Australia. In August the Premier promised that the impact of major costs upon families would not go up by anything greater than the rate of inflation. On top of that the Treasurer increased financial institutions duty by 75 per cent.

The income of every single family in this State is impacted upon by financial institutions duty. Is that not a cost which impacts upon families of Western Australia? We can look at the whole range of Government charges. This is a list of over 100 charges which have gone up by more than the rate of inflation. The Water Authority charges in country areas have gone up by 74 per cent, financial institutions duty by 24 per cent, road traffic driving licence renewals by 25 per cent, and SEC electricity and gas meter rentals by 12 per cent. Even if they do not impact on families, as one of the business people said when commenting on the Budget last week, every single cost imposed on business ends up being paid for by a family. Payroll tax is passed on. This Premier thinks it just comes out of some magic, bottomless pit.

Mr Peter Dowding: Get onto payroll tax.

Mr MacKINNON: We all pay those costs, and myriad other taxes - the income from which, as I have continued to explain, has ballooned out under this Administration. In each year that this Government has been in office, bar 1985-86, tax receipts have increased by more than the rate of inflation. The figures were 23 per cent in 1983-84, 16 per cent in 1984-85, seven per cent in 1985-86, 14 per cent in 1986-87, 28 per cent in 1987-88 and 20 per cent in 1988-89. In every year that this Government has been in power, with the exception of 1985-86, tax revenues have increased by far more than the rate of inflation - in fact, by at least twice that rate.

Mr Kierath: Is that a future you can believe in?

Mr MacKINNON: That is not even a past one can believe in, let alone a future. If members doubt that, they should just look at the Government's own documents tabled with the Budget papers. Those documents include a table that shows the per head of population tax increases. The Government's own publication shows that in every year except 1985-86 the rate of increase in per head of population terms has increased by more than the rate of inflation.

Mr Parker: It is because of the increased economic activity.

Mr MacKINNON: Let us look at that claim, which I knew would come up because it comes up every time. Even if it were due to the level of economic activity one would certainly not expect revenue from taxes to go up by more than the rate of inflation per head of population. In fact, taxation revenue rose last year by 20 per cent - 13 per cent above the per head of population increase.

Mr Peter Dowding: Why? It is because at last we have some value-adding going on in the State - something you could never get up and running.

Mr MacKINNON: Value-adding like the petrochemical project! A commitment to the family! Even the Government's own documents that have been tabled in the Parliament give the lie to that.

I turn now to the other illusion that has been created by the Government - or that it has attempted to create; that is, that it is all because of the Commonwealth cutbacks that Western Australia is in trouble with its funding programs.

Mr Parker: We did not say it is the only reason.

Mr MacKINNON: "It is all because of the Commonwealth cutbacks." Mr Speaker, I want you to look at the detail of what has happened with respect to capital works. This is a schedule which I will seek to incorporate in *Hansard* at the end of my speech because it makes very illuminating reading indeed. One would have thought that capital works programs would have been very high on the agenda of a Government wanting, as it said in last year's Budget speech, to set a social agenda in Western Australia. Do you know, Mr Speaker, that I have looked back over the records and that from 1983-84 right through until 1986-87 the Government underspent its capital works budget - but not by a great deal. It underspent by \$9 million, then \$3 million, then \$5 million, then \$10 million; and in 1987-88 it underspent by \$71 million.

Mr Parker: Deliberately.

Mr MacKINNON: And last year it underspent the capital works budget by \$160 million.

Mr Parker: Very deliberately.

Mr Peter Dowding: You know perfectly well the industry was overheated.

Mr Court: Come on! What about those family centres you spoke of?

Mr MacKINNON: The Commonwealth's contribution last year to this State for capital works was \$136 million. The Treasurer says, "We deliberately did not spend \$160 million." No wonder the Federal Treasurer said to this Treasurer when he went to Canberra this year, "You can't have as much as you had last year."

Mr Peter Dowding: That is not what he said at all.

Mr MacKINNON: He said, "I will give you \$136 million. You did not even spend \$160 million of your total allocation, so why should I give you more?" Incompetent! And I am very pleased the Treasurer indicated that he deliberately did not spend it. Let us look at where the Government deliberately did not spend those funds. What about child care centres? This Government budgeted \$2 million, but do members know how much it spent? It spent \$1 000 - deliberately!

Mr Court: Because the economy was overheating!

Mr MacKINNON: As for family centres, which my colleague, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, just mentioned, this Government budgeted \$3 million and spent \$146 000. It planned to spend \$37 000 on youth drop-in centres, but spent only \$767. Do members recall the gaol riot in Fremantle, and do they recall the Government's saying, "We will fast track work at Casuarina"? Roughly \$35 million was budgeted but only \$25 million was actually spent.

Mr Parker: That was certainly very deliberate, because of the problems on the site.

Mr MacKINNON: Again, it was deliberate - because the Government cannot control its own industrial relations.

Mr Parker: We were not going to be dictated to.

Mr MacKINNON: Let us look at the electorate of my colleague, the member for Warren. A sum of \$800 000 was budgeted for the redevelopment of the Warren District Hospital but this Government actually spent only \$120 000. It was a great promise, and I went down there to talk to the board of that hospital. The board thought the Government had made a commitment, but what did it spend? Only \$120 000 - that is all. That hospital is in urgent need of redevelopment, but that will not occur. As for the Dawesville Channel, we know the story about that, and the one about the Joondalup Police Centre.

Mr Peter Dowding: Do you want the Dawesville Channel?

Mr MacKINNON: I want it built, yes.

Mr Peter Dowding: What about the local member?

Mr MacKINNON: So does he.

So much for the Government which has a great commitment to all these social values. It deliberately underspent in a whole range of areas, from agriculture to the arts, to conservation and land management, corrective services, marine and harbours - and all of this deliberately. It is little wonder that the Commonwealth Government said, "You cannot even administer your own Budget. We will not let you have any more. You do not need it if that is the case." So this State has ended in much worse shape as a consequence of that.

I want to finish with three comments. The first relates to the question of asset sales. In this Budget the Government has undertaken what I believe to be one of the worst financial transactions this State has ever seen.

Mr Kierath: Don't tell me they are selling off the family silver now.

Mr MacKINNON: Exactly. Page 14 of the Budget refers to an allocation of \$55 million for an Asset Management Taskforce. No-one would argue about the need for efficient and proper management of the Government's assets.

Mr Peter Dowding: Except that you never bothered when you were in Government to find out exactly what the Government owned, who worked for the Government, or how many people worked for the Government. So don't tell us that.

Mr MacKINNON: Nobody would deny that; however, in respect of the \$55 million being put into capital works or the reduction of loans, which is the proper, prudent and normal treatment of capital funds, that money has gone into the Consolidated Revenue Fund to be spent on wages and salaries, stamps, advertising and telephones. As my colleague, the member for Riverton, said, this Government is selling off the family silver.

Mr Peter Dowding: That is not correct. We are using CRF funds for capital works.

Mr MacKINNON: The Premier just indicated the money is being used for capital works. Which ones? I ask the Premier which capital works. I think he made a mistake.

Mr Parker: In the last year that you were in Government you funded a Capital Works Program of about \$1 billion almost entirely by borrowings of \$900 million. This year we are funding a Capital Works Program of \$1.6 billion with borrowings from State and CRF related sources of only \$340 million. Which is the more responsible?

Mr MacKINNON: Let us look at this document - \$55 million-worth of assets is going straight into the Consolidated Revenue Fund and nothing that the Treasurer says can alter that.

Mr Peter Dowding interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: Where? Which capital works? The Premier does not even understand his own Treasury documents.

Mr Peter Dowding: It goes from the Consolidated Revenue Fund straight into the Capital Works Program.

Mr MacKINNON: There is no line item in this Budget which balances to capital works. The Treasurer should tell me where it is.

Mr Parker: I will explain it to you. You go through the accounts and find it.

Mr MacKINNON: The Premier then claimed that this was happening in New South Wales. I can tell the House that this is not happening in New South Wales because that \$55 million is going into asset replacement or debt reduction, and that -

Several members interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: One can tell from the responses from the Premier and the Treasurer that what I have said is absolutely accurate. Fifty five million dollars when the Government is selling the family jewels or family furniture to fund postage stamps, telephone bills, entertainment expenses and Government overseas travelling expenses.

Mr Kierath: Is there any money for a sausage system?

Mr MacKINNON: I was just about to mention that - to fund that Minister for Housing's new adviser, the former member for Scarborough. That Minister will not reveal to the Parliament how much the former member for Scarborough is being paid in that capacity. It is interesting that when that person was a member of this House, he did not care whether people knew how much he was being paid. Now that he is a ministerial adviser, we can suddenly no longer know. There goes accountability; so much for accountability. When we have a job for the boys, in this instance the former member for Scarborough, the answer today is, "The details of that contract are confidential." Members should read the report of Mr Burt and see what he says about that sort of practice. That is a report which the Government is supposed to have adopted lock, stock and barrel. There is no comment about the salary of the former member for Scarborough; we are not to know.

Mrs Beggs: Ring him up and ask him.

Mr MacKINNON: It is not whether I want to know, it is what the Parliament and the public are entitled to know.

Mrs Beggs: What about Hon Ray Young? How much was he paid?

Mr MacKINNON: The Labor Government employed him.

Mrs Beggs: That is what I am saying. Did you ask him how much he was paid?

Mr MacKINNON: I think we did at the time. I put several questions on the Notice Paper and in fact the Minister for Housing answered them. In this instance the Minister is not prepared to answer my questions. I do not know why.

The principle of asset sales for revenue funding is wrong and should not be tolerated, should not be continued and should not be practised. If it is to be used for capital works, why is this not a capital works Budget? It is not; it is in the Consolidated Revenue Fund Budget because it is going into all of the things about which I just spoke.

Secondly I wanted to comment on the Tourism Commission. As a former Minister for Tourism, I have commended in the past the former Premier, Brian Burke, for at least two things he did - he did a couple of good things, not too many - and that was the appointment of the former Governor and the giving of a high profile and extra funding to the Tourism Commission. That was a worthwhile move and one which was overdue. I believe that the Liberal Government did not live up to its responsibilities in that regard although I was a former Minister for Tourism. However, this year - a year when we are supposed to be building on huge tourism opportunities - there is an effective 20 per cent cut in the Tourism Commission budget. In fact where it really counts - because one would have thought that the Tourism Commission's prime role is marketing - there is a 25 per cent cut in the budget and the Minister had the temerity on the weekend to say that as soon as the pilots' strike is over the Government will launch the most imaginative and fantastic tourism campaign this State has ever seen in order to overcome problems caused by that strike. It will not even be as good as the campaign the Government ran last year because of this 25 per cent cut.

Mr Parker: There were some special factors last year.

Mr MacKINNON: There will be 25 per cent less funds going to that commission. There may have been some special factors, but there is a special factor this year, which is the pilots' strike. I for one do not believe it is appropriate this year to cut back on funding in that area.

I conclude by saying what I said earlier: This Budget represents a waste of huge opportunities. This Government had in excess of \$200 million in revenue windfall this year. That money could have fundamentally and radically changed the direction of the taxation structure of this State. However, the Government secretly committed itself to a whole range of business deals, while publicly and in this Parliament denying that was so. The Government wasted all of that money. The opportunity was there, for example, to begin abolishing payroll tax, instead of fiddling around the edges of it as the Government is doing. That money could have made a major attack on the question of law and order in this State, a subject which will very soon be raised by my colleague, the member for Cottesloe.

Several members interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: If the Government has attacked the question of law and order in a major

way in this State, I can assure the House that the people of this State are not aware of it. All of those matters spell huge lost opportunities. As I said at the beginning of my speech, that indicates, through this Budget, the style of this Government. This Government was more interested, in the words of the Treasurer, in deliberately looking after the interests of its big business friends - or perhaps I should say its ex-business friends - at the expense of all Western Australian families. Every Western Australian family is now paying the price for this Government's folly and this Budget is the best document I have yet seen to prove that that is so.

[The material in appendix A was incorporated by leave of the House.]

[See p No 1759.]

MRS BUCHANAN (Ashburton) [3.27 pm]: I am very pleased to have the opportunity during this Budget debate to deal with a few Budget matters and some matters of concern in my electorate.

To hear the Leader of the Opposition rave on this afternoon one would think there were absolutely no positive aspects of the Budget. Of course that is totally untrue. In particular I would like to welcome the high priority which has been given by this Government to conservation and the environment. The Government's concern for the environment, expressed in the Budget, is part of its total commitment to provide a better future for all Western Australians through properly planned development within the constraints of and as far as possible in harmony with our natural surroundings. My electorate contains many unique areas worthy of preservation; and I am very pleased indeed to report the progress being made by the Government to protect and manage these areas. As one small example, I recently had the pleasure of attending a launch by the Minister for Conservation and Land Management of the Dampier Archipelago draft management plan. The plan covers many of the islands in the group and these are currently vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority, and are managed by the Department for Conservation and Land Management.

Mr Taylor: A well launched plan.

Mrs BUCHANAN: Yes indeed. It was an excellent launching; I thoroughly enjoyed the day. The Dampier Archipelago is of conservation, historic, archeological and recreational value. It holds Aboriginal sites and is very rich in rare flora and fauna. The sea around the islands is home to many species of marine creatures, such as the dugong, whales, dolphins, the giant green turtle and many others. The Government is taking a very responsible approach in looking after this fragile ecology in the area of the islands, and areas like it, to ensure that future generations of Western Australians will enjoy their wonders. In my view past Liberal Governments were somewhat careless; I do not remember their doing anything to protect the Dampier Archipelago, especially my predecessor who was known as the hurricane lamp because he was dim and hung around the place for a long time. He was not noted for his interest in environmental matters and the Liberal Government of the day did absolutely nothing to look after areas like the Dampier Archipelago.

There is to be an injection of funds into the Department of Conservation and Land Management and an expansion of the Environmental Protection Authority, which is a good indication of the level of commitment on the part of this Government. The north of this State has received a great deal of attention and I know that northern residents will be extremely pleased that the Budget is favourable to areas such as the Hamersley Range, Millstream, Chichester, Bungle Bungle and the Geike Gorge National Park.

My electorate is also rich in mineral resources and I have been long concerned that we should follow up resource development with downstream processing. I feel confident that we will make progress in this way and as we move down this path, it is essential for there to be careful planning. The expansion of the EPA and the increased funding to CALM together with the ongoing commitment by this Government will ensure that such planning will be able to be carried out. As we all know, environmental matters are on the centre stage all around the world at the moment and this Government, in fact, is leading the way on many environmental issues - in particular in the measures being taken to counteract the greenhouse effect and the damage done to the ozone layer. I was particularly pleased to note that an environmental package was recently introduced into schools in my area and the students are

using these kits. On a recent visit to the Wickham school I was impressed by the serious approach being taken to the environment by both the students and the staff. I congratulate the Wickham school in undertaking a very careful study of world environmental matters; it was particularly pleasing to note that the Wickham school students' interest was in what they could do to help, which is contrary to the common attitude where people expect the Government to fix everything.

The iron ore industry, part of which is contained in my electorate, contributes a large slice to this State's wealth, and I am pleased to say that it is continuing to do well generally. However, I am sorry to report that that situation has not been achieved easily or without any pain in some parts of the industry. In particular, the human relations situation at Robe River continues to be extremely depressing. In the course of constantly trying to find a solution to the problems being experienced by many of my constituents in this area, I have been given a copy of the Robe River Iron Associates employees' contract document on which I would like to comment. The document refers to conditions of employment for wages employees. There are many matters covered in it, and I will not have the time to go into all of them today. However, some sections of the document are of particular concern. I will start by talking about the company's attitude to the inter-site transfer system. The contract states -

The Company reserves the right to transfer an employee from one site to another, or from one work location to another, on provision to the employee of one (1) week's notice.

Little attention has been paid to the fact that the two work sites are several hundred kilometres apart and the requirement that employees get a week's notice gives no consideration to schooling and other family arrangements and commitments. If the employees sign this document, they can be transferred backwards and forwards between the distant sites, which proves to be stressful and disruptive to the employee's family life.

Under the section which deals with shift work there is a similar lack of thought on the part of the company. Section 6.1 states -

The Company specifically reserves the right to:

- (a) require an employee to transfer from day work to shift work, and from shift work to day work, to meet operational requirements.
- (b) require an employee to transfer from shift to shift
- (c) change any shift system in operation from time to time

This can be done by the company with very little notice which causes a great deal of disruption to people's family life.

Another section deals with the requirement to work overtime which states -

Employees of the Company may be required to work a reasonable amount of overtime at such times and in such a manner as the Company shall in its sole discretion determine to meet the operational requirements of the Company.

Never mind about any personal requirements on the part of the employees. Section 7.2 states -

Where an employee undertakes to work overtime for a specific period or for the completion of a specified job that employee shall work in accordance with that undertaking unless prevented from doing so by illness, accident or injury.

I find that an extremely dictatorial approach. What, in fact, constitutes "a reasonable amount of overtime"? It is very much in the hands of the company and little consideration is given to the employee who may not be able to work a certain level of overtime. In fact, that is the point that has recently been raised by the unions in the goldfields mining operations, as it has contributed to a higher level of work related accidents or injuries.

The document refers to other employee obligations and entitlements under a subheading of "Employees' Duties". This section states -

An employee must carry out any duties within his or her competence or capability and in the manner directed by the Company irrespective of whether the work to be carried out is the work normally performed by that employee.

This raises the question of a person's training and experience and whether trades people are qualified to work in other trades. Section 9.2 states -

An employee shall upon notice be required by the company to perform work of a higher or lower classification.

In the cases that have been reported to me, I know that reclassification has been done with an absolute minimum of training, which places a lot of stress on employees.

Looking further through the document - and this is probably one of the worst aspects of it - section 12.6 reads -

The employee acknowledges that the Company through its officers or employees may inspect an employee's person bag or locker at any time for security reasons and hereby consents to such inspection.

That comes very close to an infringement of people's human rights.

Mr Cowan: Do you know why that was done? It was done because the level of pilferage was so high that something had to be done about it.

Mrs BUCHANAN: So, the Leader of the National Party is agreeing with it?

Mr Cowan: I am saying to you that the reason that that was done is a reflection upon the employees of that company, in that they pilfered so much material from the company stores that that provision had to be included, and that is a disgrace.

Mrs BUCHANAN: The Leader of the National Party is a disgrace. This provision includes people having to strip, for heaven's sake! Does the Leader of the National Party not think that is an extreme response by the company? It is an infringement of human rights to demand that a person sign a contract when they first join that company which will expose them to that sort of treatment.

Mr Cowan: Do you know what happened when the company locked up its diesel tanks? The owner of the local roadhouse had so many people coming in to buy diesel that he thought he had an RAC convoy going into the desert on a fourwheel drive trek.

Mrs BUCHANAN: I wonder whether the Leader of the National Party can substantiate those allegations. I think he is telling stories, and in my opinion, they are mischievous ones.

The document continues -

13.5 Employees suspected of being under the influence of unlawful drugs or alcohol may be required to take an analyser test as directed by the Company in order to enable the Company to comply with its obligations, statutory or otherwise.

Perhaps the Leader of the National Party will tell me what he thinks about that sort of treatment of employees? Does he think the company should be able to take the law into its own hands and have a right to do those sorts of things to people? This sort of treatment does not apply only to the people in the workplace; it applies also to people anywhere on company premises. As most people would know, many of the company towns' facilities are on mining leases and extend even to people's accommodation, for heaven's sake. Does the Leader of the National Party think that the company's policy is there because it thinks many of its employees are alcoholics or drug addicts?

Mr Cowan: I do not think that at all. You are painting a wrong picture.

Mrs BUCHANAN: I think my suggestion is in line with what the Leader of the National Party suggested on the other point.

Mr Cowan: It is absolute rubbish.

Mrs BUCHANAN: It is not; I have this document.

Mr Cowan: I have seen the document.

Mrs BUCHANAN: Does the Leader of the National Party agree with it? Does he think it is a fair contract of employment?

Mr Cowan: You should worry about what forced the company to put those conditions into the agreement.

Mrs BUCHANAN: No company is forced to do those sorts of things; there are other ways of dealing with problems.

I move on to the part of the document dealing with disciplinary action. It states -

Without limiting the Company's right to dismiss an employee without notice for misconduct which at law would justify summary dismissal, the following offences would normally attract summary dismissal -

- (a) brawling or creating a disturbance; or
- (b) assaulting or threatening to assault a person on Company premises or property or business or within the townships of Pannawonica or Wickham or elsewhere;

It is not the company's job to deal with these matters; it is the job of law enforcers. Robe River Iron Associates believes that it can take the law into its own hands. No other company in this State has the same sort of attitude towards its employees.

The section of the document dealing with "any neglect of duty" refers to the sacking of employees but does not describe offences for which employees can be accused of neglect.

The last paragraph in the document, paragraph 21.1, is a real lulu. It states -

Subject to a period of notice of one (1) week, the Company reserves the right in its sole discretion to alter, amend or add to any of an employee's conditions of employment whether contained in this document or not, as and when it sees fit.

That is the most iniquitous section of this document. In order to gain employment, people must agree to conditions which are not even stated in the document so that they do not really know what they are getting into when they sign the work document. This document is not just signed at the commencement of a person's employment and filed away for future reference; it is followed to the very letter of the law on a day to day basis by the company. I have received complaints from people who have arrived at work late by 10 minutes or even less. They have received written notices from the company threatening dismissal. The company enforces its directions by sacking or victimising its workers. There are many cases of that happening. However, one of the worst cases is that of a fitter who served the company faithfully for 14 years. He was told that he would have to work in another part of the company's operations with which he was not familiar. He was not asked whether he could handle the work or given an explanation for the transfer. He said that he was not keen on the transfer and was sacked on the spot without being given an opportunity to give his reasons for not wanting to transfer. He received no offer of retraining or assistance. He was given no justice at all.

A second case which received some publicity in recent times was that of the paymistress at Pannawonica who refused to be reclassified as a Haulpak driver. She was also sacked.

A supervisor was sacked for showing a wages employee a contract of service he was expected to sign. The contract would have given the company the right to force him to do blue collar work in the event of an industrial dispute.

The workers at Pannawonica and Wickham know that unless they keep quiet and follow the company's directions at all times, they risk losing their jobs. Both wage and staff employees, some of whom had many years' service with the company, have left in droves in recent times, each of them dispirited and totally unhappy following the treatment meted out to them by the company.

The so-called contract of employment is really a contract of enslavement. It is the most un-Australian and the most draconian document of that sort that I have ever come across. I have spoken in this place previously about the inappropriateness of voluntary work contracts. The Robe document is a classic example of how an unscrupulous employer is able to unjustly treat its employees. As long as there are companies around this country operating in this manner, I will oppose the deregulation of the labour market.

The stress and tension in the work place at Wickham and Pannawonica is spilling out into the community. That is of great concern to the local people. Morale is at an all-time low and the women in these towns have begun to organise themselves to fight for a better deal for their families. Women's action groups have been set up in both towns. They represent what

I feel is a gallant attempt to stitch back together the shattered social fabric of the two communities. They deserve support. I congratulate all of the women involved in the two action groups for their great fortitude. They have turned to me for support and I intend helping them wherever and whenever I can.

Most Australians take pride in our democratic way of life. However, the dictatorial approach adopted by this company is a threat to that democratic lifestyle. It is high time that Robe River Iron Associates recognised that its situation is not normal. When mining workers are compared with workers in other industries around the State, members will understand why that is so. For example, workers employed on the Kwinana strip are free at the end of their shifts to go to their homes in the suburbs or do whatever business they like. They are free to pursue their lives without interference by the company they work for. This should also be the case for the employees of Robe River and the companies in other mining towns. A number of the mining towns in the north of the State are owned and operated totally by mining companies. Those companies must recognise that they have different responsibilities from other employers. We should not tolerate the abuse of the extraordinary power that these companies have over their employees to threaten and harass them in the way that Robe River is doing. It is simply not good enough for Robe to ignore the pleas of its employees to restore dignity and respect to their lives. Neither should it be allowed to interfere in their private lives.

It is even worse that Robe River continually uses its record production level as justification for the way it has been operating in the past two or three years. No-one is asking the company to give up its productivity aims; its achievement is widely acknowledged. It is a good thing for the State and nobody denies that. However, all the people in those towns ask to be treated by the company as human beings. I raise these matters to draw them to public notice, particularly to people in Western Australia who might be contemplating employment with Robe River Iron Associates, so that they are forewarned about the oppressive management practices employed by this company. I express my strongest condemnation of Robe River Associates and call on other members, particularly those on the Opposition benches, to add their voice to the appeals being made for a more humane approach to be adopted by this company in its dealings with its employees.

Mr Court: Which company?

Mrs BUCHANAN: Robe River.

Mr Court: That is the one you want to destroy.

Mrs BUCHANAN: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition can make smart alec remarks -

Mr Court: Why are you continually attacking a company in your electorate that provides employment for hundreds of people? Why have you flown people from the Eastern States to cause trouble for that company?

Mrs BUCHANAN: If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition had listened to my comments, he would know the answers to those questions. If he were the local member and was approached day after day by people complaining about the dictatorial attitude of the company -

Mr Court: I will have a few words to say about the attack you are making on this company.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Leader of the Opposition knows that he can say a few words when it is his turn to do so, and he also knows that I do not object in a general way to interjections. However, I will not accept interjections shouted at a level designed to prevent the member on her feet from speaking. He should wait until it is his turn to speak to express his point of view.

Mrs BUCHANAN: I conclude on that note, and I shall be interested to hear what the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has to say about the matter. If he honestly believes that the company is operating in a fair and just manner, I invite him to visit my electorate at any time and talk to the ordinary working people in those towns, and to the women and families who are bearing the brunt of this company's actions to see whether he changes his mind.

Mr Court: At the opening of the company's transmission line there was not one representative from the Government. You refused to attend. You boycotted the opening.

Mrs BUCHANAN: I did not boycott the opening. In fact, if the Deputy Leader of the Opposition had his facts straight, he would know that initially I accepted the invitation but due to another electorate commitment I was unable to attend on the day. My apologies were made through the deputy manager, Mr Fred Madden. If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition wants to continue the debate, I suggest he make his comments when his turn comes. I support the Bill.

MR McNEE (Moore) [3.53 pm]: I rise with some trepidation to speak on this Budget. As I look at the Government members opposite, I can see how they have changed from being overconfident to being a motley looking bunch. They are so ashamed of their Government's performance that they cannot bear to be in the House. I can see that the decay is setting in. I want to remind the House of some of the commitments made by this Government.

During the election campaign the Premier said that the one thing voters could do was look at the Labor Party team and its record. What a record that is! Could the Labor Government be proud of its record? I do not think so. I will examine that record very closely, because I want to remind members of the commitments this Government has made to the people of Western Australia. It is time we kept this Government's nose to the grindstone. For too long it has produced a pedestrian performance by Ministers with a polished appearance. In 1983 the Government promised to provide realistic assistance to those suffering genuine hardship from high mortgage rates. It must have been joking. Of course, the State Government was assisted by the Federal Treasurer, that effervescent bucking bronco with his J-curve, and the economy now performs like Radish the horse, who used to appear in a comic strip and was certainly not a bucking bronco. What has happened to that commitment?

The Government made many other statements. If some were not so serious, they would be funny. It said that the Labor Government would stop the petrol price spiral. The Minister for Transport is reading the newspaper at the moment and has no comment to make about fuel prices. The Government also said that it would eliminate the difference between petrol prices in the city and those in the country. I paid just over 68¢ a litre for petrol recently, and I thought that was not a bad price to pay. Those are the sorts of commitments the Government made in a very polished performance. It conned the people and said it would set up a new range of initiatives to assist rural producers. Of course, I cannot criticise that new range of rural incentives, because it is nonexistent.

In the last few days the Government has referred to some very fine people in this State. I remind the Government that when the North West Shelf gas contract was being negotiated, its loudest critic then and for the first few years of its term of office was the Labor Party. Its members whined, groaned, grizzled and knocked that project. It is now the salvation not only of Western Australia but also of Australia. The rabble opposite on the Government benches had the temerity and audacity in the last few days to tear down Sir Charles Court, one of the greatest statesmen this State has ever seen.

They had the temerity to pull him down. That man can walk 10 feet tall in this State, and he has had many monuments built to him; a notable one is the North West Shelf project. This Premier's monument is Petrochemical Industries Co Ltd, and what a hell of a PICL it is! It is such a PICL that the name has now been changed to Petrochemical Industries Ltd, or PIL. I bet the Premier wishes he was not trying to get rid of that PIL. Members opposite come into this House and denigrate Sir Charles Court, but their performance barely rates a mention because they are taxing the people of this State.

On behalf of the people of my electorate, I wish to protest about the things happening in this State. It would not have been so bad if the Government had not for some time been cautioned about its dealings, but it charged on regardless. The Government has spoken about the many things it will do in respect of the family and protecting taxpayers' dollars, but I see in an article in this morning's *The West Australian* that the Government's foray into the petrochemical project is expected to cost at least \$330 million: Of the \$75 million actually committed to the project by PIL, \$21 million was paid in interest; \$10 million was spent to buy the site; \$175 million was paid as an entry fee to purchase a stake in the project; and \$38 million was paid out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund. This Government has spent millions of taxpayers' dollars as if that were of no consequence, yet it is holding on to its own revenue as if that were the last dollars it had.

The Government has said it is not a high taxing Government. In 1985-86 State taxation revenue was \$728 million; in 1988-89 it was \$1 280 million. Members opposite cannot deny

that is almost double the previous financial year's collections. There is no doubt that the financial institutions duty collections have been increased to pay for this Government's extravagances. We have seen a 36 per cent increase in fuel tax, as if the price of fuel were not already high enough! This increased cost impacts more heavily on the people in the country, who have to pay to move freight into and out of their areas.

I heard the Treasurer talk a few days ago about how well the State was going. If it is going well it is due not to the good judgment of the Government but to a miracle. This State had a period of relative economic buoyancy last year where we enjoyed good prices for our products, and a high level of production. However, this year the prices for sheep have in some instances collapsed, and this has been compounded by the saga of the live sheep exports. I understand that the Australian Wool Commission will continue to buy about 45 per cent of our wool clip between now and Christmas. The fate of the wheat crop is balanced on a knife edge because while I believe the prospects are good, much will depend on whether the rains come, because that will make a big difference to the tonnages produced.

The Government should be aware of these problems, and should try to make things easier for the people of Western Australia. It is interesting to note that as a result of the Government's extravagances, it has lost during the last financial year of the order of three times the amount it would have spent on its Capital Works Program for schools. That is an appalling record. The Government has not done a very good job in its role of steward of the State's economy and custodian of the taxpayers' dollars. The Government is really one of - it is difficult to find the right words.

Mr Pearce: Integrity, intelligence, capacity, and perspicacity.

Mr McNEE: The Minister should be called "The Minister for Dodgem Cars".

Mr Pearce: You would not be fast enough!

Mr McNEE: The member for Marmion talked the other night about Argentine ants. I had not thought much about them until the weekend, when someone mentioned the problem to me. I was of course aware that spraying was no longer used; heptachlor became unpopular, and apparently the alternative was too expensive, so it was decided not to continue that procedure. This Government is certainly good; it made the right decision!

In the midst of all the scandal about the Government's wasting money, my electorate requires a road, which is not a very big thing to ask for. Would that be too much? Members opposite would all have roads. In fact, they want an electric train and they are having a whole range of other things to make travel easier for them. They all have roads, and freeways, and all my people ask for is a road. It is a very simple request. Some of the people of my electorate, from Leeman, wrote to my predecessor and this is what they said -

We are ... concerned with lack of government funding in the area of road construction and maintenance.

That was the point they were making.

Mr Pearce: You had better talk to your mates in the upper House because if that regulation gets disallowed there will be \$30 million less for roads.

Mr McNEE: The Minister for Transport should be interested in this because it concerns one of his portfolios and he actually rates a mention. The letter continues -

However, we feel we must impress upon you -

The people were writing to my predecessor, their local member. The letter continues -

- the hazards involved for school children travelling on the buses in the areas between Leeman and Jurien, and Cervantes and Jurien.

In winter the gravel roads between Leeman and Jurien (namely the Cockelshell Gully Rd) are almost impassable - very boggy and covered in pot holes.

A few months later another letter arrived describing the same situation. It was from another group, and read in part -

... are well aware that the lack of government funding in the area of road construction and maintenance is the main prohibiting factor in the consideration of a coastal road between Greenhead and Jurien.

Here is a Government which says, "We do not have any money." Yet how much did it squander last year? Can anyone hazard a guess? Members should not bother about having a look - I am telling them about my electorate which does not have a road. All of the Minister's friends have roads - there is no problem there - but these people, who want to send their children on a school bus on a reasonable road are denied it. But of course, they do not matter - they are country people. They do not matter - they are contributors to the economy. They are not like many of the Government's supporters who are net beneficiaries of the economy.

Mr Blaikie: The last guess is that the money squandered totalled in the order of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Mr Pearce: You could total the amount of money spent on country roads as against metropolitan roads.

Mr McNEE: I am talking about country people, for whom the Minister has no money. The Minister has all the money in the world, but he chooses to spend it in an irresponsible way. That is what he chooses to do with the taxpayers' dollars. Indeed, when some of his supporters go for a holiday they might even enjoy the drive up the coast road, if it were there. They certainly would not now, because it does not exist.

Mr Kierath: It is not a marginal seat.

Mr McNEE: Is that the problem? With the few votes they have there, it is not my problem. I am talking about children who really are at risk. The letter continued -

However we must impress upon you the hazards involved for our children travelling twice daily on the Cockleshell Gully road between Leeman and Jurien.

The letter implored my predecessor to make an approach for construction funds. After the local member wrote heaps of letters, we came to the crunch - the Minister for Transport replied.

Mr Pearce: It is a shire road - that is what he said.

Mr McNEE: The Minister for Transport wrote back. Can members imagine his saying this to some of his union mates? He said -

For some years the Shire of Dandaragan has been pressing for the Cervantes to Jurien link to be constructed and sealed.

The Minister has got the message!

Mr Pearce: I went up there and had a meeting -

Mr McNEE: It is all right to have a meeting, but what is the Minister going to do about it? It is time he did something about it. He has the money all right! All he has to do is get his priorities right. Members should not worry - the money is not the question. The Minister has it there, and he should not tell me about meetings. Meetings are fine but they are meaningless unless something actually happens as a result of them.

The Minister's letter went on -

The Main Roads Department has completed the planning and design of this section.

That is a start. The letter continued by stating that the Minister had even been given an estimated cost.

Mr Kierath: How much?

Mr McNEE: It was \$3.5 million.

Mr Blaikie: Laurie would go through that overnight.

Mr McNEE: They keep asking, "Where is the money?" Laurie has it, of course.

Mr Kierath: Didn't Bondy give that much to their campaign fund?

Mr McNEE: It was something like that. The estimated cost of this road was \$3.5 million. Can members imagine it? What interest did the Government pay? An article written in *The West Australian* today states -

The Government has an annual commitment of at least \$24 million to service its debt

to the State Government Insurance Commission for the original \$175 million purchase of equity.

Mr Kierath: How many roads could that build?

Mr McNEE: How many roads, indeed! Members opposite sit there like stunned mullet. Not one has the guts to stand up and defend this nonsense Government of theirs. The Minister for Transport gave up a long time ago, and the rest of them sit there as though they were stoned.

A Government member: We are.

Mr McNEE: And so they are - the member is so right.

What a record! I remind members that this Government said - what did it say?

Mr MacKinnon: "A future you can believe in."

Mr McNEE: My leader has just reminded me - "A future you can believe in."

Mr Pearce: You have never made any approach to me about those roads.

Mr McNEE: There has been a packetful of approaches to the Minister. He should not talk such nonsense.

Mr Pearce: They were from the previous member.

Mr McNEE: The Minister for Transport has had every chance to do something. He should put his money where his mouth is. I am asking him for \$3.5 million - that is all. The money is there - we could build that road six or seven times. The money is there but the Minister prefers to look after his rich mates. He wants to look after his pals. He should go ahead and do it; it is fine by us. He should go ahead and look after his mates, but in a few weeks' time he will probably be gone, and he will have the epitaph of Petrochemical Industries Ltd. His Premier will be able to walk proudly down the street and say, "I am the man who was responsible for PIL", and members opposite will all be able to go along with him.

Mr Pearce: You have lost a seat once.

Mr McNEE: I am telling the Minister to get \$3.5 million for this road. I am telling him the money is there - he does not have to worry about that. He should not tell me it is not.

Mr Kierath: Look what he did to education, and now he is doing the same thing to roads.

Mr McNEE: I feel sorry for the present Minister for Education. She has real problems.

Mr Kierath: She inherited a helluva mess.

Mr McNEE: This Minister for Transport moved in, caused an almighty stuff-up, and left the poor present Minister to unscramble it. How does the present Minister unscramble eggs, Mr Acting Speaker (Dr Gallop)? Please let me know if you find out.

Mr Pearce: Tell me when you last met with the Shire of Dandaragan. There is not a lot of content in your speech, for all the noise.

Mr McNEE: There is more in this letter from the Minister for Transport but, as I pointed out, these are only country people - they do not really matter. They are only the poor cows who earn the money for these squanderers - these rapists of the economy. This is what the Minister for Transport said -

At this stage I am unable to state when funds will be available to enable work to go ahead.

But, worse than that, he goes on to say -

There is some planning of parts of the Lancelin to Cervantes sector, mainly at the southern end.

The Minister has left the Chamber! Never mind, we will go on without him. The letter continues -

But because it is unlikely that funds will be available for construction for many years completion of the planning has low priority.

It has low priority, and that is it! They are only country people who have provided the dollars for the Government thugs to squander!

Mr Blaikie: If the Government wanted a petrochemical plant up there, it would find the money in an instant.

Mr McNEE: Yes. Laurie has a nice racing stable in New Zealand; I saw it the other weekend; he did not pass that into the ring.

The Government has stated in that letter that this matter has low priority. This is the same Government that said it would make a new commitment and take a new approach to problems. It also said that we will have a future that we can believe in. The Premier asked us to look at the Government's record - but that is exactly what he will not let us do.

We should consider what the Government has done to shires in my electorate. Those shires will not take any nonsense from the Government. In my electorate some of the shires are being short funded. Between 1985-86 and the present day the Government has doubled the rate of collection of taxes. It is important that you understand, Mr Acting Speaker, and that the people of this State understand - and higher taxes are something that the people can understand. I have asked country people whether they are banking more money now than before. Of course they are not. The other day when talking to salary and wage earners I was informed that they are banking less money now than two years ago. This situation is brought about by higher taxes and higher costs; indeed, country people face extra costs related to the education of their children. But those people do not matter!

General purpose grants to the three shires in my electorate have been cut by 30 to 50 per cent. The shires of Wangan Hills, Dalwallinu and Victoria Plains are all top shires, in top areas, and big contributors to the coffers of the Treasury. The Treasurer writes cheques like a man with no arms; he is the man who is ripping off the shires.

Mr Parker: Those funds are Commonwealth funds.

Mr McNEE: I am talking about all funds.

Mr Parker: We do not provide general purpose funds.

Mr McNEE: I know this is a heavy matter but I am making the point that the Government will not fund a road in this State.

Mr Parker: Roads are one thing.

Mr McNEE: If the Treasurer wants to talk about the \$3.5 million which the Government's colleagues have turned off -

Mr Parker: We have not.

Mr McNEE: The Treasurer's crowd might not, but the situation remains with the shires. This is part of the cost structure. The shires face a deficit which is a kindly contribution made during this Government's term in office. If the Treasurer says that he is proud of his Government, he is the only man here that would say that.

Mr Parker: I think the majority would say that.

Mr McNEE: The shires' money has been eroded because under the present State Government, and its Federal counterpart, country areas are not doing very well at all.

Another problem faced by country areas is the lack of housing for teachers in places such as Dandaragan which is a small farming district without Homeswest housing for teachers. In the past, single girl teachers have in some instances been able to obtain accommodation on farms surrounding the small townships.

Dr Lawrence: You mean women.

Mr McNEE: If the Minister likes. That is fine. Perhaps the Minister can help to provide housing for those people; she would be doing herself a favour because in the past she has given the same answers as her colleagues. The Minister for Education sits at the Cabinet table, squandering the taxpayers' dollars. Make no mistake about it, we will come to the Minister for Education. Do not rush me; we do not need to hurry.

Dr Lawrence: Yes you do.

Mr Kierath: That Minister cannot even fix up a school.

Mr McNEE: In my electorate, a school needs a nail on the roof and the Minister cannot provide that.

I return to the accommodation problem in Dandaragan where, due to the lack of accommodation, teachers drive to Moora. That is bad enough. But the forage allowance in a small way alleviated the costs involved in driving something like 35 miles to work. It was a small compensation, but the Government in its wisdom reduced that allowance by half. I have written to the Minister for Education regarding this matter but she has stated that no funds are available to provide accommodation for teachers.

Do the backbenchers, basking in the heavens of Government, appreciate the problem? Some members may not but others would. How would Government members like to see a newly graduated daughter drive that distance to work? Usually the young lasses drive those distances. If members wish to live in Rockingham and work in Scarborough that is their choice, but these women do not have that choice.

The Government has said that it will take a new approach to new problems. This is the Government we can believe in; this is the future we can believe in; and whatever else the PR people at the time thought up. The Government does not look very good after squandering the finances of this State. That is the performance of the Treasurer; we would not employ him as the treasurer of the marbles club. He has doubled the taxes, and refused to answer a simple request for accommodation for a couple of young teachers in the town of Dandaragan.

I thought at one stage that perhaps we should try another tack. Someone suggested that I write to the Government Employees' Housing Authority. I did so, but I was referred back to the Minister for Education. Members can well imagine the amount of success I will have with that story.

Mr Blaikie: That is not the same Minister who has the trouble with the teachers, is it?

Mr McNEE: Yes, she has a few problems. I bet all of them hope they do not get the Transport portfolio, because that would be the short straw.

The people of my electorate require passing lanes to be constructed on the highway between Bindoon and New Norcia. That is a simple request. The people in the electorate of Moore have not requested hundreds of millions of dollars worth of petrochemical plant. Perhaps they should. They have not requested the same funds that have been used to bail out the failed Teachers Credit Society or Rothwells. When the farmers of my electorate were in trouble, the present Minister for Economic Development and Trade - the same man who cannot remember the letter - said that he would help the farmers. He made a profound statement which was like providing a six line ring-lock fence around a dam and then deciding on a seventh line so that the sheep cannot get in to drink. It was like suggesting that the fence be made a little higher so that no-one could get in and that was how he would help them.

What has happened to those poor people who were eligible for assistance? His promises were like the playing with words referred to by the member for Kingsley last week - verbal gymnastics. He said that the farmers were eligible to apply for assistance, but they were ineligible to get it. What has happened to them?

Mr Blaikie: That is almost like a guarantee not being a guarantee.

Mr McNEE: That is true. What happened was that people walked off their land with nowhere to go. They are now doing menial tasks like managing caravan parks because this Government has this disgusting record. That is what it has done to those people. It forced them off their land without providing them with any assistance. Meanwhile its millionaire mates are lining up at the Government's front door for payouts of hundreds of millions of dollars worth of assistance and getting it.

Mr Blaikie: And without commitments.

Mr McNEE: Yes, they have received it without commitment. They have been handed open cheques and told to write in their own amounts. The Government has said to them that all it needs to do is to whip the taxpayers into providing more.

Mr Blaikie: In the bush the Government is known as the bush bashers.

Mr McNEE: That is right. All my people asked for was \$3.5 million for extra lanes on the highway. We have been told we cannot have it.

Mr Gordon Hill: How many passing lanes?

Mr McNEE: Four or five, or something in that order.

Mr Gordon Hill: What would that cost?

Mr McNEE: I have not received a reply from the Minister for Transport. However, the point is that we have been ignored.

Mr Blaikie: They would not cost as much as a failed PIL project.

Mr McNEE: They certainly would not. It is a bitter pill for the people who use the road to swallow when they have to travel behind massive road trains at 10 or 15 kilometres an hour. That places their families in danger. Many of the people who drive on that road might not be as experienced as they should be. However, they are just a few country people who do not matter to this Government.

The Government has refused to fund this very simple project and has had the temerity to defend itself for squandering the State's money. The Government has attempted to denigrate the State's greatest statesman. I wish the Premier were here so that I could tell him to his face what I thought of him. He is rarely here. Perhaps the Deputy Premier could convey my message to him.

I make this strong plea on behalf of the people who have made this simple request. The alteration to the highway to provide the extra lanes would cost approximately \$3 million, which is nothing. I ask that the Government listen to the plea of the people of my electorate.

DR ALEXANDER (Perth) [4.35 pm]: Apart from a few highlights, the speech by the member for Moore was an incredible catalogue of complaints, some of which defy the imagination. This new parliamentary session provides Government members with plenty of opportunities to make contributions which will place the Government well in front of the Opposition.

Mr Court: They get nervous when you get up to speak.

Dr ALEXANDER: Members on the Opposition benches do, and I understand why. It seems that the Opposition is yet to accept the results of the election and are intent on complaining about it ad infinitum.

The Budget debate gives us a chance to talk about the Government's priorities and its performance. I will address some of those priorities as they relate to aspects of the electorate of Perth. I have had the privilege to represent that electorate for two and a half years. It underwent some radical changes in 1988 as a result of the redistribution and, as a result, we saw many changes in this House. The seat of Mt Lawley, previously represented by the Liberal Party whose member was translated to the upper House because he was causing too much trouble here, was incorporated in the seat of Perth and I now have the privilege to represent a much more diverse and more marginal electorate. My reduced margin is not as comfortable as the one I previously enjoyed, but it adds a challenge to my representation of the area. In the end, 51.3 per cent of electors voted for me on a two-party preferred basis. I would have preferred a few more percentage points in the margin. However, unlike the Opposition, I was more than happy to accept that result.

There are several factors in the changed nature of the seat of Perth which I think call for comment. Having shed some of the areas in North Perth and Leederville, which with regret I pass to my colleague, the now member for Glendalough, I took over the areas in Mt Lawley and Coolbinia. These areas add a new dimension to the electorate. They add further to the multiculturalism which is strongly represented already in the electorate of Perth. They and Mt Lawley contain a large Jewish population and, for the benefit of the member for Marmion, who always seems so interested in my family background - he has referred to it on numerous occasions - I advise that not only do I have a father who was a member of the Communist Party at one stage - horror - but also I have a considerable Jewish heritage in my family background. That is one of the reasons I am pleased to take over the area from the previous member for Mt Lawley.

Mr Thompson: Particularly as they voted more strongly for the Liberal Party than for you.

Dr ALEXANDER: Things can change, and while there may have been more Liberal Party votes in Mt Lawley than I prefer, at many Mt Lawley booths I received a couple of hundred more votes than I did in the previous election.

Mr Thompson: We will correct that at the next election.

Dr ALEXANDER: We shall see. One of the features that characterises this area is a large concentration of Jewish people and their lively and colourful traditions which add to the multicultural nature of the electorate of Perth. In the last few years the Government has been giving a high priority to the multicultural area, and the petition I presented in Parliament last week which called for legislation in this area - to which the Government has committed itself - is an illustration of that aspect of the electorate. Over the past couple of years posters of a racist and offensive nature have appeared in the electorate and, regrettably, continue to appear. I am pleased that in this session the Government will legislate to make such posters illegal. I believe that the Australian Nationalist Movement, which is responsible for producing literature of this sort and pasting it around the City of Perth and City of Stirling, has a lot to answer for, and I am glad that a case is currently before the courts in this connection. The proposed legislation will take this one step further and allow for the prosecution of groups to a much more effective extent than at present. Members should make no mistake that these people are not indulging in freedom of speech, but in insulting propaganda which is extremely offensive to a very large number of people in the electorate of Perth, particularly those from European and Asian backgrounds. I will be a strong supporter of this legislation when it is before the House.

In recent months a couple of reports have been brought down which, according to the Press, have been contradictory. However, after close examination of these reports, I do not think that is the case. One of these reports was produced by the Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission in conjunction with the Prime Minister's office in Canberra. It referred to the diversity of the inner city area, much of which falls within the electorate of Perth. At the same time another report was produced which deals with racism in Western Australia. Press reports suggested that the "Diversity is Great, Mate" report, which refers to the fact that people from different backgrounds and races can and do live in harmony in the majority of cases, somehow contradicted that other report which stated that racism was manifest in certain sections in the community.

We must accept that the two things exist. Certainly a minority of people, such as the Australian Nationalist Movement and its followers, are keen to promote racism and to see the flow of migrants reduced, particularly those from Asia. Of course, that is not greeted with much enthusiasm by Asian people living in my electorate. Indeed, they are insulted by such calls as they, like other migrants, seek to bring relatives to Australia and to strengthen their family connections by further emigration from their countries of origin. On the one hand this racist attitude exists but, on the other hand, the majority of people in the electorate of Perth, because of its diverse nature, are learning to live in peace and harmony with one another. Despite certain regrettable incidents of violence in this area, the report states that the diversity of racial backgrounds in the inner city is welcomed by many people and attracts them to the area, rather than the opposite being the case as has often been heard. The minority of the community promoting racist views is inaccurately interpreted as representing the views of the majority. Research undertaken for the "Diversity is Great, Mate" report clearly showed that the majority of people in the inner city area appreciated the diversity of backgrounds and the different cultures and lifestyles they bring to the inner city.

Another feature of Mt Lawley, which I have not heard mentioned in this House previously, is the very strong commitment by residents in the area to preserving aspects of their environment which they see as desirable in terms of the architecture and history of the housing. The residents of Mt Lawley through their local residents' group, the Mt Lawley Society, have been successful in persuading the City of Stirling to down-zone the density in that area from high and medium density to low density. I am aware of opinion in planning circles that inner city suburbs should have high and medium density housing, and that the older housing in areas such as Mt Lawley should be demolished and redeveloped. I have not supported that approach, although I believe there is definitely a case for building up populations in certain areas of the city. However, in well-established areas with housing of the high quality built between 1920 and 1940 - when much of Mt Lawley was developed - it makes absolutely no economic or planning sense to demolish or rebuild for either medium or high density living. Tremendous resources have been invested in those buildings originally, and in retaining, upgrading and renovating them. Apart from the adverse social impact, to advocate demolition and reconstruction of high density buildings makes no sense in

resources and economic terms. The Mt Lawley Society, like others in the inner city, has been successful in persuading its local authority to change its policy to protect the areas from redevelopment rather than to foster it. In other parts of the inner city with large areas of industrial, vacant, or other under-used land there is room for redevelopment to a higher density to encourage people to live closer to the city. However, that is a separate issue.

Another part of the electorate of Perth in Inglewood is changing character, as are many of the suburbs closer to the city. The price of houses is rising and that is excluding some people from living in inner city areas. That matter is to some extent being addressed by the State housing authorities which are constructing more infill houses in the inner suburbs close to the city. I am pleased that in the current Budget high priority is given to Homeswest infill development in such locations. Inglewood is characterised by a changing population; younger families are moving in to replace the older people who are moving out. As a consequence a resurgence has taken place in the local ratepayers' groups. Those groups are taking a strong interest in the local environment and are placing pressure on local and State authorities to ensure that the environment is maintained and improved. The fairly parochial issues of bus routes and timings, pedestrian crossings and through traffic are very important in an electorate such as the one I represent.

Mr Blaikie: What is infill housing?

Dr ALEXANDER: That is constructed in areas which are vacant or under-used. We are not talking here about demolition and rebuilding for higher densities; and I have just gone through the reasons for rejecting that in an area like Mt Lawley. Infill housing seeks to redevelop the vacant areas in the inner city on a more economic and useful basis.

The issues of traffic flow, pedestrians and transport are becoming more predominant in many electorates close to the inner city area. The electorate of Perth is crisscrossed by major through traffic routes, feeding commuter traffic in the middle and outer distance suburbs into the city, which creates problems for people seeking access to local facilities and for pedestrians, particularly younger and older pedestrians, seeking to cross those roads at busy times. One good thing which has happened in recent years in response to this problem is a very welcome change of attitude by the Main Roads Department to the provision of pedestrian crossings in such locations. The Main Roads Department under previous Governments accepted the philosophy that until a certain number of pedestrians were injured or killed, it would not move to provide improved facilities; and one zebra crossing after another was taken out, and little was done to replace them.

I am pleased to see now that in many locations, including several in the electorate of Perth, the Main Roads Department has agreed to install lights at pedestrian crossings, which will clearly make conditions much safer for pedestrians. The Main Roads Department is moving, as a result of the recommendations in the report from the Safety for Citizens group - which you, Mr Acting Speaker (Dr Gallop), chaired - to install pedestrian safety railings and similar devices in median strips to make life a bit easier for pedestrians seeking to cross busy roads.

The Main Roads Department has now agreed - admittedly after some pressure from the Ministry for Transport - to the installation of pedestrian crossing lights in Hay Street, West Perth; at the intersection of Beaufort and Walcott Streets in Mt Lawley; at the busy North Perth Plaza shopping centre in Fitzgerald Street; and in Beaufort Street, Inglewood. Not all of these lights have yet been installed, and I look forward to the day when they will be, but the Main Roads Department assures me that provision has been made for that in this year's Budget. I am pleased to see that rather than having to wait for further fatalities or injuries to occur, those crossings will now be made safer.

The installation of such traffic crossing devices may cause some minor inconvenience to traffic flows along these major roads, and I have been contacted by a few irate motorists, who object to the fact that they have to wait an extra minute or two at pedestrian crossings, but the vast majority of people understand that these additional pedestrian crossings are very much appreciated by older citizens, in particular, and parents with young children, who can now rest assured that their children will be able to cross those roads in complete safety. So the benefits for pedestrians are absolutely worthwhile, despite a minor inconvenience in terms of a slightly slower journey for some motorists, and it is to be hoped that the Main Roads Department will not be deterred in its efforts by the lobbying of a few disgruntled motorists.

I am pleased to see that in this year's Budget, the Government is continuing to emphasise public transport, and that 50 new buses will be acquired this year; the bus lane on the Kwinana Freeway will be opened shortly; and works will be undertaken on the Mitchell Freeway, in conjunction with the planned northern suburbs electric railway. I wish to raise a point in respect of the provision of local bus services, which will illustrate the difficulty of allocating priorities in this area. The Government has been faced with the responsibility, through Transperth, of providing bus services into new suburban areas as the city expands outwards. However, while this has been done, Transperth over the last few years has been rationalising its services in parts of the inner city area, and some of the inner city bus services have been cut down in frequency or, in a few instances, abolished altogether, which has caused inconvenience for the people reliant on those services.

I have taken up this matter with the Minister and Transperth, and I understand their argument that as the city is expanding rapidly, and as Transperth's resources are fairly stretched, they have competing priorities, and in some instances the outer suburban areas win in that competition, resulting in the transfer of resources from the well served inner city areas to the less well served outer city areas. I can understand the logic of that decision in a metropolitan planning sense, but it ignores the fact that the inner city areas have a high concentration of elderly people, who generally do not have access to cars to the same degree as those in the middle and outer suburban areas. The level of car ownership in the inner city areas is lower than it is in the middle and outer suburban areas; one reason is that the level of public transport service is generally more efficient. However, the danger of the current policy of Transperth is that the services in the inner city areas will be cut to an unacceptable degree, and while the services in my electorate are generally adequate, there are a few instances of services having been cut, either in frequency or on weekends, so that the local residents, and particularly pensioners, find themselves having to wait for an unacceptably long period between bus services. For example, a person living in the Walcott Street area of Mt Lawley now finds that there are only five or six bus services a day to the Mt Lawley shopping centre, yet nearer to the western side of the electorate, in Charles Street, there are bus services every 10 or 15 minutes.

So we are seeing an uneven and selective rationalisation of services, and I will continue to take up that matter with the Minister in an endeavour to sort it out with a degree of satisfaction for those people who are affected. The answer to this problem in the longer term must be the allocation of an even greater amount of resources to Transperth for the provision of bus operations, rather than the acquisition of new rolling stock. I appreciate that at the moment the budget of Transperth is directed mainly towards the acquisition of rolling stock and the electrification program, but in the longer term we will need to pay attention to the fact that a larger number of drivers should be recruited so that bus services can continue to operate at an acceptable level.

I mention, secondly, the impact on the inner city areas of commuter traffic. I welcome the provision in the Budget of further funds to attempt to rectify this problem. The Budget papers say in respect of transport -

The Government is working to ensure that the congestion and pollution problems faced by many cities around the world do not occur in Western Australia. It has learned from the experience of other cities that our dependence on private motor cars must be avoided if Western Australia is to continue to enjoy clean air and easy access to work, recreation opportunities and community facilities.

Those words are very welcome indeed, as they recognise the existence of a growing problem - that is, traffic congestion, in the inner city area in particular. The currently planned program of electrification and extension of the railway system will go a great way, in my view, toward starting to overcome those problems.

On the other hand it seems that, up to date, local authorities have been slow to get this message, and regrettably it is only recently that the Perth City Council has caught up with the fact that its parking policy needs review. It is common knowledge that the metropolitan area of Perth has the highest level of car ownership of any Australian city. It also has the highest level of per capita use of fuel and the highest level of mileage per capita by car travel of any Australian city - indeed, of many cities in the world.

The central city is the one area where public transport can, and in my view should, carry the

majority of passenger traffic, and it is in this direction that the Government is now aiming. To that extent these new priorities in the Budget are extremely welcome. On the other hand, however, we still see around the car parks of the city the perennial Perth City Council slogan, "Your car is as welcome as you are." I understand from speaking to a few of the councillors that they are now aware that is really in contradiction of plans for the central city which would favour a cut rather than an expansion in the number of parking bays, long-term bays in particular, and a swing to public rather than private transport. I understand that slogan is about to be replaced, but I would say that is at least five to 10 years overdue. Better late than never, perhaps!

It would be welcome if the Perth City Council also agreed to emphasise public rather than private transport in its official advertising. Week after week I see the City Council advertising the huge number of parking bays which it has provided and will provide in the city centre. Its resources would be much better directed towards assisting the Government's efforts to upgrade public transport rather than encouraging people to take their cars into the city; otherwise we will inevitably see a more congested and polluted city, regardless of statements to the contrary from the City Council.

Looking at this question in a little more detail, we find that even in 1976 carbon monoxide readings in the Perth Central Business District were well above World Health Organisation recommended maximum levels. Levels at that time were dangerously high in many locations in St George's Terrace, and Hay, William and Wellington Streets. Those levels were recorded in a document called "Transport Policies for Central Perth" produced by the then Director General of Transport in 1976. They measured carbon monoxide levels at several different locations in the city centre. I have found out, to my regret, that those figures are the latest available and that since 1976 no further readings have been taken in the Central Business District with which we can compare the then situation. That is regrettable, as in my opinion it is almost certain that the situation would have worsened since then. I am pleased to see that the Environmental Protection Authority has recently started a new program of monitoring atmospheric pollution levels in the central city, and I am currently awaiting results of a preliminary program in that direction. However, they are not available just yet so we must continue to rely on these rather outdated 1976 figures.

More recent estimates of the pollution levels in the metropolitan area of Perth, as opposed to central Perth itself, indicate that we do indeed have a continuing problem. Estimates done for a recent Australian Environmental Council study show that 86 per cent of the carbon monoxide levels measured in the metropolitan area can be attributed to motor vehicle traffic, and 48 per cent of hydrocarbon emissions in the metropolitan area likewise can be attributed to that source, as can 67 per cent of nitrous oxide emissions. Clearly the propensity of Perth commuters to use car and truck transport in a rather indiscriminate way is contributing to our growing air pollution problems. While Perth does not have the serious problem of cities such as Sydney and Melbourne, there is a danger that the problem will worsen unless action is taken to rectify this situation.

Again, I am pleased to see the Government is moving on this question. I refer to a recent publication put out by the Government on the greenhouse effect, of which I think everybody in the House would now be well aware - the effect, if not the publication; if they are not aware of the publication they should also be aware of that. Amongst other things the publication talks about encouraging greater use of public transport, especially new electric trains, and the continued development of cycleways to create low energy transport. I have already spoken about low energy transport but I would like to say a few words about cycleways and their place in the scheme of things. The bicycle is a humble yet very seriously underestimated mode of transport, particularly for short journeys, in the metropolitan area. This is something which is being taken seriously by the Government, as, indeed the member for Albany - who is not here - or perhaps the member for Vasse would know.

Mr Kierath interjected.

Dr ALEXANDER: No, in their own areas. The Government has moved for the Department of Local Government's Bikewest unit to set up bike plan studies. Studies have been done for the Town of Albany, the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River, Geraldton, Mandurah, and several metropolitan locations. Indeed, a qualified planner is attached to the Bikewest staff. He is

currently located in the Bunbury-Busselton area and is drawing up a bike plan for the south west.

Mr Blaikie: What was that again?

Dr ALEXANDER: Mr Greg Smith - whom the member for Vasse should meet if he has not done so already - is in the process of drawing up a bike plan for the south west, under the Government's Bikewest scheme.

Mr Blaikie: I think it is commendable and very good and I hope he is able to keep those ilmenite trucks off those bike roads, as well.

Dr ALEXANDER: I do not think that is actually within his terms of reference, but if the member spoke to him perhaps he would look at that as well.

More to the point, I hope that in the next couple of years we will be able to get a bike plan going for Perth so that residents in the inner city can enjoy the same level of facilities that residents in towns in the south west are now starting to enjoy. The Government is keen, I know, in promoting this initiative and I am very keen to see it adopted in the inner city area so that not only is public transport being used, but also it is easier and safer for people to use their bikes in order to get to work or into the city. For example, rather than the Perth City Council's encouraging parking in new buildings, to a very great degree, it should also insist on bike racks - a simple but effective measure - and showers for intending cyclists so that this mode of transport can also be used more effectively.

Indeed, generally the philosophy of environmentally responsible action is one that I am very keen to see promoted, and I am very pleased to see in this year's Budget the high priority given to environmental questions. It is gratifying, too, to see that through the education system school children are now becoming very acutely aware of the environmental problems facing not just the State but the planet as a whole. I am sure those members with children at school will, like me, have been approached by them and asked questions about the environment based on the information they are receiving at school. Generally they are a much more environmentally conscious younger generation than we were. That is a very hopeful sign for the future.

[Leave granted for speech to be continued.]

Debate thus adjourned.

[Continued on p 1735.]

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT - "INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE - FINANCIAL GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPMENT"

Government Accountability

MR PETER DOWDING (Maylands - Premier) [5.10 pm]: I seek leave to make a ministerial statement on matters concerning "Investing for the future - financial guidelines for development".

The SPEAKER: The Premier seeks leave of the House to make a statement. Is leave granted? Leave is granted.

Mr Court: No.

The SPEAKER: Bit late, sorry.

Mr PETER DOWDING: Honourable members, the State of Western Australia is poised as never before to become the power house of economic development in this country. That statement may sound grandiloquent but it reflects the truth of the situation brought about by our development during the past 30 years of the riches nature has provided us with.

We have to be conscious of the competing claims on our resources. We are proud of our environmental legislation. It works and it is in the public interest as it aims to protect the State from the ecological disasters which are so obvious in other parts of the world. Equally, Mr Speaker, the Government believes the success of the legislation is that the community generally has the opportunity to know what is going on in terms of plans which could result in changes to the environment. It is that level of public participation in the environmental assessment process which demands quality answers from both proponents of developments and the Government in terms of the services it provides.

We believe on this side of the Chamber that informed public debate is essential if developments are to go ahead without there being wasteful argument over issues which are irrelevant to the basic proposition being put forward: That development is necessary to the State to create jobs and to create and maintain the level of prosperity that the community demands.

The Government of Western Australia has consistently promoted increased efficiency and productivity in the State public sector. An efficient and productive public sector is also a confident public sector, secure in the knowledge that its decisions have taken account of all aspects of particular issues and are capable of proper intellectual examination. The Government clearly understood this when it introduced the Financial Administration and Audit Act which demands a far greater level of accountability from public sector managers than previously. The Financial Administration and Audit Act is tangible proof of the longstanding desire of the Government to ensure that the administration of Government reflects a level of reporting to the community which is no less than that demanded of private enterprise.

The arbiter of what is acceptable in terms of reporting under this Act is not the Government; it is Parliament itself through the Auditor General who is independent of Government. I can assure Honourable members that the standards the Auditor General is demanding are equivalent to the highest in the land and the results will be clearly evident in a demonstrable increase in efficiency and productivity in the public sector.

The Government has also, in line with its belief in accountability, attempted to improve the standards as they apply to members of this Parliament, unfortunately with singular lack of support from members opposite. In seeking to introduce a pecuniary interest register for Parliamentarians the Government has acted to reflect a public view that those people who are elected to serve the community should be ready to detail their financial interests. Members opposite have consistently opposed this type of improved accountability, citing such well-worn defences as freedom of speech, the fact that journalists do not have to reveal their interests, or the right to personal privacy.

Yet deep down the Opposition knows that its record on accountability is poor; that its new-found interest in the subject is basically a political ploy for which there is no real commitment in the Opposition parties. It has been adopted by them more because members opposite believe they can embarrass the Government rather than in any real belief that this is what the public requires.

Our record is clear. We have a commitment to public accountability. We have a commitment to ensuring that the public is informed and we have a commitment to ensuring that Parliament is the place where such matters should be debated. Nothing the Opposition has said in recent weeks disguises the fact that it has not been effective in this Parliament in bringing before the public the matters which it claims are of so much concern. It is clear, Mr Speaker, that much of what the Opposition is talking about is public posturing. They lack the will for substantive parliamentary debate.

Mr Court: It sounds like a pretty impressive statement.

Mr PETER DOWDING: The Government has made the commitment and that is why it set up the Commission of Accountability last year to ensure that its desires in this regard were not being subverted. Contrary to the Opposition's public braying, the report of that Commission did not discover huge irregularities in the way that the Government does business. There was no view expressed that the Government or the Public Service was corrupt or that it was operating outside the public interest.

The report was undoubtedly a disappointment to Opposition members in its lack of sensational disclosures, yet it did recommend a tightening of Government controls over aspects of financial activities. We have acted on those recommendations and I have given a commitment they will be followed through. The Government has done this because the Commission of Accountability report did not point to a new direction; it was a continuation of those policies which, despite the untruths told by some members opposite, has characterised the way in which the Labor Government has been prepared to do business. I challenge any member of the Opposition to show where members of my ministry are involved in putting their personal interests above those of the State. They cannot and they know they cannot.

It is true that the so-called Burt report triggered a review of the key aspects of Government and public sector accountability. The Government has already acted to disband some of the operations which the Commission on Accountability recommended needed to be subject to greater scrutiny. It has already enacted legislation which demands a greater degree of public accountability by statutory authorities. The review following the Burt commission recommendations revealed that, historically, Government support for major development projects in this State had involved very large commitments of public money without specific guidelines as to how this money was to be accounted for.

If I can interpolate, it is really in line with a comment made by the Leader of the National Party that I think makes this statement particularly relevant.

The Government believes that this is the root cause of public controversies on development projects stretching back more than 30 years. Much of that debate was unnecessary, not so much because the developments were in any way acceptable to Western Australia, but that the issues being debated were peripheral to the main question.

As I indicated earlier this Government welcomes public debate, but it believes debate should be well-informed. Debate based on misconceptions and ignorance materially damages the State's economy.

It is appropriate at this point for me to squash one of the great red herrings put forward by the Opposition and some of its supporters. This is the argument that Government has no place in providing support to ensure projects get off the ground; that Government's role is to undertake only those activities which industry does not want to undertake. The argument further postulates that Government should be involved only in providing support so that industry can make a profit and that there is no need for Government to establish and quantify the benefits to the community. Such propositions reflect outdated political ideology and result in a dangerous lack of accountability for public assets.

In the real world, national, State and local governments of many nations have consistently become involved in large projects. The realities of the world market mean there is considerable regional and national competition for development ventures. When Governments provide support to such projects, it means there is a risk to the taxpayer. Governments throughout the world commit taxpayers in this way because they believe the economic and social benefits flowing from projects outweigh the risks.

The White Paper released today details the types of support which are available overseas. Without being exhaustive the list demonstrates the desire of Governments to assist private sector developments as part of their economic plan.

We in Western Australia are no different in our desire to encourage investment in major development projects. What has been missing in the past is a coherent policy and firm guidelines, not only to reassure the general public but to provide a proper basis on which business can formulate its investment decisions. Our development history since 1952 has shown a willingness to assist developments without a clear understanding that in doing so the State was sharing the risk of success or failure of the projects so supported.

Today we look at Kwinana and see the industrial development which has taken place, scarcely remembering that less than 40 years ago the area was home only to the downstream industries associated with our agricultural economy. We should remember that the BP Oil Refinery would not have been built in Western Australia if the Government of the day had not been prepared to offer inducements such as land, subsidised harbour dredging, cheap harbour services, subsidised provision of roads, water, rail and power services, and cheap housing. The company invested in oil refinery capacity; Western Australia invested in the provision of a new industry. The risks were great on both sides; the returns for the Government - and therefore the community - were not easily quantified.

The Ord River Dam which has in today's dollars cost taxpayers some \$460 million is another example of where the provision of Government assistance was regarded as essential and, as we see it today, looks to have been unwise in producing a return for the community's risk. Products are indeed being produced on the Ord but without massive further investment it is unlikely that the project will ever be regarded as an economic success. A measure of that risk is that no major private enterprise organisation has been prepared to put money into the Ord without some measure of Government guarantee. I make the point, Mr Speaker, that in

relation to that we believe that we have done a great deal to put the Ord on the map and to make it economically viable.

Mr Kierath: What have you done?

Mr PETER DOWDING: The member obviously has not been listening to the debate. We have detailed that on many occasions, but the member attacks the measures introduced.

Again, the Laporte pigment plant at Australind put great demands on the public purse. The Government of the day provided cheap land, constructed housing, and built the effluent pipeline and charged the proponent company less than its full construction cost. But in today's terms the most critical part of agreement was that the Government took full responsibility for the plant's effluent disposal. It is not a proposition which would be supported today. Another example of Government support for industry in Western Australia is Cockburn Cement which pays no royalty on limestone extract. As well, in 1971 the company had its water and power facilities provided free of capital costs and it operates under exemption from all the provisions of the Mining Act. Government support for Bunbury Foods is well known to members of the Opposition as they, in Government, provided a financial subsidy to an operation which was promoted by an acknowledged confidence trickster. There is no evidence of public benefit in the documentation surrounding this deal. Indeed, the cost to the taxpayers of Western Australia was \$7.5 million.

Even the North West Shelf gas project, demonstrating so well today the capacity of Australia to build world-scale projects on time and on budget, would not be the focus of international attention this month at its commissioning ceremony without a high level of Government support. The domestic gas contract, under which Western Australia assumed the marketing risk for the project, and SECWA's Dampier to Wagerup gas pipeline, are both vital support measures without which the export phase of the project would have failed to proceed. It still remains to be seen whether those specific support measures will ever bring a net return to Western Australia's taxpayers. But it is not my intention to be overly critical. I am sure that the people who made those decisions did so in the belief that they were acting in good faith. The difficulty is that there is no public evidence to demonstrate that they were really able to advise "go aheads" on those support packages with confidence that the support proffered would bring demonstrable benefits to the State.

The former Premier, Sir Charles Court, accepts the truth of what I am saying. He believes in development because it brings jobs. He differs in his view from my Government only in that he does not believe it is necessary for there to be guaranteed markets before the State's community assets are put at risk. Last month he acknowledged that his Government had to accept the risk on the North West Shelf or the project would not have gone ahead. That is a brave statement because it implies that Government should automatically assess risk on community assets at a level different from that accepted by banking and other financial institutions.

Sir Charles, as members will know, is a supporter of a petrochemical industry for Western Australia because he sees it as the first of a series of building blocks for further development of the State. The former Premier well understands, in contrast apparently to his successors opposite, that a petrochemical complex at Kwinana would have substantial and far-reaching benefits for the State. There would be more jobs, more opportunities for local industries, flow-on benefits to local communities, more value-added processing, opportunities for new manufacturing industries, more efficient use of existing resources, import replacement and major new exports to help Australia's balance of payments, development of new markets locally and overseas and the import of new skills and technology to Western Australia.

The Labor Government would have been remiss in not pursuing the concept of the petrochemical plant in the interests of the State. It will still do so. The problem at the moment is that the project as defined under the arrangements already revealed to the Parliament are not tenable as that project is not viable. Our review of the arrangements surrounding assistance packages to projects following the Burt Commission recommendations showed a need for strengthened Government accountability as well as a need to comprehensively inform the public of the nature and level of Government support for each project as it arises. As I indicated earlier the level of public information surrounding development projects in Western Australia has, in the past, been poor. It is the intention of

the White Paper to redress that situation in the future. In presenting the White Paper to Parliament it is the Government's intention that the level of debate surrounding development projects involving Government support be improved by delineating for everyone to see what actually is occurring to the public's assets.

The challenge for the Government is to ensure that its level of support to major projects is competitive with that of other States or countries. Without a competitive approach the capacity of Western Australia to attract new projects will be diminished, and the Government's capacity to meet its economic and social objectives will be reduced. It is obvious that other Governments have the same views. All forward commitments offered by Governments as project support involve risk sharing. In assessing this, it is necessary to understand market risk, financial risk, completion risk and operating risk. No less than corporations, a Government has to identify the costs and benefits involved. As such, Governments are seeking a return for taxpayers just as corporate executives are seeking a return on their shareholders' funds.

A proper understanding of the role of Government assistance to development is vital to every member of the community. This applies as much to corporations as it does to members of the general public. No longer will it be possible for businessmen to maximise the return to their shareholders without an understanding of the risk being borne by the community as a whole. No longer is it appropriate as we move towards the twenty-first century that we in Western Australia be treated as pioneer territory where the normal and accepted rules of business-Government relations do not apply.

Mr Speaker, the White Paper I have tabled today spells out the Government's policy on the provision of public assistance to development projects. This policy encompasses for the first time a process of accountability and provides the ground rules by which project support shall be considered. These rules will operate in parallel with the stringent environment protection policies enforced by the Environmental Protection Authority. The guidelines spell out three tests for support packages -

firstly, they will have to be accountable so that the public can scrutinise the costs and risks;

secondly, they will have to be prudent so that commitments entered into by Government, under the worst case, are met from within existing financial resources; and

finally, they will have to demonstrate real, widespread and measurable benefits to Western Australia.

To achieve the Government's objectives in this vital area more resources will be made available to the Auditor General so that reports can be made to Parliament on all relevant contractual arrangements. The Auditor General will be charged with specifically identifying non-contractual support for projects, particularly infrastructure. He will have to report all costs and benefits at the outset of public sector involvement in development projects.

I believe this new policy is a first for Australia. I am confident it will be supported by the community generally and the business sector specifically. It demonstrates that Western Australia is determined to be professional in its approach to seeking development projects. It demonstrates also that the Government will not enter arrangements which benefit only developers and leave at risk the community at large.

Mr Speaker, in view of the time, I seek leave to incorporate the balance of my remarks in *Hansard* and to table the White Paper.

Several members interjected.

Mr Court: The Premier said he would give time to respond to the statement. He said he would finish at five o'clock.

Mr PETER DOWDING: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition said the Opposition had no speakers.

Mr Pearce interjected.

Mr Court: Your word is not worth anything.

Mr Pearce: That remark is unparliamentary.

The SPEAKER: Order! I am not sure what was unparliamentary.

Mr Pearce: He said my word is not worth anything.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! We have several options. The option for my allowing automatic inclusion of the balance of the speech is not one of them. Another option is that the Premier can seek leave to table the whole of the statement.

Mr Peter Dowding: It might be easier if I seek leave to continue my remarks at a later stage of this day's sitting.

[Questions without notice taken.]

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 pm

Mr PETER DOWDING: No longer will it be possible for critics to argue that the Government is hiding its level of assistance or to speculate on the benefits to the companies proposing developments as such assistance will be subject to publicly available reports. The effect of the change I believe will be to allow Western Australia to compete successfully in the international business community for development projects at a time when such competition has never been greater.

A State in which public controversy over development projects takes precedence over informed debate will be less attractive for development than competitors for the available financial resources. Major projects these days are far more complex and involve many more stages of approval than even those of a decade or so past. We are in the marketplace selling Western Australia as a place in which to invest in an economic climate which is known and predictable. The wild card in the past has been ill-informed public debate. We are approaching an historic watershed in the development of the world economy where the benefits of outstandingly enhanced communications provide us with opportunities that were not available even a few short years ago.

We would renege on our responsibilities not only to the present community but also to future generations if we failed to ensure that our stewardship of the State's resources was conducted in a clear and open manner. The policy contained in the White Paper implicitly acknowledges that the controversies surrounding Government assistance to development projects in the past three decades have had the capacity to damage our development in the future. We cannot afford to let that happen.

[See paper No 393.]

MR MacKINNON (Jandakot - Leader of the Opposition) [7.35 pm]: We have just witnessed another attempt to divert the attention of the State of Western Australia away from the embarrassment, disgrace and shame brought upon this Government by the petrochemical project in a classic case of shutting the stable door after the horse has well and truly bolted. The horse is now so far out of sight that it is little wonder that the Premier got out of bed to try to close the stable door. The rhetoric in the Premier's speech and in the documentation is unimportant other than in the message it delivered. Let us look at that speech; I did that carefully this afternoon. I thank the Government for a couple of hours' notice of what it was intending to do for a change, but no thanks for breaking the commitment we had to speak on the matter before the tea adjournment.

Mr Pearce: That is just not true.

Mr MacKINNON: In that speech the Premier interestingly enough spent a lot of time speaking about a person with whom he seems to have an obsession; none other than Sir Charles Court. Why did the Premier talk about Sir Charles Court when he was giving a speech about accountability, propriety and development? He did that because he knows that the Governments of Sir Charles Court and Sir David Brand had something his Government has failed to achieve. For example, when Sir Charles Court was Premier there was absolutely no hint of corruption in Western Australia. There was no hint that there were any problems; there was no need for a statement of principles because everyone knew the standards by which the Government performed. Development was set down with simple, straightforward guidelines. That Government pioneered agreement Acts which would come

to the Parliament for approval - it is interesting that the petrochemical project has never come to this Parliament in the form of an agreement Act - with Government support being delivered through things like the Industrial Lands Development Authority. Guarantees and infrastructure support were all well set out with guidelines and were always fully accountable to this Parliament.

Mr Kierath: To do that you need to have a tangible project, not a financial rescue.

Mr MacKINNON: The member is probably right. Never before in the history of this State has a Government wanted to become involved with huge equity investments in projects; never before have we seen a Government participate in such a huge way as a part of what was in reality not a development project but a secret rescue of Rothwells.

Mr Peter Dowding interjected.

Mr MacKINNON: The North West Shelf gas project was not a rescue of anyone.

Mr Peter Dowding: It was a bigger exposure.

Mr MacKINNON: The Petrochemical Industries Company Ltd project was part and parcel of the Rothwells' rescue, and the Premier and every other Western Australian knows it. The previous Government was never party to a deliberately calculated attempt to mislead the people of Western Australia.

Mr Hassell: They denied it was a rescue when they first did the dirty deed.

Mr MacKINNON: Of course the Government did. Never before have we witnessed the spectacle of a Premier using the privilege of this Parliament to seek to deliberately destroy a major Australian corporation. Never before have any of those things occurred. It has never been necessary to try to put down guidelines in respect of the road to follow because the guidelines were there if one wanted to see them.

Clearly, the statement is in response to the petrochemical disaster and nothing the Premier has said today will cover up the scandal; in fact, it will highlight it. Nothing in the document will save the project. I give the Premier a little advice: It will take much more than a piece of paper to restore this State's reputation that has been damaged in a little more than 12 months of his premiership.

In relation to investing into the future, I ask members to note these points: In this paper there has been no rejection of equity investment by the Government. I thought WA Inc was dead!

Mr Peter Dowding: It is.

Mr MacKINNON: This document endorses, because it does not reject it, the principle of equity development "a la PICL". In fact, it is trying to give the cloak of authority to the principle that we totally, categorically and unequivocally reject. Is it a commitment to accountability? Heaven forbid, Mr Speaker! This Premier has the audacity to say in his document, and I quote from page 36 -

... no government agency be permitted to conduct operations in a manner or to enter into any agreement which contains a provision which would prohibit that agency or the responsible Minister from providing to Parliament information as to its operations ...

Despite those words, what did the Minister for Planning do today? I asked him a question about the former member for Scarborough, Mr Graham Burkett, as to what his salary and entitlements are working in his new position. We were told that the details of the contract were confidential. So much for accountability! That recommendation was trumpeted by the Premier here today, and yet when we ask about a small matter of the salary of a former member of Parliament - it was only a few months ago that his salary was on record for every Western Australian to see - we cannot get the details. The details of the contract are confidential! I quoted that example because it is a very small example - some would say unimportant - but, if we cannot get that information for a small matter, what do we get for big examples? We get the same. We asked about John Horgan and we were told that the details were confidential. Is this a commitment to accountability? Also today, from this man who claims a commitment to accountability, the key documents in relation to the wonderful petrochemical project were not tabled. The Premier would not table them.

Mr Peter Dowding: What are they?

Mr MacKINNON: We covered that this afternoon. If the Premier has a short term memory loss, it is time for him to see his doctor.

The other interesting point in this document is that no legislation is recommended and there is no penalty if the Government does not comply. They are guidelines that this Government can choose to follow or otherwise. I remind the House that guidelines showing where to go are already on the ground in the road map of Western Australia; they are called Acts of Parliament. This Government flew in the face of these Acts of Parliament when the petrochemical deal was extending guarantees, and then found that they were in direct contravention of the legislation; the legislation it brought into this Parliament to try to change the law. Why should we believe that this Premier and his colleagues will follow a White Paper if they do not comply with legislation and the law of the land?

The words in this document might look okay - plenty of the thoughts and principles in here would be supported by me and the Opposition - but it is more than words that count. It is performance that counts. The need for a Government to table this document today speaks louder than I ever could about the clear admission by the Government of its wrongdoing. Words mean little. Actions speak louder than words. What we have now is a Government which claims it does not try to divert attention by stunts. Clearly, it has shut the door after the horse has bolted. What we want is a Government that stands behind those words and acts according to them and does not try to deceive in the deliberate way it has today. This Government does not deserve to be in power; it has lost the confidence of the people of Western Australia and needs to come into the Parliament with a document proclaiming that it has a commitment to accountability when we know that in this Parliament today the Government has flown in the face of every single principle of that accountability. It has refused to table documents and answer questions. The shallow attempts by the Premier will be seen by the people of Western Australia for what they are. I urge the Premier to stop the stunts and get back to the job of restoring credit and confidence in this State by resigning.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND) BILL

Second Reading - Budget Debate

Debate resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

DR ALEXANDER (Perth) [7.47 pm]: Before the Premier's statement I was trying to convey the concept of environmentally sustainable development and suggested that this is a philosophy that is well worth supporting and one that I am pleased to see the Government moving towards. There are many examples of how such a philosophy could be applied, but the concept of environmentally sustainable development is one that is easy to say but harder to implement. Probably opinions would differ around this Chamber as to exactly what that means, but the sort of thing I have in mind when that phrase is used is, for example, in relation to paper. Goodness knows, this Parliament churns through mounds of it, and I support the greater use of recycled or unbleached paper. The Premier recently promoted the use of unbleached toilet paper. That is one example of the way these projects can be very useful. I am told by consumers that it is not as pleasant to use as it is to look at. However, there are examples of unbleached paper which the Friends of the Earth are promoting. This is an international group of environmentalists who have a very good record in supporting good projects and opposing unsound ones. Their view contrasts to the popular opinion that unbleached paper does not look acceptable in a commercial sense. I have heard it said that unbleached paper could not be used for commercial purposes or for sending letters to constituents. I am holding some of this product which makes a lie of that. It is not white, it is more of a grey.

Mr Bradshaw: Why does the Government not push for the recycling of paper and a pulp mill?

Dr ALEXANDER: It is; if the member read the recent statement of the Government he would know that it is moving that way.

Mr Bradshaw: The Government wanted to export our paper to be recycled.

Dr ALEXANDER: That is one option. At the moment there is a 12 month backlog of paper waiting to be recycled. That is a bit of a problem at the moment, but the honourable member should listen to me as he can have his say later on.

I know the Government is looking at ways in which that paper can be more usefully recycled. One option is to export that paper to other plants in order that it can be processed. The Government is looking seriously at the establishment of a pulp mill in the south west of this State and another option would be to upgrade that development to incorporate in it a recycling facility. I know that is on the program.

Incidentally, members may not be aware that the Leader of the Opposition had a problem with this issue when it was in the Press a few months ago. He jumped on the environmental bandwagon and he circulated his policy speech on recycled paper. I understand the photocopiers in the basement of this building, not being used to the material, had hiccups for several days after this paper was used.

Several members interjected.

Dr ALEXANDER: Members have not been listening - I have not said that previously.

Mr Pearce: Be fair to the Leader of the Opposition - he put the member for Wellington on the back bench, then on the front bench and then recycled him to the back bench.

Dr ALEXANDER: In that instance, his judgment was quite sound.

It is easy to jump on the bandwagon, but it is not easy to use these products without some hitches. The answer is that the manufacturers and servicers of photocopiers should be aware of these issues.

Several members interjected.

Dr ALEXANDER: I have noticed the recycled paper coming out of the member's office!

Mr Court: Instead of recycling paper for toilet paper, we use newsprint.

Dr ALEXANDER: I understand that a large amount of dioxin is used in the manufacture of newsprint.

Some confusion exists between recycled paper and unbleached paper. Unbleached paper is produced from pulp without the use of dioxin.

Several members interjected.

Dr ALEXANDER: It is interesting this topic is causing some interest.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I have no doubt the interjections are assisting the debate. However, they are taking place at a level which I cannot hear and I am missing half the debate. I find it difficult because I do not want to ask for interjections, but if there are to be interjections let them be made at a level so I can hear them.

Dr ALEXANDER: They are loud enough at this end of the Chamber.

The member for Wagin pointed out that I was incorrect in what I said about the use of dioxin. I did mean that dioxin is a waste product and in the processing of unbleached paper chlorine is not used. Dioxin is an unwelcome and environmentally unfriendly waste product. The dioxin products which were predicted to be produced at the paper mill proposed in Tasmania was one of the reasons that project was rejected. The harm the proposal would have caused to the ocean and the fishing industry was obvious from the reports by CSIRO at the time.

I would like to see the parliamentary stationery office investigate the purchase and use of this type of paper which is produced without the chlorine process. I understand this paper is in rather short supply in Western Australia which does create a problem. However, I understand supplies can be easily obtained from elsewhere. It is something we should look at closely. After all, it would set a good example to the rest of the community. I would very much like to use this type of paper in my electorate office, but it is unobtainable through the parliamentary stationery office.

Mr Kierath: You can buy things from outside.

Dr ALEXANDER: Members can, but it is more difficult and expensive to do so. If the parliamentary stationery office is unable to supply the paper I will take up the member for Riverton's suggestion and I hope he will do the same.

The concept of environmentally sustainable development is important to the way we approach products and the approval of development projects. I was pleased to hear that if a pulp mill is established in the south west of this State the Government is adamant it will be subject to strict environmental safeguards.

Mr Pearce: The actual location of it will be subject to restrictions.

Dr ALEXANDER: Therefore, it may not be established in the south west.

A very important part of the assessment process is to look at the levels of contaminants that may be produced by the plant.

Mr Bradshaw: There are other plants in Australia.

Dr ALEXANDER: That does not lessen my objection to establishing one in Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

Dr ALEXANDER: I am not arguing about what will happen in Tasmania, but my view is that any pulp mill here should not use a craft type process.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Dr ALEXANDER: The concept of environmentally sustainable development should be expanded to cover all development provisions for major projects in this State. In the past Western Australia has tended to go hell for leather for development at any cost and it is only in the last few years that environmental objections have been taken seriously.

Several members interjected.

Dr ALEXANDER: If members want to make a joke of it - if they think that the Greenhouse Effect is a joke they should talk to schoolchildren to ascertain how they view the situation. It is no laughing matter; it is deadly serious. It involves the future of the planet as we know it. If the public choose to trust the Opposition on the front benches of Government they will see the folly of their decision very quickly. In contrast I believe the Government is moving towards this concept of environmentally sustainable development which is very important and one which needs exploration, discussion and closer definition. It is one which I certainly will be advocating as strongly as possible.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Cowan (Leader of the National Party).

ELECTION OF SENATORS AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR PEARCE (Armadale - Leader of the House) [7.59 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The background to this Bill lies in changes made to the Commonwealth Electoral Act and which have created differences between that Act and the Western Australian Election of Senators Act. Those differences are -

- (1) Under the Commonwealth Act 100 days are now available between the issue and return of the writ compared with 90 days under the State Act.
- (2) Limitations used to exist about when alterations to the date of polling and the return of the writ could be made. Such alterations had to be made within 20 days either side of polling day which itself could not be altered later than seven days before the time originally appointed. These limitations have been removed and the flexibility of permitting alterations to the days in specified Divisions has been added.

Amendments in this Bill will remove both these conflicts.

The next half Senate election must be held in the 12 months before 1 July 1990 but the provision may be required earlier in the event of a double dissolution of the Commonwealth Parliament. Clearly provisions governing elections to the Senate should match those to the House of Representatives.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr Mensaros.

GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR PEARCE (Armadale - Minister for Transport) [8.01 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to enable rationalisation of accounting and financial control arrangements between Westrail and the State Treasury to improve both accounting efficiency and the management of Westrail's working capital requirements. The key change involved will allow Westrail to operate one major bank account at Treasury for both revenue and expenditure and reduce the number of bank accounts it is required to operate at Treasury. It provides for funds of Westrail including parliamentary appropriations, business income and borrowings to be paid into and out of an account at Treasury to be known as the Western Australian Government Railways General Fund Account.

The legislation is modelled on similar provisions applying to Transperth through the Metropolitan (Perth) Passenger Transport Trust Act. Most other statutory authorities deriving trading income also operate with a major bank account for both receipts and payments, and this is normal practice for private commercial business enterprises. The Government's objective is to realise benefits for Westrail and the State through the elimination of unnecessarily complicated accounting work and wasteful duplication of effort arising from the present expenditure impresting system and operation of multiple bank accounts. The new procedures utilising one major bank account will also give Westrail greater responsibility for and control over the management of its cash and working capital resources.

The greater responsibility and control provided will not diminish Westrail's accountability to Government. Both the Under Treasurer and Director General of Transport have been consulted and have endorsed the proposals to provide more progressive and efficient accounting and financial control arrangements. Opportunity has also been taken, at Treasury's suggestion, to simplify and modernise the provisions of the Government Railways Act relating to Westrail's borrowing powers. As Westrail currently is subject to Treasurer's approval of its borrowing powers and related provisions these changes do not in effect alter Westrail's rights and responsibilities.

Although a major aim of the Bill is to reduce the number of Westrail bank accounts, with Treasury advice, provision has been made to enable Westrail to hold foreign currency funds in offshore accounts. If used at all, such accounts would be operated only on a short-term basis for particular exchange rate risk hedging purposes, and subject to specific Treasury approval. Transitional provisions are included in the Bill to transfer any moneys in the accounts to be closed to the new general fund account and to allow any existing liabilities and obligations relating to borrowing powers to continue.

The Bill provides for implementation of the changes from a date to be fixed by proclamation. Although the most convenient starting date would coincide with the commencement of a financial year, the changeover can be made from the commencement of any calendar month and the intention is to make the changeover as soon as practicable after the amendment has been considered and passed by the Parliament. Financial benefits in the order of \$150 000 to \$300 000 per annum are anticipated from the improved efficiency and funds management and the earlier the realisation of these savings can commence the better. It is therefore proposed that the provisions of the legislation be implemented at the first convenient opportunity to contribute towards the improved cost efficiency and competitiveness of Westrail in accordance with the aims of the Government's land transport policy.

The Bill is a clear piece of legislation which reflects a clear purpose; that is, to improve Westrail's accounting and financial arrangements with Treasury and hence its economic efficiency and commercial competitiveness. I commend the Bill to the House.

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

TRANSPORT CO-ORDINATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR PEARCE (Armadale - Minister for Transport) [8.04 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The effects of this Bill are fourfold -

- (1) It will remove the licence fee rates from the Act, and enable them to be placed in the regulations. This is consistent with many other Acts, where the "detail" is contained in the regulations, whilst the "policy" aspects are found in the Act.
- (2) It will clarify the authority to issue number plates for omnibuses licensed under the Act.
- (3) It will enable the Minister to transfer certain moneys collected under the Transport Co-ordination Act to be transferred to the Main Roads Department.
- (4) It will enable the balance in the Transport Co-ordination Fund at the end of a financial year to be retained in that fund. This is also consistent with many other funds.

I propose to deal with these points seriatim, and outline the background and rationale behind these amendments. The proposal to remove the rate of licence fees from the Act dates back several years to a request from the road transport industry. The industry requested access to annual transport licences in place of the single trip permits that, until then, operators had been required to take out for each trip that was undertaken to the north of the State. Annual licences were then restricted to transport generally operating in the southern half of the State. The situation can perhaps be best illustrated by using as an example a six-axle semitrailer, which is typical of the type of vehicle in use, carrying 20 tonnes of general cargo to Broome. On a single trip permit basis, and assuming he undertakes 40 such trips in a year, he would pay a total of \$4 392 for the year. For a road train carrying 50 tonnes, and on the same basis, the fee would be \$13 480 per annum.

If those operators were able to take out an annual licence - the fee for which is based on truck weights, not the weight of the goods - the maximum fee that the Act would allow is \$1 620 per semitrailer, or thereabouts, depending on the weight of the vehicle. The Government accepts that an annual licence scheme would be much more convenient, and administratively better for all concerned, and is willing to agree to the industry's request. However, the maximum fee allowed under the Act inhibits us from moving in that direction. It is felt that a more realistic annual licence fee for this type of transport operator should be in the region of \$2 400 for a semitrailer. This is the fee the Government intends to charge, and is of course much less than half the fee that a regular operator would be paying on a single trip permit basis. In the case of the road train operator the annual licence fee would be in the region of \$4 800, a little over one third of what is paid on a single trip permit basis. Operators will still have the option of taking out single trip permits if they so desire; the choice is theirs to make - single trip permits or annual licence, whichever best suits their mode of operation.

To facilitate lifting the licence fee structure above the present maximum permitted in the Act, and thus enable the annual licence system for northern operations to be fully implemented, it is proposed to remove reference to the rate of licence fees, but not the method, from the Act, and place them into the regulations. This will apply to the rate of licence fees for other modes of transport, not just trucks. This will then give the Government of the day greater flexibility to adjust licence fees to meet prevailing circumstances. No doubt some cynics will suggest that this is a subtle way of raising licence fees, and to remove the fees from Parliament's gaze. I should point out that as the maximum rates will be in the regulations they will be subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

As I indicated earlier, the maximum rate for commercial goods vehicle licence fees will be increased, and in addition the maximum rate per seat for omnibuses will also be increased in the proposed regulations as the current charge is near the maximum now allowed by the Act. In the case of the bus charges there has been an ongoing need to rationalise the licence fees on an equity basis to minimise the differential between those operators paying licence fees on a percentage basis and those paying on a flat rate per seat. I should add that the Licensed

Coach Operators Division of the WA Road Transport Association has been consulted and has indicated agreement with these proposals to rationalise the fees. In many cases their members will be paying less fees than under the old percentage basis, and in addition there will be considerable savings in administration costs for both the operator and the department. It is not proposed to alter the rates for aircraft, ships or ferries. As a point of interest, I point out that the maximum rates shown in the Act for trucks has not increased since 1975, and for buses and aircraft the rate has not changed since 1968.

The second effect this Bill will have is to clarify the power to issue number plates for tour and charter buses. Members will have undoubtedly seen buses all over the countryside with distinctive red letters on white plates. These have been on issue for some seven years, and the Act clearly indicates that the Department of Transport may make a charge for the plates and require them to be fixed to the vehicle in a certain manner. However, the Crown Law Department is of the opinion that the power to actually issue the plates is less clear. This amendment will clarify beyond doubt the department's ability to issue the plates.

The third amendment in this Bill relates to road cost recovery - a term which members will know, and will no doubt come to hear more and more in the future. A situation has arisen in which, as a result of a relaxation of the Government's bulk fuel policy, road transport of bulk fuel to certain areas is now allowed. These additional trucks on the road are causing greater wear and tear on the road network.

The Government feels it appropriate and justified that part of the transport licence or permit fee collected by the Department of Transport should be directed to the Main Roads Department to help compensate for the additional road damage these trucks are causing. This amendment will permit the transfer of such funds, which at present cannot be done due to the wording of the Act.

The final amendment proposed in this Bill will permit the retention of surplus moneys in the Transport Co-ordination Trust Fund at the end of the financial year rather than have it transferred to the Main Roads Trust Fund, as is at present required by the Act. This is consistent with the provision of many other trust funds, and will give the department greater flexibility and convenience with its budgeting arrangements.

I trust I have made the Government's intentions with this Bill quite clear, and I commend it to the House.

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

SPENT CONVICTIONS AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR D.L. SMITH (Mitchell - Minister for Justice) [8.11 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to remove one subsection relating to appeals which is now considered to be inappropriate. Provision was made under section 6(5) of the Spent Convictions Bill 1988 to permit an appeal against the decision of a District Court judge to a single judge of the Supreme Court on a question of law. At present, appeals from the District Court are to the Full Court of the Supreme Court, or to the Court of Criminal Appeal, which in each instance consists of at least three Supreme Court judges. An appeal on a question of law to a single judge of the Supreme Court would be a departure from the normal appellate structure.

The substance of an appeal from a District Court judge's decision under section 6 would not appear to warrant the attention of the Full Court of the Supreme Court. This legislation should not, for reasons of time and judicial resources, mandate the convening of the Full Court. In any event, from a practical point of view, this is an area where no question of law can reasonably be expected to arise. In view of this, there is no justification for retention of section 6(5) of the spent conviction action, and this Bill proposes its repeal.

I commend the Bill to the House.

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

PUBLIC TRUSTEE AMENDMENT BILL*Second Reading*

MR D.L. SMITH (Mitchell - Minister for Justice) [8.12 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to amend the Public Trustee Act 1941 to remove the current provision for the appointment of a Deputy Public Trustee and associated delegation provisions, and insert a more general power of delegation. In addition, it is proposed to remove the need for Executive Council approval of the Public Trustee and other appointments which are made subject to the Public Service Act.

The Public Trust Office now operates in a much more competitive market. To meet these challenges a thorough management review has been carried out to ensure that the organisation of the office is structured to provide a more effective and efficient operation. A critical element of the reorganisation proposals was the creation of a second Deputy Public Trustee position. Section 5 of the Public Trustee Act currently provides for the appointment of a single deputy and for the Public Trustee to be able to formally delegate to him all or any of his powers, duties and functions. Rather than amend the Act to provide for only a second deputy, it is proposed that the Act be amended to remove the existing provision for the appointment of a single Deputy Public Trustee, and associated delegation provisions, and replace it with a more general power of delegation for the Public Trustee. This will provide more flexibility to respond to changing circumstances in a now more competitive environment.

Section 4(1) of the Act requires the Governor-in-Executive-Council to approve the appointment of the Public Trustee. The appointment is also made pursuant to the Public Service Act 1978, and the position has also been included in the Senior Executive Service. Section 6 of the Act also provides that the Governor-in-Executive-Council may, subject to the Public Service Act, approve other staff appointments. This Bill seeks to remove the provision for such appointments to require approval of the Governor-in-Executive-Council; instead, it is proposed that all appointments be made subject to the Public Service Act in the usual way.

I commend the Bill to the House.

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

CHANGE OF NAMES REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL*Second Reading*

MR D.L. SMITH (Mitchell - Minister for Justice) [8.13 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to provide for the Registrar General to have sole authority for registration of change of names, and to implement some procedural requirements in respect of registration of changes of name. At present, the Registrar General has the authority to issue licences to change name. However, under section 2 of the existing Change of Names Regulation Act, all deed polls and licences to change names must be registered in the public office of the Registrar of Deeds in the Department of Land Administration.

This Bill seeks to rationalise this arrangement so that the Registrar General would have sole authority for registration of names; this would then allow the Department of Land Administration to have sole responsibility for land registration matters. The Bill also includes some ancillary provisions of a procedural nature to ensure that the changed procedures operate effectively. They relate to the need for the Registrar General to maintain a register of names, providing for public access to this register, and providing copies of entries.

I commend the Bill to the House.

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

**CARNARVON BANANA INDUSTRY (COMPENSATION TRUST FUND)
AMENDMENT BILL**

Second Reading

MR BRIDGE (Kimberley - Minister for Agriculture) [8.14 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill is intended to amend the Carnarvon Banana Industry (Compensation Trust Fund) Act. This Act was proclaimed in 1962 to establish a trust fund for the payment of compensation in the event of loss to growers of bananas in the Shire of Carnarvon. The Act has been extended by four, seven year periods and is due to expire on 19 April 1990.

The purpose of the trust fund is to assist banana growers to re-establish plantings that have been destroyed or damaged as the result of cyclones, storms, floods, pests, diseases and other natural events which constitute a serious threat to the existence of the banana growing industry at Carnarvon. The Act was not intended to provide full recompense for a total crop loss, and the rate of compensation has never been set at a rate sufficient to meet such an eventuality. However, the trust fund has provided the industry with a degree of stability which could not otherwise be achieved in a cyclone prone area. In 1987, the most recent year of full production, the Carnarvon industry produced 14 000 tonnes of fruit valued at \$10 million. This volume supplied an estimated 80 per cent of Western Australian banana consumption and represented 50 per cent of the total of Carnarvon production of all fruit and vegetables.

Every banana grower is required under the Act to contribute to the trust fund at a rate of 20¢ per 16 kilogram carton of bananas sold. The Treasury contributes to the trust fund from consolidated revenue an amount equal to 50 per cent of the moneys paid into the fund by growers; that is, the grower pays 20¢ per 16 kilogram carton, and Treasury pays 10¢.

Compensation is based on a set formula which takes into account the percentage of damage, as assessed; the area of land on which the destruction occurs; the "weighted average" production per hectare of bananas of the grower on whose land the destruction occurs; and the rate of compensation per carton, as prescribed by the Act. The compensation for each planting is calculated to be the mathematical product of each of these components.

Claims for compensation are paid from the trust fund to the extent of the moneys available. If there is insufficient money in the fund to pay all claims in full, claims are paid pro rata from the fund, with the Treasurer making up any shortfall to a maximum of 80 per cent of the full compensation payable. Since the Act was proclaimed, compensation has been paid in nine of the 28 years of its existence, suggesting that it performs a useful function. Annual compensations have ranged to over \$800 000, for cyclone *Herbie* in 1988. The current compensation rate is set at \$1.75 per 16 kilogram carton. This was last reviewed in 1980.

The trust fund is administered by a statutory committee of four persons, established for this purpose. There is representation from the Department of Agriculture and Treasury, with two elected grower representatives. With the imminent expiry of the Act, the trust fund committee and the Department of Agriculture recently examined the need for a replacement or amended Statute.

The committee convened a meeting of banana growers, which was held at Carnarvon. Forty seven growers attended, providing a reasonable cross-section of the industry. Benefits flowing from the existence of the Act were explained. These included a form of insurance at reasonable rates and the importance of the fund to bankers when lending to plantation owners. While there was some concern about the loss of identity of individual growers' contributions in the fund, it was recognised that this was a separate issue needing separate consideration.

The meeting's final position was to support a change in base carton size from 16 to 13kg, in line with the new industry standard. The meeting agreed with an increase in the levy rate by continuing to pay the existing rate for the smaller carton size. This effectively would give a 23 per cent increase, which is close to the 25 per cent increase in the value of bananas since 1981, when the rate was last set, and justifies the proposal as far as the growers are concerned.

The case for an increase in the compensation rate was more difficult to quantify. From the

aspect of re-establishment, costs per hectare have blown out, such that an increase of 120 per cent could be justified. On this basis the compensation rate could arguably be \$3.10 per 13kg container. The growers have asked for \$2.60, believing that this lower figure is reasonable, as there is some opportunity to gain income from affected land while awaiting a return to full banana production. However, there has been for many years an unwritten guideline that the payout should be 10 times the levy, giving a compensation rate of \$2 per 13kg container. Growers argue that recent cost escalation renders the old rule of thumb inappropriate.

As the requested rate of \$2.60 is between the extremes that could be proposed and, whatever the rate, only partial compensation is to be paid, the Government believes that there are grounds for its acceptance. Having reviewed the need for the Act and the appropriateness of the levy and compensation rates, the Government believes that the industry requests are reasonable.

Furthermore, the Government believes that there should be more flexibility in the administration of the Act. To this end the Bill proposes to define carton size by prescription in regulations and to provide that the actual levy rate shall not exceed 39¢ per 13kg carton, equivalent to 3¢ per kilogram of bananas. The compensation rate will also be set by prescription in regulations. This will enable the Minister to consider and recommend to the Governor in Executive Council the levy rate that should apply from time to time, within the statutory maximum, and similarly to set the compensation rate. The proposed rates to which I have referred will be set for the coming summer season, if the Parliament accepts this Bill.

In regard to the expiry of the Act, section 41 presently provides that the Act shall remain in force for a period of 28 years and no longer. The Act could be extended for a further period, as has been done in the past, or by replacement of the termination section with a requirement for a review after five years of operation. The latter action would cope with the growers' resolution to support the extension of the Act provided the question of separate accountability is addressed. As it removes the obvious anomaly of an Act having a termination clause which has never been allowed to take effect, the Government supports a review course of action.

The Bill also includes housekeeping amendments to redefine the Director of Agriculture as the Director General, in accordance with the provisions of the Agriculture Act. Having reviewed the provisions of the Camarvon Banana Industry (Compensation Trust Fund) Act, the Government believes that the amendments proposed in this Bill, and the actions concerning the levy and compensation rate to which I have referred, are appropriate.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr House.

BILLS (2): MESSAGES

Appropriations

Messages from the Lieutenant Governor and Administrator received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the following Bills -

1. Camarvon Banana Industry (Compensation Trust Fund) Amendment Bill
2. Government Railways Amendment Bill

DAYLIGHT SAVING BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 31 August.

MR COWAN (Merredin - Leader of the National Party) [8.26 pm]: There has been quite some history to the attempt by Governments in Western Australia to introduce daylight saving. I think about nine members of Parliament are left who can recall the attempt in 1974 when the Court-McPharlin Government sought to introduce daylight saving on a trial basis. In fact, that produced one of the most remarkable events in this Parliament at that time when the Minister who introduced the legislation to provide for daylight saving for a trial period followed by a referendum was seen crossing the floor and voting against his own legislation.

Notwithstanding that, the legislation was passed by the Parliament and we did have daylight saving through the summer of 1974-75. It was followed by a referendum on 8 March 1975, at which the people of Western Australia, by a majority of just less than 40 000, rejected the concept of daylight saving.

Then, some nine years later - or eight years after the referendum - it was the turn of the Burke Government to make an attempt. It is very interesting to look at the similarities between the second reading speech in 1983 when the Bill was introduced by the now Deputy Premier, and the speech given when the Bill was introduced recently by the Premier, in relation to the reasons for the legislation. In 1983 the then Minister for Employment, Planning and Administrative Services - now the Deputy Premier - said that the concept of daylight saving had the support of the business community and that he felt quite confident there had been a changed attitude on the part of the majority of Western Australians in relation to the matter.

Of course, again we had daylight saving. There was a slight difference between the 1974 version and the 1983 version in that the Government of the day thought it would attempt to have some influence over the referendum by not conducting the referendum immediately after the period of daylight saving concluded. The legislation was left in a manner which allowed the Government to conduct a referendum at a time it felt was suitable to the Government.

Mr Peter Dowding: When was the 1974 referendum?

Mr COWAN: On 8 March. The referendum in 1984 was held on 7 April 1984 - one month later. The majority rejecting daylight saving increased by a few thousand votes - to be precise, 62 804.

Mr Peter Dowding: Is that a population increase?

Mr COWAN: I would estimate that one could discount the increased majority by saying that the population increase would compensate for that.

But it is quite clear that the majority of people in Western Australia do not want daylight saving. The argument put forward by the Premier that the concepts and attitudes to daylight saving have changed are no more valid today than they were in 1983 when the then Government spokesman on this matter said precisely the same thing - that the business community is pro daylight saving and since 1974-75 we had seen a change of attitude in the community. That proved to be incorrect. Once again, I suggest that if that attitude were to be tested it also would prove to be incorrect.

If we want conclusive evidence we should look at the antics of *The West Australian*. At times, *The West Australian* conducts what it calls "news polls". When those polls, about subjects which are typical or have some controversy attached, reach the conclusion which favours the newspaper's opinion - and we must remember that *The West Australian* is self-opinionated - and it is vindicated by the results of the news poll, that result never sees less than page 2 or 3 and often can be found on page 1.

Mr Court: In this case, they put it next to the death notices.

Mr COWAN: They did not, but more people would have read it. In this case, they put it next to the editorial.

Mr Carr: Nobody reads that.

Mr COWAN: Exactly. *The West Australian* wanted to hide it and placed it alongside the editorial. It was taking up part of the letters page; I think it took up no more than five centimetres of one column which said that Westpoll had conducted a poll on daylight saving and found people were very strongly opposed to the introduction of this measure. That was it. It gave some figures, and I wish I had a copy of that article. I think something in excess of 2 000 people were called and of those people, something like 1 400 were opposed to daylight saving.

That is an indication that the average citizen in Western Australia is no more in support of daylight saving than he was in 1974 or in 1983. In my view, there has been no change. For those people represented by National Party parliamentarians, a great number of Liberal Party members, and indeed even some ALP members, and who live in the country areas of

Western Australia, it is a great inconvenience to suffer daylight saving. Most people in country areas work either shift work or sun time; they find it greatly inconvenient to have to suffer daylight saving just because some people in the business community have suffered some inconvenience in their business dealings.

Mr Speaker, what is more important - the people of Western Australia or the businessmen in the Eastern States? Clearly, this Government has decided that it is the people in the Eastern States or those few business persons who need to communicate with the Eastern States who are more important than the majority of Western Australians.

I cannot allow this debate to pass without making some further comment about my favourite newspaper *The West Australian*. Again, in expressing its opinion about daylight saving that newspaper could not resist having a very cynical shot at those people who are strongly opposed to daylight saving. I do not know how many times we have heard the comment, and it is always the same: "Opponents of daylight saving have thrown up some curious arguments over the years: The extra hour of sunlight will fade the curtains." In my experience, having lived through two referendums on this issue, having lived in the country, and having received hundreds of complaints about the Government's decision - as well as other Governments' decisions - to introduce daylight saving, I have never heard anybody who is an opponent of daylight saving using that excuse. The only people I hear making that comment are the journalists themselves or people in a very facetious way pressurising those of us who are opponents of daylight saving.

Another point made is the rather facetious reference to farmers and people associated with agriculture. I quote from *The West Australian* -

The extra hour of sunlight will fade the curtains, the change will upset the milking routine for cows, . . .

That is rubbish. The newspaper continues -

. . . and children will be too tired for school because they will get to bed later.

I have had several comments from mothers who have personal experience in relation to the inconvenience daylight saving causes children attending school. If this legislation goes through - and I hope it does not - I hope the Minister for Education considers this problem. I will be greatly disappointed if this legislation passes through the Parliament of Western Australia, but if it does the Minister for Education needs to look closely at giving schools in those areas, where the parents ask for it, the opportunity to go back to using Western Australian standard time rather than Western Australian summer time. This will purely and simply allow them to avoid the inconvenience they must suffer if daylight saving is passed in this State and becomes common practice.

Dr Lawrence: Schools are quite capable of making decisions in that regard, if they wish.

Mr COWAN: I hope that the Minister does not impede that decision. I would like an undertaking from the Minister that she will allow schools to agree on that.

Dr Lawrence: Absolutely.

Mr COWAN: I am pleased to hear that. I hope that the Minister does not have to do that; I hope this Bill gets thrown out. I can give a simple reason for the introduction of this Bill: This Government has for some time been somewhat on the nose with the Western Australian business community. The business community in Western Australia is leading the charge - if there is a charge. It is a bit like the charge of the snails. Nevertheless, the Western Australian business community is seeking the introduction of daylight saving to satisfy its very selfish interests.

For some time, the Government has not been in favour with the Western Australian business community. As a consequence, the Government is trying to do two things: It is trying to win back that favour through this measure and it is trying to divert attention from some of the issues which could more properly be consuming the time and energies of this Parliament.

Mr Peter Dowding: Like a pilots' dispute or something?

Mr COWAN: Yes, or perhaps some statement which would indicate very clearly in all of the pages of those documents tabled by the Premier where he has demonstrated a level of financial commitment in some of his failed business dealings. Those issues would be more

useful for this House to debate. We should be debating industrial relations matters, including the pilots' strike. We should also be talking about the teachers' dispute, cleaning up the waterfront and getting matters in the Pilbara into a proper perspective so that things are not done on an "us and them" basis but so that productivity can be increased. We will not see that until such time as management is forced to make decisions which everybody on the Government side of the House says are abhorrent.

Mr Marlborough: Would you agree that, if you want to see that happen in the Pilbara, management will have to change its attitude?

Mr COWAN: I do not doubt for a moment that right is not on one side. However, a solution will require a great deal more cooperation from the trade union movement than is being exhibited at the moment. I am not for one moment suggesting that there is no need for cooperation by management; of course there is. However, matters such as industrial relations, the economy of this State, and the Budget which was introduced recently must be discussed.

Mr Peter Dowding: An excellent Budget!

Mr COWAN: That is a matter for dispute and one that will certainly be debated when we debate the Budget. We might be able to show the Government that it does not have the degree of excellence that it thinks it has.

Mr Marlborough: In the main, though, it has.

Mr COWAN: The member should wait until tomorrow when I will show him that it does not earn the reputation for having any degree of excellence. Those comments are an example of how this Government diverts people's attention from the real issues.

All this daylight saving question is really doing is diverting attention from the issues. We have had marvellous economic growth in this State and the Government is squandering it. We have a serious situation in industrial relations and the Government is doing nothing about it. We have far more important problems than these. The people of Western Australia made a decision in 1975 to reject daylight saving. They rejected it again in 1984. This time, however, I give the Government credit. It will not give them an opportunity other than through this Parliament to reject daylight saving in 1989.

I strongly urge all members on this side of the House to reject this measure and to persuade their colleagues in another place to stand fast and reject it also. In that way, we will ensure that we remain on western standard time this summer and in future summers.

I oppose the legislation.

MR MENSAROS (Floreat) [8.45 pm]: As the Leader of the National Party said, this measure, together with the Premier's statement read only an hour or two ago, the Members of Parliament (Financial Interests) Bill and the abortion and prostitution issues, has been designed to divert the public's attention from the very real and very grave problems facing this Government and State. It has not been introduced through any necessity or urgency, or in the interests of the community. It has been introduced with some calculation to divert attention. Perhaps part of that calculation was that ordinary people much better understand this measure than they do issues relating to WA Inc, Petrochemical Industries Co Ltd, or Rothwells and that it will get some media support. However, judging from the singular lack of interest in the Press Gallery, that calculation may have been misplaced.

This is not a matter where social, party political or ethical principles come into consideration. Therefore, whether someone is a conservative, a socialist, a religious man or an atheist is not important; each could have a similar view on the matter. Hence, in order for one to take a proper stand, one has to look at the issue from two points of view. The first is the real interests of the community and the other is the wishes of the community as best we can ascertain them. Needless to say, the two are not necessarily co-related.

I will try briefly to look at the arguments for and against daylight saving. Before doing so, however, I wish to see what can be ascertained from the community's views. I could not find any clear indications of support or opposition apart from the two referendums. However, the Westpoll which the Leader of the National Party cited claimed that the people for daylight saving total 53 per cent, with 38 per cent against and nine per cent who do not know. Even if we ignore the people who do not know figure, the percentage would be

58 per cent. However, the next day, the same newspaper which devotedly and almost religiously supported daylight saving, gave the results of a so-called coupon vote which resulted in 6 648 people voting against daylight saving and 1 786 people voting for it. That means that 80 per cent of people who cared to cut out the coupon from *The West Australian* were against it. That is fairly significant because members might wish to dismiss the poll as something that was not scientifically done or something that was incidental. However, I do not think anyone would argue with the fact that many more business people read *The West Australian* and had access to the coupon than ordinary people on the street. Therefore, that is a reflection on the behaviour of the business community.

The legislation, from the point of view of ascertaining public opinion, is unfair because it does not follow the bipartisan precedent where previous Governments of both political colours allowed people to have a say by way of referendums, and after a trial period of daylight saving. That was a fair move simply because it could be claimed that in the nine or 10 years many young people grew up and had not experienced daylight saving previously. Therefore it was only fair to suggest that a trial period be held. That is even more the case bearing in mind that according to the research polls before the last two referendums, before the trial period public opinion was slightly in favour of daylight saving, but after the trial period public opinion was against it. Of course, that was documented in the voting during the referendums. Even the newspapers in this State are not unanimous in their opinions. While *The West Australian* is very much for daylight saving, the other daily newspaper, the *Daily News*, stated in its article on 3 May that "it would seem business has again found ways of manipulating Government at our expense".

As I have said, I do not think that this measure is as important as the Government implies it is, so I will be brief in my comments. However, I would like to examine the arguments for and against daylight saving. I have come to the conclusion that there is absolutely no clear indication as to the opinion of the majority of the people and it would be very difficult to arrive at a very fair and concise indication that the introduction of this measure would be in the interests of the community. In any event, there are very few, if any, indications that the introduction of daylight saving would cause a great deal of suffering, rather than perhaps a slight inconvenience to only a small minority. The main argument of the Government is that the business community is in favour of daylight saving because otherwise it is inconvenienced. I do not think either the Government, or anybody else for that matter, has claimed that it is any more than an inconvenience. I have not heard anything to suggest a huge disadvantage resulting in financial losses or any such thing has occurred because Western Australia does not have daylight saving. Neither have I read or seen anything which indicates to what extent the majority of the business community is in favour of it. The Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Confederation of Western Australian Industry choose their words very carefully in this matter and use terms such as, "We assume" or "We think". They have not conducted a proper survey which demonstrates that the majority of their members support it. It was stated in the second reading speech that the Master Builders Association is in favour of daylight saving; I have my doubts about that because I was in that business some time ago and I can recall that the early daylight is much more important in the summer months, particularly for those physically working on the job. They utilise the early light to start work early and to finish before the heat of the day.

Instead of simply stating these facts and not telling us how the business community is inconvenienced, the Government should assess that inconvenience and try to limit it. Other examples demonstrate that the simple statement is not necessarily true. Only two months ago I was in California during the summer months. In that State business is three hours behind New York and the eastern parts of the United States not for three or four months a year, but for 12 months. However, one does not hear the complaint that it disadvantages their business. Indeed, many large businesses are located in California. The Bank of America, which was the largest bank in the world but is now the second largest, is domiciled in San Francisco. The Boeing Corporation is located in Seattle. Two very large and well known construction firms - Bechtel and Fluor - are located in San Francisco and Los Angeles respectively. Kaiser Engineering is located in Auckland, the sister city of San Francisco. The silicon valley belt is in that State. A great deal of business activity is carried on without any complaint about disadvantages. Does that mean that Western Australian business people who complain of a slight disadvantage are overdoing it a little and that they

are stupid compared to their American counterparts in that the Western Australian companies cannot manage for three months with that time difference, whereas the Americans manage it all the time and prosper very well?

Of course, this problem could be easily overcome. I remember having participated in 1974 in this argument when representation was made to the Government for daylight saving and the people at the Stock Exchange complained that they might lose early morning callers. That might be the case even today if somebody wanted to talk to his or her broker and did not rise early enough. Of course in those days office equipment such as the fax machine was not so readily available. However, those people did not talk about the gains that were available at the tail end of the market; that is, when the market closes in Sydney and Melbourne people in those States are able to telephone Perth which is open for two hours longer and give their commission to the stockbrokers in Perth. It is an opportunity for them to pick up extra business. In any event, there is no doubt that Western Australia is not necessarily disadvantaged with regard to the money market and financiers.

However, if there is any hope of establishing a manufacturing industry, its only market is South East Asia. We must face the fact that our population is too small for any scales of economy to represent a proper market for manufacturing. If daylight saving is not introduced Western Australia operates on the same time as Hong Kong, Singapore, and Tokyo, which must be very important to local business. It would be almost criminal if the representatives of the various chambers and federations overlooked this fact or did not mention it. It would at least give the impression that they were very biased and prejudiced.

I suggested that the Government should look at the problem. It could look at the disadvantages to business, and we have often heard that such disadvantage exists. With all the resources available to the Government, no study has been carried out on the number of business dealings with South East Asia, and what advantages there would be in not having daylight saving. We do not know what percentage of businesses in Perth are affected; is it 30 per cent, 40 per cent, or a majority, which has been suggested by some representatives. Of course, the local ramifications could also be examined. Perhaps some difficulty arises in awards with the introduction of some method of flexitime and changing conditions. That matter could be looked into and remedied if there is any real inconvenience to business. Perhaps a Federal award is in place which cannot be altered by the State, but that situation could be assessed with a view to overcoming the problem. That would indicate a positive attitude and action by the Government instead of its declaring that daylight saving is an advantage or disadvantage to business and, therefore, the Liberal Party is against business by opposing it. That is nonsense.

It was claimed in an article in the *Sunday Times* that this is the first time that the existing partial daylight saving in the west of Western Australia has been mentioned. That is not true, because I mentioned in a speech in this Parliament that Western Australia, or rather Perth, already has a certain amount of daylight saving because, when the time zones were set according to the meridians, the time in Western Australia was not set in the western area of the State, where the bulk of the population live, but rather in the middle of the State; therefore, considering the huge size of this State, we already have - according to different views - an extra 16, 20, or even 34 minutes of daylight, which was the information I received at the time from the Bureau of Meteorology.

The Government is going full speed ahead with its tobacco legislation, but it has ignored entirely the medical fact that the incidence of skin cancer would increase by about 10 per cent if there were to be an extra hour of daylight. That important environmental argument does not interest the Government.

Another consideration is that if the working day were to commence an hour earlier, according to the geographic time clock, the gases emitted by motor vehicles during times of peak traffic would be emitted an hour earlier, when the bitumen surface of the roads had not yet warmed up, and it would therefore be easier for an inversion to occur, resulting in the development of a Los Angeles type of smog.

We have heard also the very valid argument in the view of the majority of people that the introduction of daylight saving will adversely affect those people who have to prepare dinner during the hottest part of the day, and who have to put their children to sleep. Children usually will not go to sleep until it is dark, so they will either lose an hour's sleep or it will be difficult to get them up earlier in the morning.

It has been argued that the provision of daylight saving will give us more time for leisure activities. However, that applies only to those people who are in the habit of enjoying their leisure activities after dinner. I am happy to be the opposite; I go for an early morning swim, and I prefer to go when it is light, rather than dark. I may not be the only member on this side who prefers to take advantage of leisure time in the morning rather than in the evening.

The Opposition does not support this Bill. We believe it is a diversion exercise, and is not in the interests of the majority of the community.

MR WIESE (Wagin) [9.03 pm]: Mr Deputy Speaker -

Mr Pearce: Are you for the cow or the curtain faction?

Mr WIESE: Would the Minister like to make my speech for me?

Mr Pearce: I probably could make quite a good job of it.

Mr WIESE: I am sure the Minister would make quite a good job of it because he knows the arguments; what I cannot understand is how he can put this sort of Bill before us when he is so well aware of the arguments raised in opposition to this Bill. Let there be no mistake about it; there is very widespread opposition to this Bill, not just in rural areas, but in the community as a whole.

The Government is attempting, in its endeavour to introduce into this State the concept of daylight saving, to artificially interfere with the clock. We cannot adjust nature; the sun rises, and we have only a certain amount of daylight. We have roughly 10 hours of daylight during the winter, and roughly 14 hours of daylight in the summer; and nothing that this Government can do will alter that situation. There are some members opposite who think they are very close to God, therefore they might be in a position to alter these things, but not even the members of the Government can alter time. We are talking here about adjusting our time system to fit in with that of the Eastern States. This Bill attempts to bring the clocks in Western Australia in line with those in the Eastern States. The Eastern States have altered their clocks for their own reasons. They have a different climate, where fewer hours of leisure are available after people finish work. We in Western Australia do not need that adjustment; we have plenty of hours of daylight at the end of the day, even with our present system, to enable people to pursue their leisure activities.

I strongly suspect that something is happening to that clock over there, too, which just goes to show what happens when we start to interfere with clocks.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member's time has been restored.

Mr WIESE: It is improving all the time; if we wait a bit longer, we will get even more than that. I can assure the House I do not intend to speak for the full 30 minutes that would now appear to be available to me.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is now 26 minutes.

Mr WIESE: That is a classic example of what can happen with clocks, and how irrelevant they are to the situations that exist in the community. There is no justification for the arguments put forward by the Government in introducing this Bill. The Government's arguments concentrate mainly on the needs and requirements of business. It is being put before this Parliament, and the people of the State, that the needs of business are pre-eminent and shall dictate what happens in Western Australia. I do not wear that at all, and I believe the majority of people in Western Australia will not accept that. It has become apparent already on both the occasions when daylight saving has been put to the vote that the public of Western Australia reject that concept. I have during my travels spoken to a lot of business people in this State, and it appears to me that those businesses in Western Australia which do a large percentage of their business with the Eastern States have in the majority of cases adapted their clocks to the requirements of the situation which has arisen by virtue of the clocks in the Eastern States having been put forward by one hour.

Members will find that in Western Australia those businesses are starting an hour earlier, and that is exactly what should happen. That degree of flexibility is needed in the business world, and it has already been proved that the business world is able to adapt to the situation if need be. If the need is severe enough, if the amount of business they do with the Eastern States is sufficient, and if their business is sufficiently affected by the changes, they have

adjusted their clocks and started an hour earlier. They have done their business in the same relative time frame as the Eastern States and have knocked off an hour earlier; so in fact their businesses are not affected, and therefore the justification that has been used by the Government for introducing this measure really does not exist.

There is a very strong feeling in the community that this measure has been foisted on us to satisfy the desire of business and that very little notice has been taken of the ordinary man and woman who will be affected very severely by this measure. When one goes out and talks to parents - and they are one of the major groups which have voiced extremely strong opposition to the measure - they are very strongly opposed to the introduction of daylight saving because they have seen it already and they know what the effects will be upon their families. It does not matter what anyone says, we cannot escape the fact that if those people get up an hour earlier by the sun, they will be in a situation where, towards the end of the day when the children run out of steam and are exhausted and ready for bed, firstly, because we have a very hot summer over the majority of Western Australia, they find it is far too hot to go to bed; secondly, because it is broad daylight outside they refuse to go to bed and go to sleep. It does not take very long before there is a complete breakdown in the family situation. Parents, and especially mothers, are very aware of this situation. They are the people who have opposed the measure very strongly.

I am not just talking about parents in country areas, who seem to be the people being blamed for opposition to this measure, but about the majority of families with children in the metropolitan area as well. They have voiced extremely strong opposition to the measure. They do not want it, and they cannot see why it should be foisted upon them to suit the needs of business.

The opposition to the Bill does not come only from parents, but also from a section of business - the farming community. The reasons for this opposition have been voiced well and often in the community, and it hardly seems necessary to put them before this House again. However, some members may not be aware of the situation or may not have sat through the debates before and heard the arguments. It must be said that the rural community, especially, will be very severely affected by the introduction of daylight saving, because the majority of rural pursuits, and especially the harvesting operation, cannot be set by the clock. It does not matter what time one calls it, harvesting can start only when the harvesting conditions are right, and they are dictated by the sun, the heat, and the lack of moisture in the crops. Until those conditions have been reached harvesting cannot be commenced. The same applies at the end of the day - harvesting will continue until the moisture content has become too high for harvesting to continue and until deliveries to the grain bins can no longer go on.

The effect of this Bill will be that, instead of those operations ceasing at 10 or 11 o'clock at night, depending on the area the farmer is in and the efficiency of his harvesting equipment, they will continue, in time and clock terms, for an hour longer - until 11 or 12 o'clock. That will have an enormous effect on all of those farmers.

Mr Peter Dowding: So what?

Mr WIESE: I would like it to be recorded that the Premier has made the comment, "So what?" What does it matter if a few farming families or farming communities are affected?

Mr Peter Dowding: That is not what I said.

Mr WIESE: That probably sums up the attitude of the Government to the rural community - to the people out there in the bush.

Mr D.L. Smith: What time will you start harvesting?

Mr WIESE: We will start, as the Minister should know - if he has not been listening I will repeat it - when the crop and moisture conditions are right, and we will stop when the conditions are no longer suitable. The effect of that will be that farming families, the people who are engaged in those operations, will be coming home at 11 or 12 o'clock at night and will be hoping to get a meal. They might get a meal, if they are lucky. They will be waking the children and disrupting the whole family and household, and the effects of that upon the whole of the farming community and the family farms will be quite severe. If members have never experienced it they should go out to a farm and see what actually happens during these busy times of the year.

The arguments have been put forward well and truly many times before. This legislation has been brought into this House by a Government which has little care or regard for these people and I believe the arguments needed repeating. I hope I have got the message through, even if only in a small way, to some of those members of the Government who were not aware of the real circumstances.

MR MINSON (Greenough) [9.17 pm]: I will speak against this Bill for a number of reasons. Many of them have already been canvassed, and for that reason I will gloss over those areas which have already been touched upon.

I want to make some points about the business aspect of the measure. It has been claimed that it is mainly at the direction of business interests and the carrying on of business by one side of Australia with the other that this Bill has been proposed. However, I believe that most of the arguments put forward are myths. The first of these is that the Stock Exchanges claim they have to get in line with the Eastern States. I disagree with that. I believe that the big players will deal on most of the exchanges anyway. The really big exchanges across the world are separated by considerable time differences and they seem to operate without any problems. Were I a member of the Eastern States business community, I would take advantage of the extra hour's difference that Western Australia offers by trading later. As well, by moving towards the Eastern States we would be making the mistake of moving one hour away from Asia, and I believe that we will be doing more and more business with Asia.

Most of the early morning business that is done between Western Australia and the Eastern States is probably done by telephone, and if a million dollars is hanging on a deal the person to whom that million dollars will belong would still manage to get himself out of bed on time. I do not think over a million people should be inconvenienced so that a few people can make some business telephone calls - they will manage to make them in any event.

As well, businesses today have been affected by the advent of the facsimile machine. Those machines have the facility to send messages in the early hours of the morning, and any business that does its sums will take advantage of the cheaper rates applicable in those early hours. Members will find that fax machines will start operating about midnight. People in the Eastern States will find that they have plenty to do before Western Australian businesses open. The argument put forward by the business community is not a valid one. As has been pointed out, Western Australians have voted twice against daylight saving. I do not intend to expand on that except to say that I note that fact.

Another reason against daylight saving in Western Australia, and one which has been forgotten, is that in the Eastern States the populated areas tend to be at the southern end - particularly Victoria and New South Wales where daylight saving has been of great benefit, they claim. Western Australia is the only State which extends from near the equator to almost the southern point of Australia. For that reason we experience a large variation in day length anyway because of the large variation in latitude. The present situation gives a very fair average length of day and daylight. Frankly, we do not need to interfere with that.

Another argument put forward was that by trying to make use of daylight by moving clocks forward an hour we will be saving a lot of energy. I do not believe that. Because of the heat people will stay up later; that has been my experience and the experience of people in the country. That aspect has been canvassed very well by my National Party colleague from Narrogin. If that argument were true it would hold true as well for winter, but I have not heard anyone canvass daylight saving for winter months.

I also make the point that we have already given 20 minutes to the Eastern States by having western standard time centred at Southern Cross; it is not, as many people think, centred at the Perth Observatory. We have given the Eastern States 20 minutes; they do not need another hour.

The effect of daylight saving on country people has been well and truly canvassed. The Leader of the Opposition hit the nail on the head when he said that this issue is another smokescreen. I do not think the Government cares one way or another whether we get daylight saving; it is an emotive issue, and one which has successfully sidetracked the newspapers and the public from the PICL-PIL debacle. Perhaps when we have finished with this Bill the Government will bring in a few more furrphies. I suggest we will see a Bill on abortion; and, if things get really hot with the petrochemical plant debate and the WA Inc debate, we will see a Bill on prostitution.

An Opposition member: And another on homosexuality!

Mr MINSON: Yes, and finally we will probably see a Bill on euthanasia.

MR HOUSE (Stirling) [9.23 pm]: I oppose this piece of legislation. I would be interested to see the remainder of the Government's legislative package for this session. If this Bill is the most important piece of legislation to be enacted - I presume the Government thinks it is important because of the prominence given to it - Western Australia will not experience very progressive leadership over the next few months. I am very disappointed that the Government has seen fit to choose this Bill as the first Bill introduced in this session. Unquestionably, this is a nonsense piece of legislation, and I say that advisedly.

In his second reading speech the Premier said that the support for the Government's move from the community at large and business, commercial and industrial sectors had confirmed the Government's belief that community attitudes towards daylight saving had changed significantly since it was introduced on a trial basis in 1983. That is not the indication I have received from those people. I gather from the other speakers that is not the indication that they have from the people they represent. In my opinion, great support for daylight saving has not been indicated. Certainly, I have not had it spelled out to me how it is an advantage to the financial community of this State. I presume that when the Premier sums up he will enlarge on his second reading speech so that at least we are more enlightened.

I put it to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that this State should never introduce legislation on the basis that other States have something so this State may as well have it too. I know that the Premier mentioned at the time that the National Party Government in Queensland was to introduce daylight saving on a trial basis to join with the rest of Australia. I am proud as a Western Australian to think that we can make up our own minds about the things we want to put in place in Western Australia. It is important in the context of this debate that the argument put forward by some members of the business community is couched in terms that they believe we have to contact the rest of Australia at exactly the same time. That is nonsense. The United States of America works on a great time difference from east to west; Europe works on a time zone from east to west; in fact, the whole of the world works that way. What on earth will be the difference if Western Australia stays on a two hour difference between the east and west coasts? It beats me that it is so important to a few businesses in Western Australia. If that is the case - and I do not accept the argument - why do those businesses not introduce their own voluntary daylight saving; that is, get to work earlier? That would solve the problems of congestion on the freeways and parking, and those people could go home earlier. Why can those organisations not start business one hour earlier? Surely it is not that hard.

I note the point made by the member for Greenough: If we consider Greenwich Mean Time, Perth is 18 to 20 minutes ahead of natural sun time, so we pick up that amount of daylight saving in any case.

Finally, I add my support to the criticism of the Leader of the National Party of the demeaning comments made by people in positions of responsibility, such as journalists and radio station commentators whom I have heard talking about curtains fading and cows not understanding the time. That is absolute nonsense and it demeans the people who make those comments. If that is the level of their mentality they should not be in positions where they can influence other people through radio stations or newspapers.

I will have no hesitation whatever in voting against this legislation. I am certain that the great majority of people whom I represent would not agree that we need to introduce so-called daylight saving. That is all this legislation is - so-called.

MR TRENORDEN (Avon) [9.29 pm]: The various issues involved with this legislation have been very well canvassed by my National Party colleagues. One point which has not been canvassed relates to Western Australia's relationship with Asia. Our future lies in Asia, not with the Eastern States of Australia. We have a declining economic base in Australia and unless there is some dramatic change, the economic base will continue to decline.

To the east and the north of us we have what is the fastest growing sector and fastest growing economy with the best equipped people for us to trade with; these people are on the same time band as we. That is a great advantage to Western Australia and it is something we need to make the most of. One of the simple suggestions that came up and was ignored by this

Government a few months ago was contained in the Quin report regarding the racing industry, the third biggest industry in this nation. It was suggested that the industry could increase substantially if we were able to familiarise our racers, trotters and pacers to the Asians, who are compulsive gamblers. The resulting benefit of that would be that the thoroughbreds, once they were recognisable to the Asians and they started to follow our horses and became interested in our pedigrees, would establish a very substantial market that would be many times in excess of the market in the Eastern States of Australia.

Looking at what business does and the manner in which it communicates, the people who really need to communicate are those in insurance, banking and those dealing with finance. Business is all done on cable 24 hours a day and the transactions do not need daylight. The bulk of transactions are conducted electronically and that type of business will continue to be very dominant. I do not believe that the arguments put forward about business are valid; we should be dealing with the more substantial question of the declining economic base of Western Australia. Another point made in favour of daylight saving that annoys me - and I have heard this on radio programs - is that people wish to swim, garden and engage in other activities. When I was last living in the metropolitan area I enjoyed the beach too; but the quality of life must be balanced against the hardships other people must battle. There are two classes of people who must battle against daylight saving; they are women and children. Daylight saving will severely affect the quality of life of women. I am pinching the member for Collie's speech, and I would hate to do that. This legislation will affect the quality of life of women. That is a very important point. Getting the children to bed while the sun is hot and the rooms are hot and while all conditions are not conducive to sleep is bad enough, let alone the 20 mile bus trip home that some of my constituents would have to endure.

What I say to people who argue that way is that the hour spent at the beach or in the garden is great, but they should have compassion for people and balance it against the pain which would occur on the other side of the ledger. What has happened to the fair go for all Australians? Many city people do not lift their eyebrows above the ranges and do not really know what pain these proposals cause other people. Many men and women out there are doing jobs in which they work from daylight to dusk. If they are tradesmen, farmers, fishermen or whatever it will not affect them a huge amount. It will affect them but the argument is much less than the one relating to the family and the trauma it will cause the family. I listen to the arguments of people opposing daylight saving. It is always women who oppose it. They are the people who will be directly affected.

I do not know how much of the member for Collie's speech I have stolen, but I believe that it is clear that this legislation is a red herring of no consequence put forward by the Labor Government. It is an absolute disgrace that we are debating this issue at all. I oppose the Bill.

MR NICHOLLS (Mandurah) [9.37 pm]: I will not take up very much time, for as far as I am concerned this Bill is just a disgusting attempt to usurp the rights of all Western Australians. Twice this idea has been put to the people of Western Australia, and twice they have kicked it out. Now we have what I consider to be another rort on the people of Western Australia by this Government. If this Government wished to analyse the views of Western Australians, and if it is genuinely concerned about daylight saving, it should take it back to the people with a referendum. The arguments about the cost and effort involved are insignificant when weighed against the loss of \$400 million in Rothwells and other deals. In fact, I believe that this Government has no right to bring this Bill into the House. It should take it away to where it belongs. The people of Western Australia do not need this kind of deception.

The urgency of this Bill is due to an attempt to win favour with some businessmen who are fleeing this State because of its reputation due to the activities of this Government. These people are fleeing to the Eastern States and they want to keep up with their offices over here. The Government is trying to raise a smoke screen, and for that reason the Bill is an absolute absurdity. The people of Western Australia voted it out twice, and, therefore, the Government is trying to take this right away from every Western Australian.

MR BRADSHAW (Wellington) [9.38 pm]: I certainly oppose this legislation. It is sheer arrogance on the part of members of the Labor Government to introduce this legislation after the concept has been rejected twice. We have had two referenda which have thoroughly

thrown out the idea of daylight saving in Western Australia. The Premier claims that the majority of people in Western Australia now feel that we need daylight saving, therefore it is in order to introduce this legislation. That is a load of absolute rubbish. The Government is not taking another referendum to find that out. If the Premier had included a referendum as part of this measure, we might have given it consideration, but under the circumstances I have no alternative but to oppose this type of legislation.

Mr Peter Dowding: Why is that? Why do you have no alternative?

Mr BRADSHAW: Because we have had two referendums in which the people of Western Australia have totally rejected the concept of daylight saving, therefore there is no way I can support it.

Mr Watt: If you brought in another referendum, he might have considered that decision, but we are left with no alternative but to oppose it.

Mr Peter Dowding: I thought he said that.

Mr BRADSHAW: I believe that farmers outnumber the few business people who could benefit from daylight saving; they have learned to live with a two hour time difference between us and the Eastern States and I do not see why they cannot live with a three hour difference as they could commence work earlier, as was suggested by some other people who have spoken tonight.

DR TURNBULL (Collie) [9.40 pm]: In speaking on this subject, I represent the views of the women and mothers of Western Australia. At the time of the trial in 1973-74 my children were very small and daylight saving caused me great difficulty. I sympathise with all the women who have written to me. I have a large file of letters from women and men, but mostly from women, which state that daylight saving will disrupt their lives. Women whose husbands work during the day say their lives will be disrupted. Women whose husbands do shift work say their lives will be disrupted. Women also say that school hours will be disrupted.

The Leader of the House has just presented me with a wonderful example of how mothers will suffer. He said that he rather liked the idea of daylight saving because he would be able to see his children when he got home. If he were able to see them when he got home from Parliament, the office, or from a late night meeting, it would be because they were still awake. The reason they would be still awake is that mothers have tremendous difficulty getting the children to bed with daylight saving. Half of the voters of Western Australia are women and many women have had to bring up and discipline their children.

I do not wish to repeat members' comments in opposition to daylight saving. However, one of the important points raised was that Western Australian business people are more closely associated with the Asian business world and we should focus more on that. Much of the business of WA is conducted by farmers. Daylight saving will disrupt the work of weighbridge attendants and milk depot receivers. I will not go through all of the other reasons for our opposition to daylight saving.

This Bill has been presented to the House tonight for two reasons: Firstly, it is Labor Party policy, as the Leader of the House said earlier tonight. Just because it is Labor Party policy does not mean that it has to be the policy of all Western Australians. Only 46 per cent of people recently surveyed agreed with daylight saving. Those people should not have their way, just as the Labor Party which received only 48 per cent of the vote at the last election should not have been able to form a Government. I do not agree with rule by the minority, especially in relation to daylight saving.

The Government's second reason for introducing the Bill tonight is that it wanted to distract the House from discussing very important business. It introduced the legislation so that, while Opposition members are debating the Bill, Government members could catch up on their work and go home before 11 o'clock. In that way they will not have to answer the questions that the people of Western Australia want them to answer.

This debate is wasting the time of the representatives of the people of Western Australia. Unfortunately, I have observed that this House often wastes the time of members. Let us get on with the business at hand and vote against this Bill.

MR PETER DOWDING (Maylands - Premier) [9.45 pm]: I am very surprised at the Opposition's attitude to this legislation because it is not taking up a great deal of the time of

the House. We have debated the Bill for only about two hours. That is hardly a long time for us to attend to an issue which, from all of the admissions from the opposite side of the House, concerns a large section of the community. Of course, the Opposition can argue that 48 per cent of the community is permanently opposed to daylight saving. However, 40 per cent is also in favour of it. That hardly suggests that, even if those were the raw numbers, it is not a matter which deserves at least a couple of hours of our time because we are faced with a very new situation in Australia. For the first time, the whole of the east coast will move to daylight saving, not just New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia. Queensland will also move to daylight saving.

Opposition members could be generous enough to say that it is worth reviewing our attitude towards it, but, having had that review, it has come to a conclusion one way or another. However, once again, they have used inflammatory language. The member for Mandurah spoke about our disgusting attempt at deception. What is disgusting about it? This is an important issue. A large number of people in our community feel quite strongly about it. Why is it either disgusting or a deception unless the Opposition parties do not intend discussing anything else except their own desire to try to achieve the Government benches or run over the matters that have been discussed endlessly, publicly and in this place?

I thought the Leader of the Opposition's Budget speech today was a classic example of someone treating the issues confronting this State with contempt. Quite frankly, the Opposition does not want to discuss any of the issues; it wants only to discuss one issue which it is at liberty to discuss.

Mr Hassell: Your integrity is a pretty important issue.

Mr PETER DOWDING: I am aware that is an issue that the Opposition would like to discuss over a long time. It has every opportunity to do that. However, that is not to say that the business of Government ceases and it is not to say that the rest of the community should hold its breath for important social decisions while the Opposition paddles around in its own bile after having lost the last election.

Mr Cowan: That does not apply to all Opposition members.

Mr PETER DOWDING: I agree. A few of them - those with a rural preoccupation - have sought to persuade the House that there are valid reasons from the point of view of the rural community as to why this piece of legislation might have some adverse effects. On my recent business and holiday trip to Europe I spoke to many people about the introduction of daylight saving in Europe, the British Isles and Scandinavia. It turns out that on every occasion on which daylight saving was debated in those countries the rural community was up in arms. If it was not the curtains, the cows, the moisture content in the wheat or the absolute devastation to rural families this measure would inevitably bring, it was some other piece of fantasy.

Experience has clearly shown that in New South Wales and Victoria - country areas in New South Wales are just as hot as country areas in Western Australia - life goes on even with daylight saving.

Mr House: Was daylight saving introduced in Europe in summer? Of course it was not. It was introduced in winter during the war to save power.

Mr PETER DOWDING: I am sorry, but daylight saving is operating in summer. It would not be much good to have daylight saving in Sweden during winter because the daylight hours are between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm. There would not be much advantage from that!

I advise members that the rural communities in those countries used the same argument that is being used by the rural communities in Western Australia when similar legislation was introduced. I am not saying that Opposition members do not have some justification for looking after their constituencies. However, their view is not an adequate reason for Western Australia to suddenly, at one point in the year, slip an hour behind the rest of the country in terms of commerce and industry.

Mr Cowan: Rubbish!

Mr PETER DOWDING: I am a firm believer in daylight saving and I always have been. I have spoken to the people in the community about daylight saving and I have received support from the mums who want it.

Dr Turnbull: Very few.

Mr PETER DOWDING: I do not think that is true. It is not in any sense restricted to a particular group in the community; it is widespread across the community. However, daylight saving does mean a great deal to a particular group in the community; that is, the group which has business interaction with the Eastern States. Some people will enjoy daylight saving from both a social and lifestyle point of view. The Government respects those views, but in many cases those people can take it or leave it.

Members should recognise that business in Western Australia has close relationships with business in the Eastern States. It is all very well to hypothesise about how wonderful it is to expand this State's relations with South East Asia. This Government has done a great deal to ensure that this State has direct trade relations and direct relevance in our negotiations with Asia. When the Opposition was in Government it did next to nothing about that.

There is no question that the bulk of our transport, communications, business and financial relations are with the Eastern States. Whether the member for Avon wants to give a future shock view of where we might be down the track in our relations with Asia the truth is that the bulk of this State's commerce dealings is with the Eastern States. I do not take the view of the member for Mandurah that this is a disgusting attempt at deception. The Government has simply introduced this legislation to the House and it has given all members an opportunity to speak to it. I am extraordinarily grateful for and quite surprised by the articulate restraint evinced by members opposite in terms of the time they have dwelt on this issue. They have been able to encapsulate their views with short contributions. Every member has had a contribution to make; every member can speak on behalf of his or her constituency; every member has had the opportunity to express how he or she views the legislation.

Members on this side of the House have said how they see the legislation and they support it. If Opposition members in the other place want to articulate opposition to the legislation that is their right. Because of the democratic nature of the upper House, when the legislation reaches the other place -

Several members interjected.

Mr PETER DOWDING: I must say that members have not looked at the franchise in the other place. The evidence clearly shows that there is a gerrymander of fairly mammoth proportions which goes right away from the Liberal Party's new-found interest in one-vote-one-value. What an extraordinary turnabout in views!

Dr Turnbull: Now you are saying that because a minority won the election the minority should have daylight saving.

Mr PETER DOWDING: The member is new to this House, but I suggest that she look at the franchise of the upper House because she will see it is in no way reflective of any democratic arrangements for a one-vote-one-value House.

The members in the upper House will have a chance to either support or oppose this Bill. The Government is of the opinion that the Bill is very important to the community. It is also very important for Australian relations and there should be no difference in the lapse in time from one part of the year to the other. On that basis the Government strongly supports this legislation and I commend it to the House.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (26)

Dr Alexander
Mrs Beggs
Mr Bridge
Mr Carr
Mr Cunningham
Mr Donovan
Mr Peter Dowding

Dr Gallop
Mr Graham
Mr Grill
Mrs Henderson
Mr Gordon Hill
Mr Kobelke
Dr Lawrence

Mr Leahy
Mr Marlborough
Mr Pearce
Mr Read
Mr Ripper
Mr P.J. Smith
Mr Taylor

Mr Thomas
Mr Troy
Dr Watson
Mr Wilson
Mrs Buchanan (Teller)

Noes (22)

Mr Ainsworth
Mr Bradshaw
Mr Court
Mr Cowan
Mr Grayden
Mr Hassell

Mr House
Mr Kierath
Mr MacKinnon
Mr McNee
Mr Mensaros
Mr Minson

Mr Nicholls
Mr Omodei
Mr Shave
Mr Strickland
Mr Trenorden
Mr Fred Tubby

Dr Turnbull
Mr Watt
Mr Wiese
Mr Blaikie (*Teller*)

Pairs

Ayes

Mr Parker
Mr Catania
Mr D.L. Smith
Mrs Watkins

Noes

Mrs Edwardes
Mr Lewis
Mr Thompson
Mr Clarko

Question thus passed.

Bill read a second time.

Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Dr Alexander) in the Chair; Mr Peter Dowding (Premier) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 3 put and passed.

Clause 4: Western Australian summer time to be advanced by one hour -

Mr COWAN: I am very pleased that the person handling this Bill is a lawyer, barrister, solicitor or whatever he likes to call himself. I ask the Premier to explain the legal gobbledegook contained in clause 4. Subclause (1) makes it clear that if the Bill is passed by the Parliament we shall endure daylight saving only from the beginning of December to the end of March. That was also clearly indicated in the second reading speech. However, subclause (2) states that daylight saving will occur from the hour of 2.00 am on the last Sunday in October until the hour of 2.00 am on the third Sunday in March of the following year. The subclauses appear to be contradictory, and it seems to me that the legal jargon could be made clearer particularly for people such as me who have not had the benefit of the higher education that some people in the legal profession have had. I am a very simple person, and these subclauses seem contradictory and require an explanation.

Mr PETER DOWDING: No they are not contradictory. I do not have the benefits of the years out in the university of hard knocks that the Leader of the National Party has, and I do not have any difficulty in interpreting clause 4.

Mr Cowan: Explain it to us.

Mr PETER DOWDING: I understand it to say that in 1989 certain things will occur and, having stated that, the position in 1989 is legal. Clearly, thereafter and for all other years the great event - if it is ever to occur - will occur at 2.00 am on the last Sunday in October.

Mr Cowan: Why not in 1989?

Mr PETER DOWDING: Because we will not be ready. The Bill qualifies subclause (2) by the provisions of subclause (1). That is the meaning of the drafting; a statement is put in about a particular and the Bill then moves to the general. The particular is 1989 and is quite clearly covered; the general, which is for everything other than the particular, is from the last Sunday in October in each year.

Mr House: What do you have to get ready for daylight saving?

Mr PETER DOWDING: Timetabling changes, awards for shops, travel arrangements for aircraft scheduling, arrangements for people to start work, for shift changes and those kinds of things. I am told that a reasonable period to expect the community to make ready for the change is longer than we are likely to achieve if the passage of this Bill proceeds in the normal way through this Chamber and the other place. I am advised that it would need a longer period of certainty before October than we shall be able to give if the Bill progresses in that way.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 5 to 7 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (25)			
Dr Alexander	Dr Gallop	Mr Leahy	Mr Troy
Mrs Beggs	Mr Graham	Mr Marlborough	Dr Watson
Mr Bridge	Mr Grill	Mr Pearce	Mr Wilson
Mr Carr	Mrs Henderson	Mr Read	Mrs Buchanan (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr Cunningham	Mr Gordon Hill	Mr P.J. Smith	
Mr Donovan	Mr Kobelke	Mr Taylor	
Mr Peter Dowding	Dr Lawrence	Mr Thomas	
Noes (22)			
Mr Ainsworth	Mr House	Mr Nicholls	Dr Turnbull
Mr Bradshaw	Mr Kierath	Mr Omodei	Mr Watt
Mr Court	Mr MacKinnon	Mr Shave	Mr Wiese
Mr Cowan	Mr McNee	Mr Strickland	Mr Blaikie (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr Grayden	Mr Mensaros	Mr Trenorden	
Mr Hassell	Mr Minson	Mr Fred Tubby	

Pairs

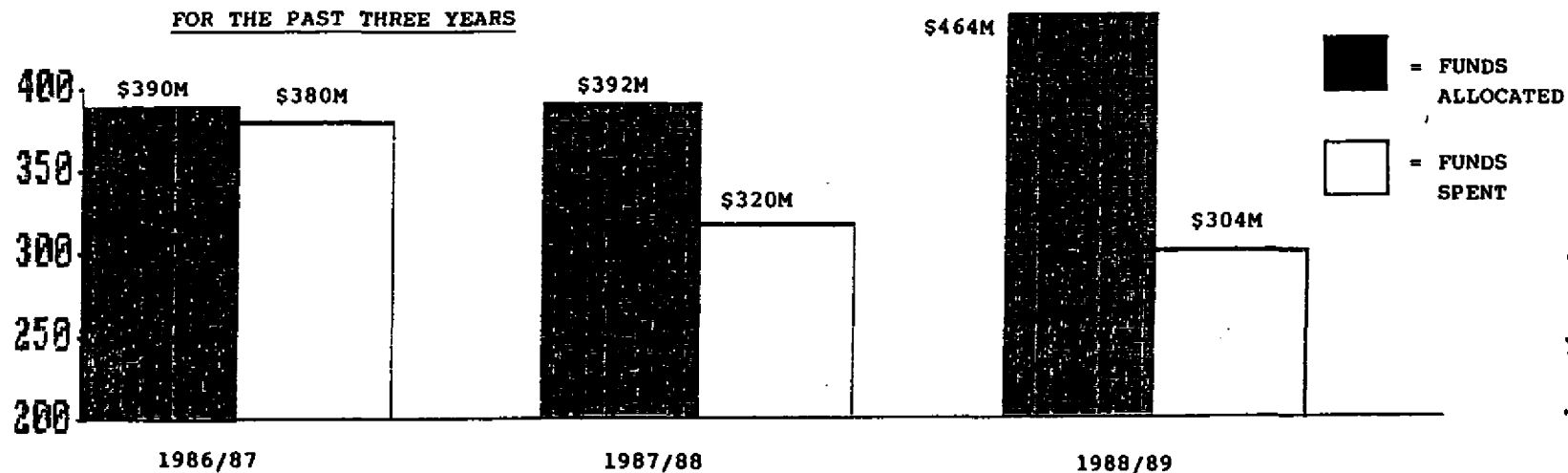
Ayes	Noes
Mr Parker	Mrs Edwardes
Mr Catania	Mr Lewis
Mr D.L. Smith	Mr Thompson
Mrs Watkins	Mr Clarko

Question thus passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

House adjourned at 10.16 pm

A COMPARISON BETWEEN FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR CAPITAL WORKS FROM THE GENERAL LOAN
AND CAPITAL WORKS FUND AND THOSE FUNDS ACTUALLY SPENT IN THE YEAR OF ALLOCATION
FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS



GENERAL LOAN AND CAPITAL WORKS FUND

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</u>	<u>*NEW* FUNDS ALLOCATED</u>	<u>COMMONWEALTH CONTRIBUTION</u>	<u>FUNDS ACTUALLY SPENT</u>	<u>UNSPENT ALLOCATION</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1989/90	383,563,000(est)	178,103,600(est)	59,720,000(est)	-	-
1988/89	464,449,916	392,672,421	136,515,361	303,990,516	160,459,400
1987/88	391,686,520	381,241,690	79,710,164	319,909,025	71,777,495
1986/87	389,986,849	384,319,082	147,487,798	379,542,019	10,444,830

SOURCE: GENERAL LOAN AND CAPITAL WORKS FUND - ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE

[Tuesday, 5 September 1989]

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ROTHWELLS LTD - CONNELL, MR LAURIE

Assets Commitment - Legal Advice

507. Mr HASSELL to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Government sought or received any legal advice in relation to the commitments of Mr Laurie Connell to the Government as reported to this Parliament by the now Deputy Premier that every one of Mr Connell's assets would be on the line before the State Government was to be required to put up one cent in relation to Rothwells?
- (2) If undertakings were obtained as indicated by the now Deputy Premier to this House, what was the nature of those undertakings?
- (3) Have those undertakings been honoured in whole or in part?
- (4) Has any request been made for those undertakings to be honoured?
- (5) Were there any undertakings?
- (6) Has any legal action been taken in respect of the commitments entered into?
- (7) Did Mr Connell have any obligations in respect of Rothwells either personally or through any of his other companies other than moneys which he may have contributed to the original rescue in October 1987?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Mr Connell undertook to make all his assets available for the benefit of Rothwells.
- (3)-(7) I am advised that the liquidator for Rothwells has entered into an agreement between Mr Connell, his wife, and Connell associated companies involving obligations and undertakings of Mr Connell. This agreement is a matter of public record as it has been agreed to by Rothwells' creditors and approved by the Queensland Supreme Court.

ROTHWELLS LTD - COLLAPSE

Government Payments

517. Mr HASSELL to the Treasurer:

- (1) What total payments have been made by the Government since 1987 for or on behalf of Rothwells or in respect of its collapse and what is the composition of those payments?
- (2) Is the Government under any liability or alleged liability to make any other or further payment in respect of Rothwells?
- (3) What amount will be recovered by the Government from the liquidation of Rothwells according to current estimates?
- (4) What is the current estimated amount in the dollar that is expected to be recovered?
- (5) When is payment expected to be received?
- (6) What is the estimated value of interest forgone in respect of the payments made in respect of Rothwells, or alternatively what amount of money could have been made by the Government through the usual short term investments if the moneys had not been paid to Rothwells or its liquidator for the period from the time of the payment to the estimated date of recovery?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) \$33 044 416.40;
 \$33 million - paid to the provisional liquidator, of which
 \$10.5 million is to be recouped from the National
 Australia Bank; and
 \$44 416.40 - legal expenses incurred by the State.
- (2) No.
- (3) Nil.
- (4)-(5) Not applicable.
- (6) Not applicable; no funds are to be recovered.

MINING - BURMILL PLANT
Cost

525. Mr COURT to the Premier:

- (1) What has been the total capital cost to date of the Burmill plant, located south of Coolgardie?
- (2) What has been the operating cost per annum since the establishment of Burmill?
- (3) What have been the annual dividends paid to shareholders from Burmill?
- (4) Are there any plans to invest further capital in the Burmill plant?
- (5) If so -
 - (a) what will be the proposed source of funding; and
 - (b) what is that funding required for?
- (6) What is the cost per tonne of ore treated at the Burmill plant, including depreciation and other costs?
- (7) Is the Burmill plant treating prospectors' ore?
- (8) If yes, at what cost per tonne?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) \$1.909 million.
- (2) In 1988-89, total operating costs, including amortisation and depreciation, were \$2.59 million.
- (3) In 1988-89, \$100 000 was distributed to the joint venturers. The project also has retained earnings of \$739 210.
- (4) No firm plans have been made, but this will be done if circumstances warrant increased capacity or improved flexibility.
- (5) Answered by (4).
- (6) As Burmill offers treatment services on negotiated rates, the joint venturers would prefer not to make these figures available publicly because to do so could affect future negotiations.
- (7) The plant treats ore for a number of gold producers, including some prospectors.
- (8) Charges are negotiated with each client on an individual basis and are dependent on the individual metallurgical characteristics of each parcel of ore.

ROTHWELLS LTD - RESCUE
Government Involvement - Losses

543. Mr COURT to the Premier:

What are the total itemised losses as a result of the Government's involvement in the Rothwells Ltd rescue?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

The question is unclear. The Government's involvement in Rothwells took the form of an indemnity provided to the National Australia Bank. An agreement reached earlier this year with the bank and the provisional liquidator of Rothwells resulted in the Government's making a payment of \$22.5 million to the bank in full satisfaction of its obligations under the indemnity.

ROTHWELLS LTD - GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE
National Australia Bank - Rothwells Directors' Personal Guarantees

560. Mr COURT to the Premier:

When the Government gave its \$150 million guarantee to the National Australia Bank, was it on the condition that Mr Connell or any other directors or officers of Rothwells would be pledging their own personal guarantees as a part of the Rothwells' rescue operation?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

Mr Connell undertook to make all his assets available for the benefit of Rothwells.

ROTHWELLS LTD - ROBINSON COX AND CO
Government Involvement - Advice

561. Mr MACKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) Did Robinson Cox and Co, solicitors, advise the Government, any member of the Government, or Government agency over the Government's involvement in the Rothwells' affair?
- (2) If so, why was private legal advice sought on these matters rather than relying on Crown Law advice?
- (3) Was Crown Law advice also sought on these matters?
- (4) What total payments have been made to Robinson Cox and Co for this advice?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) (a) Robinson Cox and Co provided advice to me between 19 October and 3 November 1988. Robinson Cox continued to provide advice on a number of matters associated with the collapse of Rothwells, including National Australia Bank indemnity - until 7 July 1989; and
(b) I am advised that the firm has also provided advice to the SGIC and the R & I Bank on matters associated with Rothwells Ltd.
- (2) Robinson Cox was engaged to provide independent legal advice and to obtain urgent independent financial advice prior to the collapse of Rothwells.
- (3) Crown Law has provided advice on some matters associated with Rothwells Ltd.
- (4) Costs and disbursements for the advice provided in 1(a) were \$70 966.50 and \$14 038.66 respectively.

FAMILY FOUNDATION - GRANTS ALLOCATION
Report Tabling

571. Mr FRED TUBBY to the Minister representing the Minister for The Family:

- (1) As at 30 June 1989 what was the total of the grants allocated through the Family Foundation?
- (2) (a) Is it the Minister's intention to table a report on grants made from the Family Foundation detailing the recipients and their allocation;
(b) if yes, when will the report be tabled; and
(c) if no, will the Minister supply me with a list of the recipients and their allocations?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) As at 30 June 1989 there had been 852 community grants made to organisations supporting family and community activities from the Family Foundation totalling \$1 131 000.
- (2) (a) The Minister for The Family will be tabling a report on the foundation;
(b) as soon as it is completed; and
(c) not applicable.

AIDS - PRISONERS

Tests - Federal White Paper Recommendation

581. Mr HASSELL to the Minister representing the Minister for Corrective Services:

- (1) Has the Minister observed media reports of the Federal Government White Paper on acquired immune deficiency syndrome, in particular its reported recommendation that all prisoners be tested for AIDS?
- (2) Have all Western Australian prisoners been tested for AIDS?
- (3) What percentage of Western Australian prisoners have been tested for AIDS?
- (4) Will the Government adopt the recommendation referred to if it is contained in the White Paper?
- (5) When will a decision be made?
- (6) If the recommendation is adopted, when will it be implemented?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)-(6) All prisoners, except those serving a very short - that is, a few days - sentence, are assessed by medical staff on receipt into prison for risk behaviour. Prisoners are tested for AIDS if they are identified or suspected as falling into the recognised high risk groups. Testing is also available on request by a prisoner or on clinical grounds. Compulsory blood testing of all prisoners is not undertaken based on professional advice that such action is not cost-justified or necessary. Prisons are an extension of the general community, which itself is not subjected to compulsory testing.

SWAN BREWERY SITE - REDEVELOPMENT

582. Mr HASSELL to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Is the redevelopment of the old Swan Brewery to continue?
- (2) If so, what are the latest plans and proposals for the site?
- (3) What Government authority, body, agency, or department is responsible for the development?
- (4) Is the Western Australian Development Corporation involved and, if so, in what capacity?
- (5) If WADC is involved -
(a) what fees, charges or payments have been made to WADC; and
(b) what is the contractual arrangement in this regard?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Proposed internal uses of the old brewery include visual arts, performance and exhibition facilities with a theme of WA excellence, small retail outlets, office space and cafe/restaurants.
- (3)-(5) LandCorp, which is managing the project, is an arm of WADC. Neither WADC nor LandCorp is receiving a fee for its service.

SWAN BREWERY SITE - MACHINERY

Lifting Devices

584. Mr HASSELL to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Is it correct that there are two cranes or lifting devices on the old Swan Brewery construction site?
- (2) Has that machinery been left on site for all the months during which work on the old Swan Brewery has been delayed?
- (3) What is the daily cost of hire of those devices?
- (4) Who has been paying that daily cost?
- (5) What total sum has been paid out in respect of the same?
- (6) Why were those devices not removed from the site during the period of delay, especially bearing in mind that such equipment is available on a daily hire basis from machinery firms?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) There is one crane on the old brewery site.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) \$215.
- (4) Being borne as part of project costs.
- (5) \$7 525.
- (6) Industrial bans have prevented the crane from being removed.

PARLIAMENTARY PRECINCT COMMITTEE - ABOLISHMENT DATE

Emu Brewery Site - Development Approval Date

585. Mr HASSELL to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) What was the date of abolition of the Parliamentary Precinct Committee?
- (2) What was the date of approval of a major development on the old Emu Brewery site?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) The Parliamentary House Precinct Committee and its subcommittee were disbanded and replaced on 9 March 1989 by a Parliamentary Precinct Committee comprising the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor of Perth, and the Chairman of the State Planning Commission. Recently, the President of the Legislative Council was invited to joint the committee.
- (2) No approval to commence development has been given to this proposal by the State Planning Commission.

MEREDITH, NICHOLAS - PAROLE BOARD

Release Decision

587. Mr HASSELL to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Why did the Parole Board decide to release Nicholas Meredith on parole?
- (2) Did it have regard for prison conduct by Meredith and alleged prison offences by him?
- (3) Did it have regard for an official report suggesting that community interest would not be well served by the release of Meredith?
- (4) If Meredith is convicted of the prison offences alleged against him or the offence alleged against him during his period on parole -
 - (a) will parole be cancelled automatically;
 - (b) may it be cancelled at the discretion of the board;

- (c) if it is cancelled, what portion of the balance of the sentence will then be served; and
- (d) at the end of that period, will Meredith again be released on parole?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

(1)-(3)

When considering the release of a prisoner on parole, the Parole Board may take into account any matters which it deems fit within its absolute discretion. This applies both to prisoners subject to a "special term" as defined under section 40B(1) of the Offenders Probation and Parole Act, and to prisoners who are the subject of a report under section 40B(5) of that Act.

- (4) As these matters are still before the court, it would be inappropriate to comment.

HOSPITALS - MARGARET RIVER

Progress - Completion Date

593. Mr BLAICKIE to the Minister for Health:

Will the Minister indicate the progress of the new Margaret River Hospital - when it is expected to be completed and available for patients?

Mr WILSON replied:

The new hospital at Margaret River is approximately 60 per cent complete. Completion is scheduled for late November 1989. The commissioning period will be approximately one month. Therefore, patients are expected to be admitted in January 1990.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING - JOBLINK PROJECTS

Phase-Out - Voluntary Private Organisations

599. Mr MENSAROS to the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) Can the Minister confirm or deny that gradually more and more Joblink projects will disappear and that ultimately all Joblink programs will be abolished?
- (2) If that assertion is confirmed, what, if any, is the Government's plan to support and cooperate with voluntary private organisations who cater for skills training, job research strategies, referral, work experience, counselling, and job placement?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) The Government has been so successful with its job generation and placement programs that it is now necessary to redistribute some of the funding to target the disadvantaged unemployed groups seeking employment. Consequently the Joblink program, with its focus on employment placement generally, will be phased out by 31 December.
- (2) The Government plans to establish a new program to be known as the "Employment Equity Program". This program will have a specific focus on the employment problems of groups most disadvantaged in the labour market. Joblink and other community based projects will be able to apply to this program to cater for skills training, job search strategies, work experience, counselling and placement, provided they target the most disadvantaged in the labour market. This will also avoid the potential for Joblink projects to duplicate the services currently provided by the Commonwealth Employment Service.

DARLING SCARP - STATE PLANNING COMMISSION

Protection Study

603. Mr WATT to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Referring to media statement No PP19/87 of 23 July 1987 in which the Minister for Planning announced that protection of the Darling Scarp as an

area of regional and national significance would be investigated in a new study by the State Planning Commission which would lead to a detailed management and development plan for the scarp -

- (a) has the study been undertaken;
 - (b) what were its findings;
 - (c) who conducted the study;
 - (d) at what cost;
 - (e) what were its recommendations;
 - (f) has the management and development plan been produced; and
 - (g) if not, when will it be produced?
- (2) If the study has not been commenced, why not?
- (3) As it forms part of the Darling Scarp, will the Minister have the Bushmead army land preserved for its conservation, public amenity, scenic, recreational, heritage, and other value and land uses for future generations?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Preliminary work on the study is complete, but further work has been deferred because of workload and the priorities associated with the metropolitan planning review. It is expected that the study will be resumed in January 1990.
- (3) No. The Commonwealth Government has offered part of this land to the State for housing development only. Requirements such as those mentioned will be given consideration in the preparation of development plans for the area.

PLANNING - METROPOLITAN REGIONAL PLANNING AUTHORITY

Members

604. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Who are the members of the Metropolitan Regional Planning Authority?
- (2) What are their terms of appointment?
- (3) What payment is made by the Government to each of these members?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

(1)-(3)

The Metropolitan Region Planning Authority ceased to exist on 5 December 1985 with the commencement of part III of the Acts Amendment (State Planning Commission) Act 1985.

BURKETT, MR GRAHAM - MINISTER FOR PLANNING'S OFFICE

Employment Position - Salary

605. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) What position does the former member for Scarborough, Graham Burkett, hold in the Minister's office?
- (2) What salary or entitlements have been granted to him for his work in this position?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) Technical consultant.
- (2) Details of the contract are confidential.

BAKER LAKE - SYSTEM 12 REPORT RECOMMENDATION
Government Rejection

607. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Environment:

- (1) Why did the Government decide to go against the System 12 report recommendation on Baker Lake as referred to in question 136 of 1989 in the Legislative Council on 19 April 1989?
- (2) When was the decision made by the Government in this case?
- (3) What other sections of the System 12 report have been overturned in this way?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) The area is of significance to the Ngaanyatjarra people of the Central Desert. The Government determined that, on balance, this need outweighed the proposed conservation reservation. The primary use of this area by Aboriginal people required a purpose that reflected this. The Government is confident that the Aboriginal use will be consistent with conservation of the area. The Ngaanyatjarra Council indicated in negotiations that it was prepared to work with conservation agencies to protect the conservation values of the area via management arrangements.
- (2) 17 October 1988.
- (3) None.

WATER RESOURCES - SWAN VALLEY
Aboriginal Fringe Dwellers - Water Bill Cancellation

610. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Is it correct that the Government has written off a water bill of more than \$12 000 to the Swan Valley Aboriginal fringe dwellers as reported in *The West Australian* of Friday, 9 June 1989?
- (2) When was this decision made?
- (3) Why was the decision made?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

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

SPORT AND RECREATION - COMMUNITY SPORTING AND RECREATION FACILITIES FUND
Grants Allocation

613. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister representing the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Would the Minister please list for me the grants allocation provided to the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund for the years ended -
 - (a) 30 June 1986;
 - (b) 30 June 1987; and
 - (c) 30 June 1988?
- (2) What percentage of the grants allocation to the CSRFF was provided to country local authorities during the years ended -
 - (a) 30 June 1986;
 - (b) 30 June 1987; and
 - (c) 30 June 1988?
- (3) What is the grants allocation to the CSRFF for the 1989-90 year?
- (4) What percentage of this allocation is to be provided to country local authorities?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) (a) \$6 761 072;
(b) nil; and
(c) \$2 657 027.
- (2) (a) 64.08 per cent;
(b) nil; and
(c) 57.94 per cent.
- (3) The estimated allocation of funds for 1989-90 is \$2 682 000.
- (4) Not applicable, as all of this allocation will be committed to projects which have been approved in previous financial years, and which are now in progress.

GREENHOUSE EFFECT - GREENHOUSE COUNCIL

Appointment Date - Members

617. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Environment:

- (1) When did the Government appoint its Greenhouse Council?
- (2) Who are the members of the council?
- (3) What are the objectives of the council?
- (4) How many times has it met since its appointment?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) 6 April 1989.
- (2) Emeritus Professor A. Main, Chairman
Mr J. Lenzo
Mr W. Meler
Ms S. O'Lauchlan
Mr C. Sanders
Mrs K. Sanderson
Mr D. Saunders
Ms R. Siewert
Mr R. Southern
Mr M. Wills
- (3) To develop for the Government a draft strategy addressing the greenhouse effect.
- (4) Three.

SWAN BREWERY SITE - REDEVELOPMENT

Costs

618. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) What is the estimated final cost of the redeveloped Swan Brewery buildings?
- (2) What is the breakdown of those costs including -
(a) sewerage works to extend facilities to the project;
(b) improved road works;
(c) car park costs;
(d) building and construction costs; and
(e) construction delay costs - detail?
- (3) What facilities will be contained in the redeveloped buildings?
- (4) What capacity will the adjacent car park have?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

(1)-(4)

Until final internal uses of the old brewery are determined, costs of sewerage, road, and construction works plus cost and capacity of parking facilities cannot be reasonably estimated. The internal use depends upon determination of an application under the Aboriginal Heritage Act.

Construction delay costs are approximately \$76 000 per month; that is -

\$23 000 wages
\$20 000 minor hire items and fees
\$12 500 scaffold hire
\$17 000 24-hour security
\$ 3 500 interstruct margin

Proposed internal uses of the old brewery include visual arts, performance and exhibition facilities with a theme of WA excellence, small retail outlets, office space and cafe/restaurants.

HOUSING - GREAT SOUTHERN HOUSING COLLECTIVE *Incorporated Status*

621. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Is the Great Southern Housing Collective, which is progressing a cooperative housing project in Denmark, incorporated?
- (2) If yes to (1), who are the responsible statutory officers for the collective and what are their addresses?
- (3) What is the minimum number of participants required to form a housing collective that is recognised and conforms to the requirements of the local government and community housing program?
- (4) Is there a minimum number of dwelling units required to be built by a housing collective to conform under part XI of the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement of 1984?
- (5) Has Homeswest entered into a condition of funding agreement with the Great Southern Housing Collective?
- (6) Under the local government and community housing program, can members of a housing collective own or be part owners of residential property?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The names and addresses of relevant officers can be obtained by writing to the Secretary of the Great Southern Housing Collective, c/o Environment Centre, PO Box 142, Denmark, 6333.
- (3) There is no minimum requirement for the number of participants.
- (4) For the sake of economy there is a minimum number of six to eight units.
- (5) No.
- (6) Twenty five per cent of the cooperative members can own or be part owners of residential property.

WESTRAIL - WOOL HANDLING FACILITY *Three Springs - Establishment Date*

622. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When was the wool handling facility conducted by Westrail at Three Springs originally established?
- (2) Was there compulsion for wool growers to transport their wool through this facility?
- (3) Is this Westrail handling and transport facility to be closed?

- (4) If yes to (3), on what date?
- (5) What is the reason for the closure?
- (6) Will there be any compulsion on wool growers to continue to transport their wool through Westrail or will they be free to transport their wool to wherever they so desire?

Mr PEARCE replied:

- (1) 1986.
- (2) No.
- (3) Closure of the Three Springs facility has been deferred. The future status of the operation will be affected by its financial viability.
- (4)-(5) Not applicable.
- (6) No, the commodity is deregulated.

HOUSING - HOMESWEST *Three Springs - Office Closure*

623. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Has Homeswest closed its office in Three Springs?
- (2) Has rent for this office accommodation been paid 15 months in advance?
- (3) How many officers were employed in the Three Springs Homeswest office?
- (4) Are these officers being transferred to any other Homeswest office and, if so, where?
- (5) How will Homeswest matters and Government Employees' Housing Authority matters in Three Springs and the other mid-west towns now be served?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No. Rent is not payable in advance. Homeswest is arranging to sublease the office until the lease expires on 30 November 1990.
- (3) Two.
- (4) One officer has resigned due to pregnancy prior to the decision to close the Three Springs office. The other officer has been transferred to Geraldton.
- (5) These matters are to be managed by an officer travelling from the Geraldton office. The provision of a 008 telephone number allows any tenant to contact the Geraldton office for the cost of a local call. The efficiency of service to customers in the Three Springs area is being monitored by Homeswest to ensure that no tenant is disadvantaged.

ROTHWELLS LTD - GOVERNMENT GUARANTEE *Rothwells Directors - National Australia Bank Action Exclusion*

624. Mr COURT to the Premier:

Did the Government in its \$150 million guarantee given to the National Australia Bank in October 1987 exclude action being taken by the bank against any director or officer of Rothwells Ltd before the bank could call on the Government to pay out under this guarantee?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

No. While the guarantee did not require the National Australia Bank to take action against the directors or officers of Rothwells, it did not preclude the bank from taking any such action should it have chosen to do so.

STRIKES - ESSENTIAL SERVICES LEGISLATION

626. Mr MENSAROS to the Minister for Labour:

- (1) Referring to the Minister's reply to question 359 of 1989, does the Minister still have the same policy based on the same reasoning that is given in the reply?
- (2) If so, could the Minister please explain to what extent has workplace industrial relations improved without the difficulties which an essential services legislation would have caused?

Mr TROY replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The Government's aim is to maintain long term industrial stability in Western Australia. Since its election in 1983, the Government has succeeded in this objective by setting up effective working relationships with the industrial parties, based on consultation and cooperation. Industrial disputes statistics prove this. Working days lost per 1 000 employees for the six years 1983-88 show a reduction of 43.4 per cent when compared with the figures for 1977-82. This marked improvement in workplace industrial relations in the State has been achieved without recourse to essential services legislation.

R & I BANK - PUBLIC TRUSTEE*Deposit - Interest Rate*

633. Mr HASSELL to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) What is the current rate of interest paid by the Rural and Industries Bank of Western Australia on money deposited by the Public Trustee in the common fund?
- (2) What is the current interest rate paid by the R & I Bank on other deposits?
- (3) Is the common fund of the R & I Bank the only permitted investment of funds by the Public Trustee?
- (4) If other investments may be made, and returns are demonstrably higher, why are they not made?
- (5) If other investments are made at the higher rate, what happens to the money accrued over and above that paid by the common fund?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1) The Public Trustee does not, at this time, have any investments with the Rural & Industries Bank of Western Australia.
- (2) The Rural & Industries Bank offers various rates of interest depending upon the type of investment.
- (3) No.
- (4) Competitive rates of interest are sought from a wide variety of sources before any investment is made by the Public Trustee. All investments made must comply with the provisions of the Trustee Act relating to Authorised Trustee Investments.
- (5) Section 40 of the Public Trustee Act allows for the balance of the interest received from the investment of moneys forming part of the common fund after payment of interest to the estates and trusts to be paid into Consolidated Revenue.

HOUSING - HOMESWEST*Lot 611 Howe Road, Denmark - Ownership*

635. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) Referring to question 398 of 1989, is Homeswest the registered proprietor of lot 611 Howe Road, Denmark?

- (2) If no, who is the registered proprietor of the lot, and under what instrument does Homeswest have vested control of the said lot?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Great Southern Housing Collective is the registered proprietor. Homeswest has vested control of the said lot by caveat over property in the form of a deed of trust, which is a requirement under the local government and community housing program guidelines.

HOUSING - HOMESWEST
New Housing Units - Building Statistics

636. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many new Homeswest housing units are to be built in the financial year 1989-90?
- (2) How many units, and in what categories are they to be built in the -
- (a) metropolitan region; and
- (b) country areas?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) 2 134.
- (2) Metropolitan region -
purchase 100; and
rental 1 537.
- Country areas -
purchase nil; and
rental 497.

HOUSING - STATE ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Responsibilities and Duties - Chairperson

637. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) What are the responsibilities and duties of the State Aboriginal advisory committee on Housing?
- (2) To whom does this committee report?
- (3) Who is the chairperson of the committee, and who appointed that person?
- (4) Has the committee any statutory authority and under what jurisdiction was it inaugurated?
- (5) Is the chairperson an Aboriginal?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) The State advisory committee for Aboriginal housing was formed as a requirement of part XI of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement 1984 to ensure a greater degree of coordination between State and Commonwealth housing programs for Aboriginals.
- The State advisory committee -
- (i) considers the initial programs as developed by the State Housing Authority and the Aboriginal Development Commission; and
- (ii) advises the State Minister on specific Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement and Aboriginal Development Commission programs.
- (2) The committee reports to the State Minister for Housing.
- (3) The chairperson of the State advisory committee is presently the Homeswest Director of Housing Services. Appointment is stipulated in the Act whereby the State Housing Authority - Homeswest - chairs the meetings and provides secretariat support.

(4)-(5)

No.

DAVID JONES SITE - GOVERNMENT AGENCY*Proprietary Interest*

638. Mr LEWIS to the Treasurer:

- (1) Has any Government agency a proprietary interest in the land or the development currently being constructed on what is referred to as the David Jones site between Hay Street and St George's Terrace?
- (2) If yes -
 - (a) in what Government agency is the proprietary held;
 - (b) is the proprietary held in sole ownership or otherwise in what shares; and
 - (c) what is the name of the person or body corporate formally appointed as the project manager?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Government Employees Superannuation Board;
- (b) sole ownership; and
- (c) Warren Tucker Pty Ltd.

THOMSONS LAKE - HOUSING DEVELOPMENT*Go-Ahead - Water Authority of Western Australia*

639. Mr MENSAROS to the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Has the Thomsons Lake housing development received the final go-ahead?
- (2) What was the attitude of the Water Authority of Western Australia on the detrimental effect of this development to the WAWA being able to fully utilise the ground water resources in the area for public use?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) I am advised that the Water Authority is liaising with the State Planning Commission and other relevant agencies on a drainage management plan for the area which will not unduly affect the authority's proposals to utilise ground water resources in the area for public use.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND AUDIT ACT - REPORT TABLING*Outstanding Reports*

640. Mr MENSAROS to the Treasurer:

Of the annual reports of Government departments and agencies which were not tabled in Parliament within the time limit allowed by the Financial Administration and Audit Act, how many are outstanding for tabling -

- (a) for over 12 months;
- (b) between nine and 12 months;
- (c) between six and nine months;
- (d) between three and six months;
- (e) up to three months?

Mr PARKER replied:

Treasury does not have information in the detail sought. I refer the member to the Clerks of both Houses, who would record when annual reports are tabled. In addition, the Auditor General, at page 3 in his Third Report to Parliament in October 1988, commented upon late reporting by agencies subject to the Financial Administration and Audit Act.

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND AUDIT ACT - REPORT TABLING*Time Limit - Tabled and Outstanding Reports*

641. Mr MENSAROS to the Treasurer:

What is the number of annual reports by Government departments and agencies, compelled to table such reports by virtue of the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act, which were -

- (a) tabled within the permissible time limit of the Act; and
- (b) not tabled within such time limit?

Mr PARKER replied:

See my reply to question 640.

EDUCATION - WINTHROP PRIMARY SCHOOL*Construction Date - Public Correspondence*

642. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for Education:

How many separate items of correspondence written by people or organisations from within the suburbs of Winthrop, Murdoch and Kardinya have been received within the two months preceding 31 August 1989 by the Minister, or otherwise the Ministry of Education, expressing concern or inquiring into the date as to when the Winthrop Primary school will be built and be ready to receive pupils?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

Twenty eight.

HOUSING - HOMESWEST*Capital Works Program - New Home Construction*

643. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) How many new homes were constructed to completion by Homeswest's Capital Works Program during the financial year 1988-89?
- (2) What was the actual expenditure during the 1988-89 financial year to achieve the program?
- (3) How many new homes were budgeted to be constructed in the 1988-89 Budget?
- (4) What was the budgeted expenditure to achieve the projected housing as mentioned in (3)?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) The Budget and program in 1988-89 were based on commencement only. This method has been changed in 1989-90 to record both commencements and completions. A total of 1 503 new homes were commenced in 1988-89.
- (2) The Homeswest actual construction expenditure in 1988-89 was \$75 803 247.
- (3) Homeswest planned and budgeted for 1 495 commencements in 1988-89.
- (4) The 1988-89 budgeted expenditure figure was \$74 970 000.

WATER RESOURCES - SERVICE CHARGES*Ratepayer Payments - Percentage Paid*

644. Mr MENSAROS to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) What percentage of metropolitan ratepayers/consumers have so far paid towards their 1989 service charges bill -
 - (a) the full amount;
 - (b) half of the total amount;
 - (c) one quarter of the total amount; and
 - (d) nothing at all?

- (2) To what total sum of the service charges does each of these categories amount to - in case of (d) meaning the total outstanding amount?
- (3) How do these percentages compare with 1987 and 1988 at the same time of the year?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) (a) 60.44 per cent;
 (b) 8.86 per cent;
 (c) 9.51 per cent; and
 (d) 21.19 per cent. Note that this percentage also includes those ratepayers who made insufficient payment to qualify for the payment option under (a), (b) or (c).
- (2) (a) \$102 821 854.72;
 (b) \$ 40 357 975.47;
 (c) \$ 25 683 051.71; and
 (d) \$ 27 259 500.60.
- (3)

	<u>1988</u>	<u>1987</u>	
(a)	59.58 per cent	60.03 per cent	
(b)	8.35 per cent	9.13 per cent	
(c)	8.96 per cent	9.61 per cent	
(d)	23.11 per cent	21.23 per cent	Same comment as 1(d).

WATER RESOURCES - SERVICE CHARGES
Water Authority - Aggregate Ratepayer Payments

645. Mr MENSAROS to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) What aggregate amount of the 1989 service charge has the Water Authority of Western Australia received by now from ratepayers in the following categories -
- (a) those who paid the full amount;
 (b) those who paid half of the total amount; and
 (c) those who paid one quarter of the total amount?
- (2) How do these figures compare with similar statistics at the same time of the year with 1987 and 1988?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

- (1) (a) \$113 459 566.83;
 (b) \$ 21 247 711.87; and
 (c) \$ 7 603 527.10.
- (2)

	<u>1988</u>
(a)	\$101 516 509.42;
(b)	\$ 17 513 814.95; and
(c)	\$ 6 589 996.69.
	<u>1987</u>
(a)	\$ 94 726 531.58;
(b)	\$ 17 025 975.75; and
(c)	\$ 6 309 596.76.

PUBLIC TRUST OFFICE - WILLS*Invalid - Processing Procedure*

646. Mr KIERATH to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Did the Public Trust Office allow the processing of a will - Public Trust Office File D88/1437/6 - despite instructions that the matter be referred to the legal officer before any action was taken?
- (2) If so, why?
- (3) When the validity of a will is in question, should the correct course of action be to decide this question of validity before the processing of the will?
- (4) How many legal officers are employed by the Public Trust Office?
- (5) Is the Minister aware that a legal officer is embarking on maternity leave and a replacement has not been appointed?
- (6) If so, why?
- (7) What is the average period taken for a will to be processed by the Public Trustee?
- (8) If 20 months considered acceptable and, if so, why?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

(1)-(2),(8)

As this relates to a particular estate it would be inappropriate to comment publicly. I will, however, advise the member in writing.

- (3) Yes. It is the executor's duty to form an opinion as to which document the court will finally decide as being the last will of the deceased.
- (4) Two.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Advertisements have been placed in the *Government Gazette* and in *The West Australian* calling for expressions of interest in the position, with a closing date of 7 September 1989.
- (7) On the assumption the reference in the member's question to "for a will to be processed" relates to the time taken to administer an estate, I advise that the time taken is dependent upon the size and complexity of an estate. Every effort is made to eliminate any delay.

SCM CHEMICALS LTD - AUSTRALIND*Operations - Government Discussions*

647. Mr BRADSHAW to the Minister for Resources Development:

Referring to question 568 of 1989 -

- (a) are any discussions taking place between SCM Chemicals and the Government with regard to the operations of SCM Chemicals at Australind;
- (b) if so, what are the basics of this discussion; and
- (c) will the Minister guarantee that the process will be discontinued under the provisions of the Pigment Factory (Australind) Agreement Act?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (a) My colleague, the Minister for South-West, has publicly stated his desire to persuade SCM Chemicals to move its entire Australind operations to Kemerton within the next four years. No formal discussions have taken place between the Government and SCM, but informal talks are taking place between officers of the South West Development Authority, the Department of Regional Development and the company to determine the ramifications of such a move.

- (b) To find ways of achieving a complete relocation of SCM's operations within a relatively short timeframe.
- (c) The provisions of the Pigment Factory (Australind) Agreement Act will be adhered to. If any change is required to the Act I would propose to bring a variation agreement before the Parliament for ratification.

ABORTION - NEW LEGISLATION

Current Session

648. Mr COWAN to the Premier:

Is it the Government's intention to introduce legislation relating to abortion in the current session of Parliament?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

No. The matter is for the consideration of individual members of the Parliament.

GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES - CURRENT

Over \$5 Million

649. Mr COWAN to the Treasurer:

What State Government guarantees in excess of \$5 million are current?

Mr PARKER replied:

The Treasurer's annual statements contain details of all Government guarantees issued and I refer the member to the 1987-88 publication. The Treasurer's annual statements 1988-89 will be tabled in both Houses of Parliament by 31 October.

POVERTY - CHILDREN

Western Australian - Statistics

650. Mr COWAN to the Minister for Community Services:

- (1) How many Western Australian children are or were estimated to be living in poverty currently, last year and in 1987?
- (2) Has the Government advised the Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, of the number of Western Australian children still living in poverty in 1989?
- (3) Has the Minister received recent advice from Mr Hawke about progress on his promise to eliminate child poverty by 1990?
- (4) If yes, what is it?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

- (1) Statistics are not available which enable estimates to be produced on a year-to-year basis. However, a reasonable indicator of trends may be the number of children of unemployment and supporting parent beneficiaries. This has fallen from about 63 000 during 1987 to around 55 000 in April this year, which suggests that the extent of child poverty has probably decreased.
- (2) The number of people in poverty is of concern to the State Government. Issues relevant to poverty and child poverty are frequently discussed between State and Federal Ministers.
- (3)-(4)

The Prime Minister's commitment related to achievement of adequate levels of family support payments. Under benchmarks developed by the Commonwealth, payments for children aged less than 13 years should not total under 15 per cent of the combined married rate of pension, and for children 13 to 15 years not less than 20 per cent of this rate. Increases in the level of family allowance and family allowance supplement which have applied since July served to meet these benchmarks.

EDUCATION - TEACHERS
Employment Statistics - Permanent Staff

653. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many teachers were employed by the Government as at -
 - (a) 1 July 1987;
 - (b) 1 July 1988; and
 - (c) 1 July 1989?
- (2) How many teachers were on permanent staff at each of the above dates?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

(1)-(2)

	Number of Teaching Staff (School based)			
	Full Time	Part Time	Total	Permanent
1987 (Feb)	12 157	1 467	13 624	10 329
1988 (Feb)	12 392	1 599	13 991	10 372
1989 (Feb)	12 692	1 863	14 551	10 488

Comparative historical permanency data is only available for first semester - February.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS - STATE ABORIGINAL PROGRAMS
Cabinet Subcommittee - Appointment

654. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) Has a Cabinet subcommittee been appointed to assess the delivery of State Aboriginal programs?
- (2) If so, who are the members of that committee?
- (3) When was the committee appointed?
- (4) What was the outcome of that committee's work?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The committee members are -
 - Hon P. Dowding, Premier (Chair)
 - Hon K. Wilson, Minister for Health
 - Hon G. Troy, Minister for Employment and Training
 - Hon P. Beggs, Minister for Housing
 - Hon D. Smith, Minister for Community Services
 - Hon J. Berinson, Minister for Budget Management
 - Hon C. Lawrence, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Education.
- (3) The committee first met on 13 July 1989.
- (4) It is expected that, through the continuing operation of the committee, improved service delivery to Aboriginal people and the development of integrated policies for State agencies in Aboriginal Affairs will result.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS - ABORIGINAL CULTURAL MATERIAL COMMITTEE
Munday's Swamp, Perth Airport - Assessment

657. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) Has the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee made any assessment of Munday's Swamp located within the confines of the Perth Airport?
- (2) If so, when was that assessment made?
- (3) By whom was the assessment made?
- (4) What was the outcome of the assessment?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) On 10 August 1989.
- (3) APMC members and deputies present at the meeting on 10 August; namely, Mr Bannister, Professor Bowdler, Mr Lynch, Mr Sutherland, Professor Tonkinson, and Mr Wallam.
- (4) The committee resolved to recommend to me that Munday Swamp be declared a protected area under section 19 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972-80.

DAIRYING - MILK VENDORS

New Legislation

659. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is it intended to introduce legislation or amend current regulations during this year to alter the present legislative and regulatory arrangements covering milk vendors?
- (2) If yes, will he provide to me details of the proposed changes?

Mr BRIDGE replied:

(1)-(2)

The regulatory arrangements are being examined currently against the background of the May 1988 ministerial report on regulations in the dairy industry and in the context of a broad three dimensional evaluation of agricultural industries in WA. I have also requested the Dairy Industry Authority to progress licence and consolidation proposals in consultation with the licensees.

STAMP DUTY - MORTGAGE DUTY

Partly Documented Financial Transactions - Review

661. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister representing the Minister for Budget Management:

- (1) Who is conducting the stamp duty review concerning the issue of mortgage duty on partly documented financing transactions?
- (2) When is it expected that review will be completed?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) The State Taxation Department and Treasury.
- (2) A number of complex issues are still to be resolved, but I aim to have the departmental report completed this year.

STAMP DUTY - POLICY REVIEW

Corporate Restructuring - Association of Mining and Exploration Companies (Inc)

662. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister representing the Minister for Budget Management:

- (1) Who is conducting the review of stamp duty policy on corporate restructuring with particular reference to submissions by the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies with regard to the impact of this policy on mining companies?
- (2) When is it expected that review will be completed?

Mr PARKER replied:

- (1) The review is being conducted by Treasury at the request of the Minister for Budget Management.
- (2) Treasury is awaiting the final submission of the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies.

EDUCATION - JANDAKOT PRIMARY SCHOOL
Enrolments - Classrooms

663. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is the enrolment at the Jandakot Primary School?
- (2) How many permanent classrooms are located on site at the school?
- (3) How many temporary classrooms are located on site at the school?
- (4) How many additional temporary classrooms is it anticipated will be required on site at the school at the beginning of the 1990 academic year?
- (5) When will the school be relocated?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1) 173 primary pupils in years 1-7; and 63 preprimary pupils.
- (2) Two permanent classrooms.
- (3) Six temporary classrooms and one preprimary transportable.
- (4) The present accommodation is sufficient to cater for the current enrolment. The situation will continue to be reviewed during the remainder of 1989 and the first weeks of the 1990 school year.
- (5) Construction of the replacement school will be considered for inclusion in the 1990-91 Capital Works Program.

EDUCATION - JANDAKOT PRIMARY SCHOOL
Relocation - Site Allocation

664. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the site for the relocation of Jandakot Primary School in Hammond Road, Jandakot, now been allocated to the Government as outlined in answer to question 1775 of 1988?
- (2) If not, when is it anticipated this site will be obtained by the Government?
- (3) What is the reason for the delay in the acquisition of this site?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

- (1) No. The site is to be given up free of cost as a result of future subdivisional development.
- (2) Subject to subdivisional approval.
- (3) Subdivisional approval has not yet been granted by the State Planning Commission.

HOUSING - HOMESWEST
Marjorie Avenue, Riverton - Land Purchase

665. Mr MacKINNON to the Minister for Housing:

- (1) When did Homeswest purchase four lots in Marjorie Avenue, Riverton?
- (2) What amount was paid by Homeswest for this land?
- (3) Does Homeswest still own this land?
- (4) If so, what buildings are now located on these properties and for what purposes are they being used?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

- (1) Homeswest has not purchased lots in Marjorie Avenue, Riverton.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD - OFFICE CLOSURE

Contract Employees - Non-Payments

108. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier aware that Petrochemical Industries Ltd has today closed its offices?
- (2) Is he aware also that many of the PIL contract staff who contacted my office have been advised that it is unlikely they will be paid for their work over the last six weeks?
- (3) What action will the Government take to address the financial concerns and hurt that those people are obviously now experiencing?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) I cannot respond to the question because that is really a matter for the Directors of Petrochemical Industries Ltd.

AIDS - FEDERAL WHITE PAPER

Tabling - State Response

109. Dr ALEXANDER to the Minister for Health:

Would the Minister indicate to the House the State Government's response to the White Paper on AIDS which was tabled last week in the Federal Parliament?

Mr WILSON replied:

The State Government, in looking at the White Paper tabled in the Federal Parliament, has little cause to alter its already successful AIDS control program. The major sections of the White Paper tabled in the Federal Parliament on education, prevention and treatment services are essentially in line with programs already in place in this State. Legal measures recommended in the White Paper are generally in line with those adopted in Western Australia. For instance, the White Paper recommends that all public health legislation relating to AIDS be reviewed in the various jurisdictions.

The White Paper recommends the introduction of specific legislation that would enable public health authorities to deal with recalcitrants. The full implementation of the recommendations of the White Paper will require an extensive review of infectious diseases legislation in Western Australia. This is currently being examined by the Health Department.

In response to the continuing concern about the AIDS issue, Cabinet has authorised me to move for a Select Committee to examine the national HIV/AIDS strategy White Paper in order to -

- (a) identify areas of concern for Western Australia; and
- (b) explore the formation of a bipartisan consensus on the precise dangers that this epidemic poses for Western Australia and the best strategies to deal with this important public health issue.

Last week I wrote to the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the National Party inviting their nominations for this committee.

I was pleased to note that the Federal Opposition's spokesman for health, Mr Peter Shack, was quoted in the Press as saying that, "The Government's role of stopping the spread of the HIV infection was too important to become an issue for political points scoring." With the full cooperation of Opposition parties I believe the establishment of a Select Committee will ensure a rational, well informed approach to this serious community issue.

PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD - OFFICE CLOSURE
Employees - Government Concern

110. Mr MacKINNON to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Premier, by his answer to my previous question, indicating that he is happy to see a company, in which the Government is a major shareholder, close its doors leaving thousands of dollars owing in salaries and wages to staff?
- (2) If not, what does he propose to do to resolve that problem and the difficult position in which those people now find themselves?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

(1)-(2)

I am certainly not suggesting that the Government is happy with such a move. However, I make the point that WA Government Holdings Ltd made it clear some time ago to the Directors of Petrochemical Industries Ltd that the State's interim funding obligation was no longer in force.

The Leader of the Opposition will remember that because of that concern they actually took action in the courts. The majority of directors of the company have resisted one aspect of that application being dealt with.

Yes, I am concerned, but it is a matter for the Directors of PIL.

HOUSING - RESIDENTIAL TENANCY LEGISLATION
Weygers, Mr Peter - Landlord Information and Advice Service

111. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Consumer Affairs:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of an article which appeared in this morning's *The West Australian* in which Peter Weygers, the President of the Council for Civil Liberties, is quoted as calling for an information and advice service for landlords with tenancy problems and suggesting that landlords would not get a fair go under the Residential Tenancies Act?
- (2) If so, does such a need exist?

Mrs HENDERSON replied:

(1)-(2)

I did notice the comments of Peter Weygers in his capacity as President of the Council for Civil Liberties. I was surprised he made those comments. Members would be aware that the residential tenancies legislation is due to come into operation on 1 October and that that legislation clearly defines the rights and obligations of tenants and landlords. The legislation was well received by Government, Opposition and the industry during its passage through this House. A series of education seminars designed for landlords and tenants has been organised by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs. The seminars were announced last week and already they have been fully booked and, as a result, additional seminars have been organised.

I am pleased that the response from REIWA and other landlord organisations to the legislation has been positive. This applies also to the organisations representing tenants. There is a spirit of goodwill and cooperation from all those organisations concerned regarding the implementation of the legislation and there is a great desire to see that the legislation works. In this context, I was extremely surprised to read the comments of Mr Weygers, but I tend to think he is out of step with what most of the organisations representing landlords in this State are saying about the legislation. The legislation enjoys a reputation as being fair and equitable and everyone wants it to come into operation.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES AUTHORITY
BILL - WIESE, MR PETER
Charlton, Hon Eric - Meeting Discussions

112. Mr HASSELL to the Premier:

- (1) Did the Premier discuss with Mr Peter Wiese, in advance of his meetings with Hon Eric Charlton, the fact that those meetings would take place and the content Mr Wiese would raise in discussions with Hon Eric Charlton?
- (2) Subsequent to the holding of those meetings, did Mr Wiese report to the Premier that the impact of his discussions with Hon Eric Charlton was to have Hon Eric Charlton recommend to his colleagues that the Western Australian Petrochemical Industries Authority Bill be defeated?
- (3) In relation to (1) and (2) is it within the knowledge of the Premier whether the Deputy Premier had any such discussions with Mr Wiese?

Mr PETER DOWDING replied:

(1)-(3)

I have some problem going through that in detail because these events, as members are aware, took place some time ago. However, let me make it clear that Mr Peter Wiese had discussions with the National Party in order to provide a briefing. The purpose of the briefing was with either my approval beforehand, or the approval of my staff, on my behalf, beforehand - I do not recall the sequence of the events. I wholeheartedly adopted the position that it was an important issue and we wanted to provide a briefing from someone who would be seen to have integrity, as Mr Peter Wiese has, and who would be able to give independent information rather than independent advice and maybe some technical information that may have been required.

Mr Wiese has made a public statement and I have no reason whatsoever to doubt it because it is not inconsistent with anything that has been said to me in the past. Mr Wiese made a statement that he did have a meeting and his clear impression at the end of the meeting was that Hon Eric Charlton would be happy with the Bill if it were amended as proposed by the National Party. As far as anybody on the Government side was aware at the time, we were not only keen to see the Bill passed but also believed that after that information was provided it would satisfy the National Party that, indeed, it was proper for the Bill to be passed.

Mr Hassell: Did Mr Wiese report that to you at the time?

Mr PETER DOWDING: I do not recall that detail. I might be able to turn back and see if there is any note of such a report. My impression, right up until the occasion when Mr Charlton crossed the floor against the Bill, was that all the information the National Party wanted had been supplied, that the amendments they wanted had been moved by them, and that they would be supporting the legislation. Nothing that Mr Wiese was aware of was inconsistent with that.

EDUCATION - UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Guild Election Candidate - Australian Labor Party Member Support

113. Mr THOMAS to the Minister for Education:

Does she have any further information to add to her reply to question 105 asked by the member for Floreat on Thursday, 31 August 1989?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

I thought it timely to update the House on the question I was asked by the member for Floreat as to whether apparatchiki from the ALP were involved in support of a candidate in the UWA Guild elections. I have now ascertained that no such apparatchiki, or anyone else, were involved. Indeed, the gentleman referred to is not a member of the Labor Party and is standing as an

independent candidate. He enjoys the support of both Labor and Liberal members on campus as well as a large number of independents. The gentleman has no connection with the ALP apart from the fact that his father is a member of this House. That is no doubt why the fact that he was standing for election was drawn to our attention.

During the course of the past few days when I made inquiries I was given information that shows that Mr Mensaros indeed has a keen interest in the conduct of elections at UWA. He wrote to, I think, a previous Guild president, a Miss Quinlivan, congratulating her on her magnificent achievement on being elected as Guild President representing the non Labor socialist side of politics and asked her to contact him on any matter she felt he could be of the slightest assistance in her endeavour to keep the majority of students -

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Dr LAWRENCE: The member opposite offered assistance to Miss Quinlivan in her endeavours to keep the majority of students and the atmosphere at UWA campus "closer to our views".

EDUCATION - COUNTRY HIGH SCHOOL HOSTELS AUTHORITY *Autonomy Confirmation*

114. Mr AINSWORTH to the Minister for Education:

- (1) In view of the \$1.68 million allocated in the 1989-90 Budget for the Country High School Hostels Authority, will the Minister confirm that that authority will retain its autonomy beyond the current financial year and not be absorbed into the Education Department?
- (2) If the Minister cannot guarantee the ongoing autonomy of this authority, why not?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

(1)-(2)

There is before me at the moment a proposal that the authority should be disbanded - the boards attached to the hostels, not so - but in a spirit of greater accountability for funds in relation to those hostels and a better use of funds, a proposal has been put to me, principally after working parties involving Ministry officials and Public Service officials reached the conclusion that that is an option we should entertain. I had meetings this morning with the Country High School Hostels Authority and put a proposition to it along with a number of other options. The authority will discuss it and I will be having discussions with members of an upper House committee which had a different view; obviously I have yet to discuss the matter with my Cabinet colleagues, so there is an internal memo. Members of the authority have seen that and the recommendations and information on which it is based but a decision has not yet been reached. It is an option being considered in order to ensure that we have coordination between the various elements of country education; that is, the hostels taking children to schools, the bus services, distance education and the provision of schools themselves.

Over the years the authority has had some problems in financial administration. It has also had some problems in relation to providing staff with appropriate career opportunities and it has had problems meeting the Financial Administration and Audit Act requirements and difficulties with equal opportunity provisions because of its small size. Those are the reasons we were looking at the option of bringing it within the ministry. This has been canvassed before and deserves members' attention. I invite members of the National Party, particularly, to have an input as no decision has yet been made.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT - BRIDGETOWN LIGHT INDUSTRIAL AREA*Leader of the Opposition - "Impressive" Comments*

115. Mr P.J. SMITH to the Minister for South-West:

Would the Minister agree with comments made by the Leader of the Opposition that the Bridgetown light industrial area is "impressive"?

Mr D.L. SMITH replied:

I am pleased to advise the member for Bunbury and the House that on this occasion I agree with the Leader of the Opposition. The Bridgetown industrial area is, indeed, impressive. I am gratified to see that the Leader of the Opposition has finally recognised the value of the development projects being undertaken by the State Government in cooperation and conjunction with local government in the south west.

The project in question is known as the Bridgetown Innovative Park. It is a light industrial area established by the Bridgetown-Greenbushes Shire Council with the help of the South West Development Authority. The authority provided approximately \$35 000 to help the council purchase the land. I am also proud to be associated with the SWDA's good work. So too, it seems, is the Leader of the Opposition and the members who occasionally sojourn into the south west. Just recently the Opposition took the opportunity to flit down to Bridgetown and the Warren area in particular, where the Leader of the Opposition had his photograph taken on the site of the industrial area for the front page of the *Warren-Blackwood Times*, apparently trying to claim some of the glory for this Government's work in the area.

In reality, of course, neither the Leader of the Opposition nor any member opposite deserves any of the credit they try to attract to themselves in the south west. Congratulations should go to the shire councils and to officers of the SWDA as well as to Government members of Parliament who have worked long and hard to develop the south west as a place to live and work in - not just an area in which to take pretty publicity shots of itinerant members of Parliament. It is noteworthy that what happened on the visit to Warren by members opposite was that they were all able to find projects under way where they had their photographs taken and then, ignoring the evidence of their own eyes, they proceeded to criticise the Government for what it was not doing in the south west.

This was repeated recently at Mandurah, where the Leader of the Opposition and the new member for Mandurah had their photograph taken in front of the new senior citizens' centre which has been allocated \$2 million in this year's Budget for construction. In the same article, the member for Mandurah and the Leader of the Opposition were also able to criticise the Government for not spending money in the Mandurah area. It does not matter whether one goes to Mandurah, Collie, Boyup Brook, Bridgetown, Busselton, Manjimup or anywhere else in the south west, one will find visible evidence of projects under way or completed by this Government, yet the Opposition continues to ignore the evidence of its eyes. Its members are always negative knockers who never do anything positive, but want to take all the credit for things done.

PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT - INTERIM FINANCE*Borrowings - Company Responsibility*

116. Mr COURT to the Treasurer:

From which companies or authorities has the interim finance for the petrochemical project been borrowed since it was first provided?

Mr PARKER replied:

The interim finance provided by WA Government Holdings Ltd to Petrochemical Industries Ltd has been raised partly on the basis of a number of promissory notes, and partly, as of 30 June, by way of an advance accounted for in the Budget papers I presented on Thursday. This was

announced in July when I announced the outcome of the 1988-89 financial year. I cannot recall the detail -

Mr MacKinnon: In other words, the Government financed the \$20 million it took back?

Mr PARKER: No, that is not true. I do not think the Leader of the Opposition understands what I am talking about. That is nonsense.

Mr MacKinnon: Where did you get it from?

Mr PARKER: I cannot recall the precise details of where various amounts which have been raised for the interim finance have been raised from.

Mr MacKinnon: I bet you don't!

Mr PARKER: My recollection is that a question relating to this matter appeared on the Notice Paper and I answered it a few days ago. If that is the case, I direct the member's attention to that answer. If that is not the case, I suggest he put the question on the Notice Paper.

HOUSING - KEYSTART HOME LOANS SCHEME
Town & Country WA Building Society - Non-Refundable Fee

117. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Housing:

(1) Is the Minister aware of a claim by the member for Melville that low-income earners seeking Keystart loans are being charged a non-refundable fee of \$125 by Town & Country WA Building Society before their application is considered?

(2) Will the Minister intervene to have the fee removed?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

(1)-(2)

I thank the member for the question. I am aware of the claim by the member for Melville. I am becoming increasingly concerned about how out of step members of the Opposition are with the rest of the community, particularly the building industry.

With regard to the Keystart home loan program, it is also incumbent on members of Parliament to make sure that the statements they make will not cause a lot of concern in the community, because the Keystart home loan program does not help people who fall outside the eligibility criteria for Homeswest loans but do not qualify for normal financial institution loans. The member for Melville should have made himself aware of what was involved. He said that Keystart was intended to help only low income earners. That is totally incorrect. Had he done his homework he would have known that is the case.

He also said that applicants have to pay \$125 to Town & Country WA Building Society before their applications are considered. He said it was ludicrous that Town & Country should demand more than \$100 for the work involved in establishing a loan. Homeswest provides all the necessary information about eligibility, conditions, repayments and so on, and the \$125 is forfeited by the applicant only when he pulls out after Town & Country has begun its assessment of the loan.

Mr Shave: Do you say that if someone goes to Town & Country for an application, and fails, Town & Country will refund that money?

Mrs BEGGS: Just wait. The question I would like to ask the member, if I had the opportunity, is, "Why do you continue to cause distress to the people you say you want to help?"

Mr Shave: You are the one causing distress. That is the reason this State is in disarray.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs BEGGS: The truth of the matter is that the member for Melville prides himself on being a businessman of some repute. He should know that most institutions charge a fee.

Mr Lewis: I know, but this is a State scheme.

Mr Shave: That is not the truth. If I go to a bank to ask for a housing loan I am not charged for that interview.

Mrs BEGGS: What sort of a shadow Minister is the member opposite?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs BEGGS: The Keystart home loan program is run independently by a commercial organisation, Town & Country.

Mr Hassell: The applicant has to pay \$125.

Mrs BEGGS: Of course he does. That fee is for assessing the application, and after the establishment of the loan it is put on to the actual loan.

Mr Hassell: The applicant has to pay; that is right.

Mr Shave: What if the applicant does not get the loan?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs BEGGS: If the applicant pulls out of his own accord it is not refunded.

Mr Shave: No. If Town & Country says, "We are not now going ahead with it"?

Mrs BEGGS: If Town & Country says the applicant is ineligible because he has provided incorrect information, the application fee is forfeited.

Mr Hassell: Everything you have said confirms what the member for Melville said.

Mrs BEGGS: No, he is not right.

Mr Hassell: Of course he is. You have admitted it.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! I have asked all members to be fair and reasonable. I know a large number of members want to ask questions, and at least one person in this place at the moment is monopolising question time. I want to hear the answer to this question and get on to the next one.

Mrs BEGGS: The Keystart home loan program has proved to be of great benefit to a huge number of people in the community, and 6 364 people have registered an interest in the scheme. To date 1 387 have actually received a loan under that scheme and have been able to purchase their first home.

Mr Kierath: That is a high hit rate!

Mrs BEGGS: The negativity from members of the Opposition absolutely astounds me! Some of them purport to be supportive of the building industry. Some members opposite should speak to people in the building industry. These people have stated to me, and they have stated publicly, that if it were not for the Keystart home loan program and the efforts of the Government at this time, in view of the present high interest rates, the building industry would be in a huge slump. It is as a result of the Government's initiative in putting this program together and having it supported by Town & Country, a commercial organisation, that it has got off the ground at all. If the Government had not taken this initiative, many of these people would have been severely disadvantaged. Members of the Opposition would do well, instead of knocking it, to give some encouragement to people in their electorates. Members opposite should be making sure that people in their electorates can take advantage of this scheme.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Pearce interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The Leader of the House should come to order when I call for order.

An Opposition member: Chuck him out!

The SPEAKER: There would have to be a quid pro quo; we could have one from each side.

STATE PLANNING COMMISSION - CHAIRMAN

Replacement

118. Mr LEWIS to the Minister for Planning:

Is it a fact that the Chairman of the State Planning Commission is soon to be removed and replaced by a professionally competent administrative planner?

Mrs BEGGS replied:

No.

EDUCATION - ASSISTANCE FOR ISOLATED CHILDREN SCHEME

Special Agricultural Schools - Federal Ineligibility Decision

119. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister for Education:

The Minister will be aware of the decision made in 1988 by the Commonwealth to make many students in special agricultural schools ineligible for allowances under its Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme. What is the current situation?

Dr LAWRENCE replied:

A large number of country members on both sides of the House are disturbed by the Commonwealth's decision announced in the 1988 Federal Budget which meant that students in special agricultural high schools in Western Australia who were living in isolated areas were not eligible to receive assistance under the Commonwealth Assistance for Isolated Children Scheme.

We protested vigorously about that, as I am sure did some members, because those families stood to lose substantial benefits from the Commonwealth. We maintained our support for such students, but they are nonetheless considerably disadvantaged. Although it has taken some time, I am pleased to advise the member, and other interested members, that I have received advice from Hon Peter Duncan, the Minister for Employment and Education Services, that Western Australian students undertaking accredited certificate courses in agriculture in our agricultural high schools can again be considered for eligibility for assistance under the Isolated Children Scheme or Austudy as appropriate. I commend all those members who have made efforts on behalf of those children whose education would otherwise be very expensive.
